

Committee Updates (April 8, 2020)

Campus-Wide Updates:

- [Chancellor directive for work-from-off-campus](#) (3/20/19)

President's Update (David)

- We have not had a one-on-one with the Chancellor since February 12.
- Next meeting has been scheduled for the morning of April 8, with David and Cody scheduled to attend.
- Staff Council received a number of emails from staff and faculty in support of protecting the frontline staff (especially those in the library) on March 26 and 27, and these were summarized and forwarded to the chancellor in a memo on March 27 as he made the difficult decision to close almost all in-person campus functions and transition staff to working from home.
- Staff Alliance forwarded a [resolution](#) to the UA President urging more support for the transition to remote work, as many IT staff (especially at UAF and UA Statewide) were feeling like their health and safety were at risk because of being required to continue attending work on-site in spite of the president's previous push to have more staff work from home
- Staff Development Day and the Staff Morale Survey were postponed for the time being
- Please see the VP summary for more updates regarding Staff Council and Staff Alliance
- Chancellor shared campus closure dates for 20/21 winter break:
 - Winter break begins Thursday, December 24, with staff returning to work on Monday, January 4
 - Monday through Wednesday, December 21-23 are regular work days
 - Thursday and Friday, December 24-25 are paid holidays
 - Monday through Wednesday, December 28-30 are either annual leave or LWOP
 - Thursday and Friday, December 31 and January 1 are paid holidays.
 - There is no soft closure planned.
- [UA Mail - Winter Break Schedule for 2020-2021.pdf](#)
- Staff Council forwarded idea of sick leave sharing bank for Covid-19 illness to UAS admin: [UA Mail - RE_ Sick leave share.pdf](#)
- Graduation fees were refunded: [Graduation fee refund 2020.pdf](#)
- UAS has had the position of HR coordinator recreated: [UA Mail - Fwd_ UAS HR Coordinator.pdf](#)
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Vice President's Update (Kate)

- **Newsletter:** We continue to send out a monthly newsletter, which is receiving positive responses

- **Awards:** Staff Excellence Awards and Staff Makes Students Count Awards nomination periods both closed on Friday, March 27th. Staff Council is currently reviewing SEA and will begin reviewing the nomination packets for SMSC when received from System Governance. Typically, SEA were made public during Staff Development Day. Since SDD is now postponed indefinitely, Staff Council is looking at alternate ways to notify and recognize award winners.
- **Elections:** Elections will likely continue as planned. Calls for nominations will be going out toward the middle to end of April with elections in early May. As this happens online anyway, we don't anticipate a disruption as a result of virtual work.
- **Morale Survey:** Due to the extreme circumstances each of our campuses are currently facing, a morale survey seemed inappropriate to conduct. We will revisit when we settle into whatever *normal* becomes.
- **Chancellor's search:** The Chancellor's search continues. The committee has reviewed numerous applications and is taking steps to initiate initial interviews of the top tier candidates. The search will remain open, and the search firm will continue to recruit candidates.

Chancellor's Cabinet (David)

- Please see [Lori Klein's](#) notes (and [David's](#) less thorough notes)
 - Most of the meeting was about COVID-19

SPBAC (David, Kate)

- UAS is not putting forward a long list of program deletions. Bulk of reductions will come from other areas (positions not being filled, cost reductions)
- Continue to bring forward ideas on cost-savings and new revenue options
- May still have to do additional program reviews
- Request for feedback on differential tuition models
- For full notes, see [SPBAC website](#)
 - Document: "[Overview of budget reductions under consideration for FY21](#)"

UAS Title IX Committee (David)

- In place of a meeting, an [update](#) was shared. Notable that Chase Parkey has removed himself from consideration for the permanent position

Faculty Senate (David)

- Emailed Faculty Senate president Professor Batchelder to ask if she wanted to connect on any issues, but I have not had a response

UAS Retention Subcommittee (David/Andie Scharen)

- Committee has not met since Charla Brown announced her intention to step down as chair

Web Strategy Committee (John)

- The Web Strategy Committee did not meet this last month.

Advisory Committee on Cultural Safety and Equity (David/Kate)

- David will discuss with the chancellor's office in planning for transition to next year's Staff Council. In my experience committee assignments have been done at the Staff Council annual retreat.

Master Plan Implementation Committee (Cody)

- Per the MPIC Chair, "there is not information to provide a status report on the Auke Bay Integrated Sciences Building project. Therefore, we will be cancelling this afternoon's meeting. An email and/or a meeting will be scheduled when more information on the project is available." (3/23/20)

Compensation Committee, Staff Alliance (David)

- Louisa Cryan was nominated to represent UAS on the compensation committee. Committee has not met.
- From System Governance Office, regarding Staff Healthcare and Compensation Committees: "[...] not this year. I've been hesitant to convene them because it doesn't seem like there is anything for them to do"

Staff Health Care Committee, Staff Alliance (David, Louisa Cryan)

- David is a member of Staff Healthcare Committee based on Joint Healthcare membership. Gwenna Richardson was also nominated. Committee has not met.

