



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

Minutes

Staff Alliance

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

[Zoom Recording and Transcript](#)

Voting Members:

Mathew Mund, President, UAF Staff Council; Chair, Staff Alliance

John Moore, Co-President, UAA Staff Council; Vice Chair, Staff Alliance

David Felts, President, UAS Staff Council

Kate Govaars, Vice President, UAS Staff Council

Lauren Hartman, Vice President, SW Administration Assembly

Ronnie Houchin, Vice President, UAF Staff Council

Dawn Humenik, Co-President, UAA Staff Council

Josh Watts, President, SW Administration Assembly

Staff:

Morgan Dufseth, Executive Officer, System Governance

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting came to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Adopt Agenda

Members reviewed and approved the agenda without amendment.

3. Approve [May 26 Minutes](#)

Members reviewed and approved the minutes without corrections.

4. Public and Guest Comments

Mathew discussed the email that went to all staff last week as well as the feedback form that the Alliance developed and distributed along with the email. There was overall concern about cutting staff positions as a means to meet budget reductions. Mathew noted he sent the president an email about these concerns especially regarding the lack of compensation increases in recent years and the probability it will continue that way for some time. Dawn

noted they received an email following Mathew's email; it was a member who was disgruntled about compensation increases for UAA administration as well as the lack of loyalty to staff.

5. Chair's Report

Mathew Mund

Mathew asked members to review his oral comments for the board later this week.

6. Legislative Update

6.1. [Capitol Report](#)

6.2. [HR Update](#)

7. Staff Council Reports

7.1. UAA - John noted he would be cycling off the UAA Staff Council so he will not be on Staff Alliance next year; new officers will be onboarded in the next month; he noted there was concern that President Johnsen has been reaching out to the System Governance Council more often rather than interacting with the individual governance groups

7.2. UAF - Mathew and Ronnie were both elected as president and vice president respectively; UAF SC held a successful staff development day last month despite some initial technical difficulties; they passed a resolution encouraging the system to adopt UAF's staff recognition policy; they also sent out surveys to staff, faculty and administrators regarding UA's response to COVID-19 (Staff Council's results are posted online); SC has members on the diversity task force; UAF recently named a chief diversity officer and Mathew and Ronnie had some input on that process; task force on outward facing activities

7.3. UAS - Kate noted that Eric Lingle will take over as president for UAS Staff Council from David; she will continue to serve next year; there has been interest from UAS staff in re-opening the morale survey--all of the SCs had opted to postpone distributing a morale survey during the COVID-19 crisis--but now it appears there is interest in checking in with staff now and seeing how they are dealing with the changes and restrictions; has been questioning why employee and student records are blended for staff who also take classes (what happens to those records if the relationship as employee ends but continues as a student)

7.4. SAA - sent out a survey to OIT staff about trust in leadership and their engagement; there are likely to be changes made to OIT structure in the coming weeks;

8. Ongoing Business

8.1. [June 3-4 Full Board Meeting](#) - Members reviewed the agenda and noted the proposed changes to the president's contract did not seem to be in the best interest of the university.

- 8.2. COVID19 Update - [Moving to Phase B](#) - Members reiterated the importance of staff attending the local incident management team meetings to help ensure staff are engaged in the process.
- 8.3. [Opportunities for Governance Input](#) - Morgan noted she had been asked by VP Layer to compile a list of all meetings, forums, or other opportunities for governance to share input with the administration and the regents regarding the expedited program review.

9. New Business

- 9.1. [Staff Commitment to Excellence](#) - Mathew asked members to circulate with their respective staff councils and return with comments at the next meeting.
- 9.2. Staff Alliance Transitions
 - 9.2.1. Timeline - New members will begin their term in July.
 - 9.2.2. Membership - New members from UAA (Tania Rowe replacing John Moore) and UAS (Eric Lingle replacing David Felts); SAA will hold its election later in June; both Mathew and Ronnie are returning from UAF
 - 9.2.3. Annual Meeting - July or August? Members were open to either July or very early August (to avoid any overlap with returning students)
- 9.3. [Johnsen University of Wisconsin Message](#) - Members discussed the president's announcement. Kate shared an [article from Wisconsin State Journal](#) that discussed some of the hesitation coming from the UW community.

10. Roundtable discussion

11. Agenda Items for July Meeting

- 11.1. Resolutions moving forward - what would actually work in our system?

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.