UAA Assembly

Thursday, November 12th, 2009
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
ADM 204

I. Call to Order

II. Introduction of Members

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P= Present  E= Excused

III. Approval of Agenda (pgs. 1-2)

IV. Approval of Meeting Summary (pgs. 3-6)

V. President’s Report

VI. Administrative Reports

A. Chancellor Ulmer
   [http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/chancellor/faq/index.cfm](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/chancellor/faq/index.cfm)

B. Provost Driscoll

C. Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services Spindle

D. Vice Chancellor of Advancement Olson

E. Vice Chancellor for Student Services Schultz (pgs. 7-8)

F. Senior Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, Engagement, and Academic Support Carter-Chapman

VII. Governance Reports

A. System Governance Council

B. Staff Alliance (pg. 9)

C. APT Council (pg. 10)

D. Classified Council (pg. 9)

E. Union of Students/Coalition of Students

F. Alumni Association

G. Faculty Senate/Faculty Alliance
VIII. Old Business  
A. Presidential Search  
http://www.alaska.edu/bor/pres-search/UA-Presidential-Profile-11-5-09-FINAL.pdf  
B. Ad Hoc Service Committee Update  

IX. New Business  
A. Assembly 09-10 Goals – Tabled from October meeting  
B. Assistance Requests from Constituent Groups  
C. IDEA Information - Kim Perkins  
D. IDEA Demonstration - John Petraitis  
E. IDEA information gathered by USUAA- Ryan Buchholdt  
F. Board of Regents-Public Testimony  

X. Information/Attachments  
A. Ton in Ten, Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive. November 9th – 19th.  
B. Accreditation Update  
http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/accreditation/2010.cfm  
C. Staff Health Care Committee pharmacy recommendations (pgs. 11-13)  

XI. Adjourn  

December 2009 Agenda Items:  
Ad Hoc Constitution and Bylaws committee
Thursday, October 8th, 2009  
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
LIB 307

I. Call to Order

II. Introduction of Members

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III. Approval of Agenda (pgs. 1-2)  
Approved

IV. Approval of Meeting Summary (pgs. 3-5)  
Approved

V. President’s Report

Met with Dr. Hairston (leading search committee for new UA President). Felt it was a valuable discussion
Board of Regents met September 24th and 25th
Bachelor degree in Nutrition and tuition raises of ( ?? ) passed

VI. Administrative Reports

A. Chancellor Ulmer  
Excused  
Pam Cravez will attend [http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/chancellor/faq/index.cfm](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/chancellor/faq/index.cfm)  
7 million dollar gift UAA received this past spring, has been allocated into 50 Seawolf Opportunity Scholarships, which have been given out and are already benefiting UAA students
Accreditation visit went well. Team was impressed with the staff and community member turn outs at the forums
Friday, October 23rd. Grand Opening of the Conoco Phillips Integrated Science Building, begins at 4:00 p.m., activities for all ages
UAA is currently working on improving our Sustainability Report Card. UAF has challenged UAA to see which campus can get the better grade. UAA looking for ideas on to make this challenge more interesting for staff, students, faculty. Please send any thoughts to Pam Cravez @ [afpc@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afpc@uaa.alaska.edu)

B. Provost Driscoll

Unable to attend

C. Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services Spindle (pgs. 6-7)  
Excused

Written report included, see agenda
D. Vice Chancellor of Advancement Olson (pgs. 8-9)
   Unable to attend
   Written report included, see agenda

E. Vice Chancellor for Student Services Schultz (pgs. 10-11)
   Rick Weems reporting for VC Schultz
   Fall 2009 semester had a great beginning
   Enrollment up by 500 students
   Financial aid processing went smoothly
   Seawolf Opportunity Scholarship already awarded and being used. Can contact Ted Malone, antem2@uaa.alaska.edu or Sonya Fisher, ansef1@uaa.alaska.edu for additional information
   Enrollment Services rolled out “Chat”, opens at 7:00 a.m. each morning
   Degree Works is getting great reviews

F. Senior Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, Engagement, and Academic Support Carter-Chapman
   Did not attend