Joint Healthcare Committee, UA (David)

- Joint Healthcare received a regular update about health care plan utilization and plan choice by employees.
- We voted to suspend the biometric requirement for all employees for this year for the wellness rebate but to keep the minimum number of points to qualify the same. Victoria with Zomo promised to send an email.
- We discussed options for the high points raffle awards. There was lots of discussion of gift certificates or a device. I said that the gift certificates that were being discussed were not a good option for rural communities. The answer was to provide more options and to let the winners choose from a list.
- Open enrollment will go on as scheduled
- There was discussion about COVID testing and about safety and wellness of employees.

Staff Alliance General Meeting (Kate)

- March 3rd Meeting
 - Discussed the following:
 - COVID19 and Self-Quarantine Update
 - February 20-21 BOR Update and planning for June 4-5 BOR meeting
 - Merit-based recognition - John Moore drafting a resolution
 - Academic Program Reviews: UAA and UAF have websites set up, UAS has been mostly dark
 - Administrative Program Reviews: UAA and UAF have undergone a similar process to the academic reviews. UAS does not seem to be doing as systematic of a review
 - Common Calendar Proposals: Recommended it be sent on to the academic advisors and course schedulers across the community campuses
 - Reminder about the SMSC awards due March 16
 - Noted that all the other campuses run their equivalent of Staff Excellence awards through the Chancellor's office
- March 24th Meeting (HR focus)
 - Paul Layer:
 - Senate looking at putting back \$12.5 million into the budget (rather than a \$25million anticipated cut); will go back into negotiations with the House; no funding added for capital budget
 - COVID response: Added expenses to support students.
 - Concerns brought forward regarding safety of campus spaces
 - Drafted and passed a resolution on Wednesday, March 25 sent to the President to encourage more equity among staff to work remotely. The President did not receive it until Monday, March 30th, after the Governor's health mandate shutting down non-essential activity, which then moved many folks off campus. Staff Alliance followed that with an email to the President expressing appreciation for following the mandate and still encouraging a systematic review of equitable practices across students, faculty, and staff with regard to health and safety measures that were enacted.

Morale Committee, Staff Alliance (Kate)

- Morale Committee last met March 4
- Discussions of morale survey being administered by all staff councils by or before April 30 using common questions. Mathew Mund plans to present data to the president.
- Discussion on longevity awards and funding for them. Confusion as to whether funding was coming from HR or from the Chancellor's offices. Hope is for staff councils to only take on longevity this year with HR taking it back over in future years.

- Staff Development Days in the works. Difficulty navigating between HR and Chancellor's offices indicated across councils.

Sitka Update (John)

Events

- Sitka is totally working from home, with the exception of Greg George, who is head of Facilities, who is going in to check on the building. All classes are now being taught remotely. Zoom has become our best friend though this time!

Personnel Changes

- Two Title III personnel have left UAS Sitka. Michael Mausbach and Andrew Wentzel will both be missed on campus.
- Two staff positions were permanently cut due to the budget:
 - Science Lab Assistant
 - Director Administrative Assistant
- Sitka currently has five positions open:
 - Campus Director
 - Facilities
 - Advisor
 - Fish Tech Term Faculty
 - FT Outreach Specialist

Campus Concerns

- Most concerns are with COVID 19, and the unknown of how long we are going to be working from home and what the impact will be on student enrollment. There are also concerns with the UAS budget. The concern focuses on what additional cuts might be coming in the future, especially as enrollment numbers go down due to budget and COVID concerns.

Ketchikan Update (Kate & Shellie)

Events

- The Campus Library has posted most of AskUAS to [YouTube](#)
- We distributed 10+ laptops to students to support their move to online education

Personnel Changes

- Hired Business Manager. We would like to welcome back to UAS Ketchikan Chris Hoyt.

Juneau Update (Denise)

Events

- Fall 2020 registration starts on April 6
- Deadline for withdraw for spring 2020 classes extended to April 10

- Credit/no credit grading option available up until April 27
- [Tidal Echos Virtual Launch](#) April 5
- Virtual Retirement Celebration for Sherry Tamone and Robin Walz on Monday, April 27 from 2:00 - 3:30 pm. [RSVP](#) to receive invite to Zoom meeting
- Live comedy show April 10 Here's a link to join the Livestream: <https://youtu.be/npKRJ5xIVr4>, just click it at 7:00 p.m. on Friday 4/10. The link will also be on our Facebook Event, in our Instagram Bio and on the UAS Activity Calendar.

Personnel Changes

- Libby Stringer - Development Officer & Annual Fund Manager - Welcome!
- Jasper Soriano - Alumni Relations Manager - Welcome!
- Chase Parkey Acting Title IX, EEO, ADA/504, & Cleary Compliance Coordinator will be departing
- Margie Thompson will be retiring April 30
 - [Position is posted](#)
- Seeking a [writing specialist](#)

Local Recognitions

- A general shout out to everyone managing the WFH transitions.
- Big shout out to Housing, The Creative Agency Team, Food Services, HelpDesk/IT folks, and Facilities for all the fast pivoting they have done.

Campus Concerns

- Faculty member was threatened and had vehicle damage on March 21 - a trespass notice was issued for the individual. Individual was on campus again 3/23