

UAF Staff Council President's Report August 2011

Staff Changes

Over the summer, Governance Coordinating Committee Executive Secretary, Joyce Stevens, stepped down in order to spend time traveling with her husband. Nicole Dufour will be assuming this role until a permanent replacement is hired. Nicole has done a great job of organizing the office and attending to the multiple tasks required to keep the organization running smoothly.

Agenda Reorganization

In order to try to maximize the effectiveness of staff council meetings and remain within the time allotted, a slightly modified agenda will be presented at the August meeting. Changes include shifting business items, both old and new, to an earlier time slot in order to focus on the important issues that staff council addresses each month.

Focus on Committees

Strong committees lead to effective councils, and efforts will be made this year to help strengthen the role of committees. The hope is that the majority of debate and conversation surrounding issues can be addressed in committee with clear recommendations then presented at staff council meetings.

Staff Alliance Representation

Juella Sparks, UAF Staff Council vice president, was elected president of Staff Alliance in August. Juella's leadership experience and passion for staff issues will ensure that staff council maintains a strong voice on system-wide issues, and time will be devoted to each staff council meeting to discuss Staff Alliance developments.

External and Internal Committee Representation

Nicole will be working over the next month to confirm the terms of all external committee seats and to verify that these positions are filled and that staff council continues to be represented with these important campus groups.

Communication Committee

Last spring a communication committee was formed in order to discuss the most effective means for creating dialogue among staff council members and constituents. The committee will be looking into a multitude of ways of establishing good communication patterns to ensure that staff council has a strong voice on campus.

Meeting Donald Smith, Director of Labor and Employee Relations

Juella and I met with the new Director of Labor and Employee Relations, Donald Smith, in early August to welcome Donald to the university and outline some of the issues that are of greatest concern to staff members including compensation packages and health care. We see this as the first step to establishing an open line of communication between staff council and Donald's office.