

Staff Council Meeting
January 25, 2007

Members Present: Rita Fuller, Gwenna Richardson, Heather Swanson, Jeri Cary, Cynthia Rogers.

Guests present: Kathryn Mathews, Nicole Duclos, Bobbi McCoy, Nicole Rogers

Adoption of agenda

Heather moved to adopt the agenda. Gwenna seconded and the agenda was adopted unanimously.

Approval of December meeting minutes

Heather moved to approve minutes of the December 2006 meeting. Gwenna seconded and the minutes were approved by all.

Staff Alliance Meeting Report

Rita noted that Statewide is pushing for people to update EDIR (enterprise directory) information. Web site: EDIRalaska.edu

The Governor's budget has been released. A summary from the University of Alaska Statewide office was included in Attachments and has been carried through to Attachment 1 of this document.

Rita indicated that there has been some discussion at the Statewide level of providing lodging and per diem costs for surgical procedures outside of Alaska. The rationale seems to be that it might be less expensive to send employees out of state for surgical care than to provide it within Alaska due to high medical costs here.

Rita indicated that our 2006 W-2 forms are posted in UA online—we can print an IRS-approved copy by signing into our UAonline account instead of waiting to get them in the mail.

Campus Reports

Sitka campus:

Staff in Sitka reported that they're just getting the semester going and working hard. The welding lab is nearing completion but move-in will take place in the fall.

Ketchikan campus:

Gwenna reported that there will be a mural unveiling this Friday in the Library. Gwenna is hoping to get a picture and it will be posted online. Zeigler and Paul buildings have both been remodeled. More classrooms are available now and they are expected to be technologically sound. Paul building holds classrooms and faculty; the library, learning

center and staff offices are in Zeigler. The Zeigler Building will be re-dedicated on Saturday.

Juneau campus:

It's the beginning of the semester with the usual activity level. Sexual Harassment Awareness training will be offered on the Juneau Campus today and tomorrow; Friday's session will be broadcast for Ketchikan & Sitka participants.

April Staff Council Retreat

In the meeting agenda, Rita stated the following:

We need to pin down a definite time for our Staff Council Retreat. I would like to suggest that since the elections will be in early May we invite potential candidates for President, Vice President and members-at-large.

An alternate idea to get the Staff Council publicized in all 3 campuses – we could split the money and have each member-at-large sponsor a catered lunch for staff. This would get the word out about Staff Council and the benefits of be informed of Statewide initiatives especially as they pertain to staff. If this is adopted in lieu of a retreat that may only reach a few, handouts will be provided for each campus to present.

There was discussion of various strategies we might attempt to promote more staff participation. An interest was expressed in using Council funds to provide some catering to encourage people to attend. Rita will talk to Leanne Pilcher about a potential budget revision, and will send an email to Council members with suggestions of what we might do to encourage greater staff participation for our feedback.

Staff Council Elections

The group re-affirmed that elections should be held by mid-May to get back on schedule. There was discussion of getting people involved in Council activities over the next few months, and of working with IT Services to set up online elections again.

Governor's UA Budget FY08

This item was mentioned during the Staff Alliance meeting report.

System-wide "Denali Challenge"

As part of the wellness initiative, there is a new walking program for University employees. Information and registration are online at:

<http://www.alaska.edu/HR/DenaliChallenge/index.xml?sessionId>

It was mentioned that Sitka is doing a local walking challenge which has generated quite a bit of participation. The point of the program is to encourage local participation and teamwork, and to work on wellness while having fun.

Comments/Suggestions

Heather reported that she contacted Ron's Apothecary in Juneau to ask the owner about providing mail order service to Sitka residents. This was an attempt to help out with the difficulties the Sitka employees have reported in getting prescriptions filled using Pharmacare coverage. Unfortunately, the owner of Ron's indicated that he will not do mail order for Sitka because he is friends with the Sitka pharmacy owners. Heather mentioned that Lake Otis pharmacy in Anchorage is another possibility because they are an apothecary and can do custom mixing.

Sending out general emails to all staff was discussed. Rita will contact Mona Yarnall about getting an updated staff list so she can send meeting reminders & agenda requests to all UAS employees.

The February meeting was scheduled for Thursday, Feb 15th from 1-2 p.m.

Rita moved to adjourn; Heather seconded; all agreed.

ATTACHMENT 1:

**FY08 Governor’s Budget UA Information
December 14, 2006**

The Governor’s OMB office has provided FY08 operating budget information. It is important to note that due to the executive branch transition, the budget being forwarded by Governor Palin, is a result of a short review of the “maintenance level” budget forwarded to her by the Murkowski administration. No funding for program needs beyond a portion of UA’s fixed costs have been considered by Governor Palin at this point.

OMB has included \$15 million of the \$17.5 million of UA’s adjusted based requirement for fixed costs, plus all the retirement increases. Fixed costs not included in the Governor’s maintenance level budget are the facilities M&R, bandwidth, and new facilities operating costs. The Governor’s operating budget also contains a provision for an unallocated reduction for the entire state. This may or may not affect UA’s budget.

M&R, bandwidth, and new facilities operating costs are true fixed costs in the sense that they will have to be funded by reallocation of existing funds if new money is not appropriated. , Additionally, UA’s program growth requests are important investments for Alaska’s future and without new funding, instructional program growth will be stalled and new opportunities, particularly in research areas, will be lost.

The opportunity to advance the additional maintenance level items and the program increases will be through the Governor’s amendment process and legislative action.

The table below provides a summary.

	UA Board of Regents Request			OMB
	State Approp.	Receipt Authority	Total	State Approp.
Adjusted Base Requirement				
Salary and Health Care Cost Increases	12,988.8	5,783.1	18,771.9	12,988.8
Additional Non-Discretionary Cost Increases	4,549.5	6,152.2	10,701.7	2,002.7
Adjusted Base Subtotal w/o Retirement	17,538.3	11,935.3	29,473.6	14,991.5
Retirement Cost Increases	37,023.3	3,864.7	40,888.0	37,023.3
Program Enhancement and Growth and Technical Adj. ¹	14,708.8	20,693.9	35,402.7	402.3

¹ In additional to the adjusted base increases, the total budget figures will include increases for workforce development funding (TVEP \$252.3 state appropriation), and agency partnership funding changes (MHT \$260.0 receipt authority and DNR \$150.0 state appropriation offset by \$150.0 reduction in receipt authority).

The capital budget being forwarded includes only the UAA Small Business Development Center funding of \$550,000 and non-general fund items. In general, the capital budget being sent is bare bones and contains very little in-terms of state funded projects for any entity.

The initial stripped down version of the operating and capital budgets forwarded today allows the Governor, through the amendment process, to focus on policy priorities and vision. UA’s instruction programs and research are essential to addressing those priorities. Communication with the Governor and the legislature on the importance of UA funding will be more important than ever.