

Committee Updates (May 20, 2020)

Campus-Wide Updates:

- AIG offering all UA employees a webinar to help navigate market volatility:
 - Emotions and your money: 5 potentially costly mistakes and how to avoid them
 - [Register](#) for either session time: Mon 5/18 or Fri 5/22, both at 11am
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President's Update (David)

- Chancellor search committee virtual candidate visits have happened, feedback has been gathered, strengths and weaknesses have been noted, and memo was finalized to be forwarded to president for consideration
- Met with the Chancellor on April 8. David and Cody attended. Thanked him for responsiveness to Staff Council requests and concerns. Discussed planning for fall semester. Presented thoughts on furlough and the importance of trying not to harm those at the lower end of the pay scale
- Also met with Chancellor on May 15. David and Kate attended. [Notes here](#).
- As a Staff Alliance representative, the SC President has been asked to serve on the search committee for the HR Benefits Coordinator to fill the shoes of Erika Van Flein who is retiring. Interviews have begun.
- Staff Alliance Chair asked for feedback on budget concerns to forward to the President/BOR. VP gathered thoughts and shared with chair on May 15 at midday. Our vp gathered these and forwarded them
- Staff at all three campuses worked really hard to get virtual commencement ceremonies up for all three campuses, including lots of cross-campus support. Feedback on virtual ceremonies has been positive
- VP will be representing Staff Council on the UAS Covid Response committee going forward
- Please note, public testimony opportunity to BOR (May 26, 4-5 pm) and BOR meeting (June 4-5) coming soon

Vice President's Update (Kate)

- **Newsletter:** Missed our April newsletter. May will announce the newly elected staff council.
- **Awards:** Staff Excellence Awards and Staff Makes Students Count Awards nomination periods both closed on Friday, March 27th. Staff Council reviewed SEA and made recommendations for awardees. We will begin reviewing the nomination packets for SMSC this week. 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. SMSC awards are made public during the June BOR meeting.

- **Elections:** Calls for nominations went out at the end of April, and we had a robust response. Elections opened on Wednesday, May 6 and will run for about a week. We will be working on transitions through May and June.
- **Chancellor's search:** The Chancellor's search continues. We hosted virtual on campus interviews for three candidates. The committee met and submitted a candidate packet to the president for review. The hope was to continue to move quickly as Chancellor Caulfield is committed to retiring next month.

Chancellor's Cabinet (David)

- April notes courtesy Lori Klein (<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1OthmqM85WN4zNudfoJv8Vf38eght3BI>)
- Updates on CARES Act funding, [COVID Relief committee](#), plans for fall classes, transition to fully online education
- May Notes: [by Lori Klein](#); [by David](#)

SPBAC (David, Kate)

- Has not met since late March
- Staff Council submitted many varied ideas on request for feedback on tuition proposals, at request of UA President

UAS Title IX Committee (David)

- No meeting, but compliance officer search is ongoing. Chase Parkey is leading this search
- Department of Education on Title IX guidance received on compliance, protections, and investigations. There are significant changes, and we are waiting for interpretations, training, and clarification

Faculty Senate (David)

System governance council, which includes reps from Staff Alliance and Faculty Alliance, has sent a proposed resolution to allow more governance participation in determining how Unrestricted General Funds are allocated across the UA system.

In my opinion (David), the phrasing is problematic. Draft resolution:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1YwkisD8xPZcAWPMqfYOqgiF5ciF9_Xvq

UAS Retention Subcommittee (David/Andie Scharen)

This committee has not met. I assume that we are waiting until we fill the Dean of Students position

Web Strategy Committee (John)

- Meeting was held on May 18th. Website staffing will change when Colin Osterhout goes off contract June 1 – July 11. Jennifer Gross will take on Colin’s responsibilities while he is out.
- The group discussed the Virtual Commencement website, and are hoping to do something similar next year with face to face graduation videos. It was great to have all the information in one place.
- UAS websites are still being migrated to the new server, and we are waiting on certificates to complete this project.
- We looked at COVID19 information on the website, and the possible change to information on the UAS site as COVID information is updated.
- The meeting concluded with a look at the progress of updates to school sites and other projects. Career Ed and ACOE sites are in the “crank out pages” stage!

Master Plan Implementation Committee (Cody)

- Sam Kito offered an MPIC update during the last Staff Council meeting. Originally, there was a scheduled meeting mid-March but the only thing on the agenda would have been to provide a status on the Auke Bay Integrated Station - because of higher-than-expected bids and UA’s COVID-19 response, UAS has decided to hold off on making an offer. There may be a close-out meeting in May, but not much substance to review.

