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**Office of the Chancellor**

11120 Glacier Highway

Juneau, Alaska 99801


Tel: 907-796-6509

Fax: 907-796-6295

Email: chancellor@uas.alaska.edu

## MEMORANDUM

TO: UAS Community

FROM: Chancellor Rick Caulfield 

RE: Importance of UAS Staff Council in shared governance

DATE: January 26, 2016

UAS Staff Council provides an essential voice in the shared governance of our university. Board of Regents policy and university regulations makes clear that the collective voice of non-represented staff, like that of organized faculty, is integral to effective operation of the university (see BOR policy P03.01.010).<sup>1</sup>

As Chancellor, I want to encourage UAS staff to be involved in Staff Council activities and encourage supervisors to be supportive of this, consistent with university regulations cited below.

Here at UAS, Staff Council is a voice for non-represented staff at all three UAS campuses. Its purpose is to “provide an important communication link between...staff, the UAS administration, the Chancellor, and specific UA assemblies, Staff Alliance and/or committees...” For more about Staff Council and its constitution and bylaws, see <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/staffcouncil/About/index.html>

University regulations state that supervisors need to make it possible for staff to engage in appropriate Staff Council activities (University regulation 03.01—Membership Responsibilities).<sup>2</sup> Moreover, “serving on university governance groups is considered to be within the regular work duties of university employees and is supported by the university....It is understood that while governance participants’ primary responsibilities are performance of the duties for which they are employed, supervisors and employers will coordinate to ensure that departmental and governance needs are met.”

In times of budget challenges and change, it is all the more important to have an effective Staff Council at UAS. I value the work of Council leadership and members currently in place, and look forward to a continuation of the Council’s voice in support of our university’s mission. Please contact me if you have any questions about this matter.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.alaska.edu/bor/policy/03-01.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.