VII. Governance Reports
   A. System Governance Council
   B. Staff Alliance (pg. 12)
      Has not met since last Assembly meeting
      Currently working on rewriting the Health Care committee seat criteria
   C. APT Council (pg. 13)
      Had first annual retreat on September 28th
      Invited several speakers to update and inform APT council of what is happening across campus this year
      Set 5 goals for the APT council
      Russell is happy to discuss goals with anyone who is interested
   D. Classified Council (pg. 12)
      Annual retreat is next Thursday, October 15th
      Excited to have community campus members come to retreat in person
      Will be setting Classified Council goals for the year
   E. Union of Students/ Coalition of Students (pg. 14)
      Homecoming Week: October 8th – 16th, events all over campus. Homecoming Dance is Friday, October 16th, from 8 – 11:30 at the Dena’ina Center
      Still need volunteers to help with the Homecoming Dance. Can contact Chris McConnell USUAA will be focusing on advocacy for need based scholarships this year
      Hoping to publicize the Board of Regents visit to the Anchorage Campus this year and encourage students to talk to them
      Coalition of Students:
      Had first meeting (Presidents Retreat) September 19th – 20th
      President Hamilton, Chancellor Ulmer and Senator Ellis spoke to the group
      Main goals for the year include: keeping tuition affordable, focusing on need based scholarships and increasing student worker wages by $1.00
F. Alumni Association
   Were able to meet with Dr. Hairston, regarding alumni perspective in search for new president
   Hoping to have a scholarship/alumni event in February
   Working on forming functional sub groups of the alumni association (i.e. Engineering Alumni, Nursing Alumni)

G. Faculty Senate/ Faculty Alliance (pgs. 15-16)
   President Hamilton spoke at October meeting
   Faculty Senate will be focusing on promotion and tenure guidelines being updated; increasing student response rate on the IDEA evaluations
   There is a new assessment committee in Faculty Senate. Tara Smith is the chair

   Faculty Alliance:
   Focusing on the Presidential search. Would like to see a faculty member on the search committee

VIII. Old Business
A. Accreditation Update
   [http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/accreditation/2010.cfm](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/accreditation/2010.cfm)
   Site visit went well
   Accreditation Team that came are in the process of putting together a draft report. Draft will be sent to UAA, with an opportunity to correct factual errors. The final report will be sent by the team to the commission who will send the official report to UAA. This report will be posted online when received

B. Presidential Search
   [http://www.alaska.edu/bor/pres-search/](http://www.alaska.edu/bor/pres-search/)
   Peter Finn, a member on the search committee updated the group
   General time line to hire new President has been set, but no specific dates have been made
   Still in early stages of search

C. Ad Hoc Service Committee Update
   Planning to hold event on Saturday, March 20th
   Hoping to have a food drive leading up to a day of service at the Food Bank
   Russell Pressley and Anna Bryant will be co-chairing the committee
   Would like to have more committee members. Can be from other constituent groups

IX. New Business
A. Assembly 09-10 Goals
   Tabled until November

   **Motion:**
   Add recurring item under New Business for constituent groups to request help from Assembly

   **Vote:**
   Passed unanimously
B. Ad Hoc Constitution and Bylaws committee

Motion:
Reconstitute Ad Hoc Constitution and Bylaws committee

Vote:
Passed

Volunteers:
Megan Carlson, Russell Pressley, Ryan Buchholdt, Peter Finn, Vince Yelmene, Debbie Narang

C. Safety Assessment Report – Dale Pittman

Ron Swartz presented to the Assembly

Brought handouts to share with the group, “Building Evacuation Safety Drills” (will be posted on Governance website for viewing)

UAA recently performed mandatory fire drills for each building

In general, UAA did well, there were some areas of concern being addressed

Each building has assigned rally points for people to meet after drills

If unsure where the rally point is, contact your building manager, if you do not know who this is, contact Ron Swartz

First weekend in November, H1N1 event. More details to come

X. Information/Attachments

A. Ton in Ten, Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive. November 9th – 19th.

XI. Adjourn @3:05 P.M.

November 2009 Agenda Items:
IDEA- Kim Perkins
Academic & Multicultural Student Services Division