Compensation Committee, Staff Alliance (David)

- This committee has not met

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

- This committee has not met

Joint Healthcare Committee, UA (David)

- Meeting held April 15 and May 20
- Reminder that Healthcare Plan Open Enrollment (closed between meetings)
- 4/15
- Covered the quarterly health plan utilization report. Things remain positive in projections of growth in health plan spending and ability to support employees
- Voted to fully cover COVID health expenses for employees, following example of the state, until October. Not a binding vote, but JHCC recommendations are usually followed
- E. Van Flein is retiring and the search for a director of transition & benefits is underway.
- 5/20

- Discussing new specialty drug saving program (SaveOn)- letter will go out soon
- Updating hearing benefit to be more in line with Market
- Telehealth visit up
- Talkspace Counseling look slike a cost effective way to see a BH counselor

Staff Alliance General Meeting (Kate)

- VP Layer provided a system update
- Much discussion on changes since COVID
- Discussion on furlough process (UAF and UAA have employees furloughed because they cannot work remotely or jobs were dependent on on-campus events)
- Discussion on academic and administrative program reviews
- No major decisions made
- Met with President Johnsen in advance of the BOR audit committee meeting. He articulated similar things to what was covered in the BOR meeting on May 13.
- EAP utilization report also covered
- Erika van Flein's last meeting :(
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Morale Committee, Staff Alliance (Kate)

- Has not met since last meeting

Sitka Update (John)

Events

- Sitka did their commencement virtually. Due to some technical difficulties the unveiling of the video was delayed, but was finally released on Wednesday, May 6th. Thanks to the staff members (Leah, Greg, David, Audrey, Emy, Susie, and Eric) who worked to get this produced, and a special thanks to Cody Bennett for his invaluable help and insights through the process.

Personnel Changes

- Sitka currently had five positions open:
 - Campus Director - Paul Kraft has accepted the position and will start on June 29th. Math Trafton will cover until then.
 - Facilities - There is a person ready to start when the facility opens again!
 - Advisor - A verbal offer has been made to a candidate - update: declined
 - Fish Tech Term Faculty - A verbal offer has been made to a candidate and accepted
 - FT Outreach Specialist - Background checks are being done!

Campus Concerns

- There are currently big concerns with the budget, upcoming cuts, and job security. Staff is worried that cuts will be aimed at them, as Faculty currently get a year's notice prior to a layoff, and also have teach-outs, which could keep them employed for three additional years.
- There is also concern over the long term coping with working at home, especially felt by those with children at home. Not only have work routines changed, but there is added demand placed on working parents. Some have found benefits to working at home also, but many are feeling like they are "on" past their working hours.

Ketchikan Update (Kate & Shellie)

Events

- Commencement, we have a fantastic commencement video on youtube. Thanks, in part, to John Ingman for helping compile that video
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Personnel Changes

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Juneau Update (Denise)

Events

- 4/16 - Say What You Mean The Right Way- Healthy Forms of Communication - Deer Oaks ([recording here](#))
- 04/17 - Everything in its Place: Getting Organized - Deer Oaks ([recording here](#))
- 4/27 - Deer Oaks Leadership Certificate Webinar Series - How to Become a More Effective Manager ([recording here](#))
- Virtual Commencement: May 2: <http://uas.alaska.edu/commencement>
- 5/4 - Deer Oaks GoToWebinar - Supervisor Excellence/Advanced Communication Skills - Successful Approaches to Difficult Employee Conversations ([recording here](#))
- Faculty excellence awards on Monday, May 4
- Summer classes mostly begin on May 11
- Fall registration is open - consider taking a class for professional development!
- Board of Regents Meeting June 4 & 5: <http://www.alaska.edu/bor/live/>

Personnel Changes

- Margie Thomson last day was April 30

- Position description is being reworked and will be reposted
- Allison Needland departed - husband is relocating for Coast Guard
- Robin Walz retired
- Sherry Tamone retired
- Jackie Wilson has been selected as the new Dean of Students and will be joining UAS on June 29
- Alexa Koontz new UAS HR Senior Business Partner
- New HR Coordinator beginning soon

Local Recognitions

- Wayne Price [Rasmuson Foundation Distinguished Artist Award Recipient](#)

Campus Concerns

- What is fall semester going to look like
- New science building is tabled due to budget constraints
- Dining services are closed for the summer as of May 4