- Educational Opportunity Center, Educational Talent Search, and Student Support Services are now located in Diplomacy 105. An open house is planned for December 3.
- Disability Support Services facilitated an evaluation of UAA’s online information and services. In addition, the department coordinated participation in a federally funded project aimed at improving accessibility through proactive institutional planning.
- Educational Opportunity Center hosted over 3,000 Anchorage citizens at the 28th Annual College and Career Fair.
- Educational Talent Search students volunteered at Food Bank of Alaska, contributing 51 hours of service.
- Native Student Services’ student mentor/tutors hosted the Native Dress Review during the 2009 UAA Alaska Native/Native American Heritage Month kick off.
- Advising and Testing Center provided 186 online, real time advising sessions since the inception of “online chat” in February 2009. Fifteen sessions were held during October.
- AHAINA Student Programs hosted the Juneteenth Alaska ALCAN Highway Celebration Film Night.
- Advising and Testing Center has redesigned and upgraded its lab facilities to increase testing capacity, reduce distractions, and upgrade test security and surveillance.

Upcoming events:
- “Villagers in the City,” November 16, 6:00 p.m., AHAINA Student Programs.

Enrollment Management

- Fall Preview Day had an attendance of 203 students and 76 guests.
- Registration information was sent to 20,000 students regarding spring registration.
- Priority registration began November 9 and open registration will start November 16.
- Admissions produced a navigation guide for students who have applied for admission. This guide is a checklist for new students to complete prior to attendance on campus and will be mailed one to two weeks after they have applied for admission.
- The Student Information Advisor completed training regarding the new direct loan servicing.
- Graduation information was sent to 1,763 students.
- Office of the Registrar has created a twitter to keep students informed of important dates. Students may access the twitter at http://twitter.com/UAARegistrar.
- The last printed spring class schedule was sent to the printer and the PDF is available online. In the future, only summer schedules will be printed.

Student Development Division

- The Student Health and Counseling Center, in collaboration with the UAA Culinary Arts program, now offers Dietetic graduate interns counseling rooms for nutritional counseling to provide on-site referrals from both physical and mental health nurse practitioners for nutritional counseling.
- Through his “Clips for a Cure” program Robert Pope, West Hall resident advisor, raised over $200 for the Susan G. Koman for the Cure. “Clips for a Cure” featured Atlanta stylist Felix who gave students, faculty, and staff haircuts for a small donation.
- Career Services Center continues to work with employers seeking students to fill internships or career opportunities within their company. The Center is seeking to collaborate with professors to have employers visit appropriate classes.
- The Dean of Student’s office coordinated training for ESL faculty members regarding methods in which to work with disruptive student behavior within the classroom.
- Throughout the month of October USUAA heard presentations from the Student Life fee functional areas: Athletics, Student Activities, and the Student Health and Counseling Center. Members of the USUAA Assembly were consulted regarding a proposed increase to each functional area’s fee allotment.
- Two new programs have been introduced for commuter students: Daily Den- a time for commuter students to meet and network, Thursdays 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Monday Night Football in the Den.
- Homecoming Week drew big crowds to weeknight events: 548 students attended the Bo Burnham comedy show. The 16th Annual ACappella Festivella featuring Sweet Honey in the Rock performed to a sold out Williamson auditorium. The annual Homecoming dance sponsored by the Campus Programming Board and USUAA had
1,098 participants and 360 students used a Homecoming meal voucher during homecoming week to get up to $6.50 of free food from any campus vendor.

- Commuter Student Services is developing an electronic posting system similar to EBay and Craig’s List.
- The Student Health and Counseling Center provided over 700 seasonal flu vaccines and has 570 vaccines available. The Center began dispensing H1N1 vaccine to UAA’s priority populations, beginning with 18-24 year olds in the residential and athletic communities on campus.
- *The Northern Light* received the Associated Collegiate Press Pacemaker award in the overall four-year university, non-daily newspaper category at the 88th Annual ACP/CMA National Collegiate Media Convention. The Pacemaker is one of college journalism’s oldest and most prestigious awards for general excellence. The paper was one of 13 winners, out of 25 finalists in the category. Over 200 papers from across the nation entered the competition.
- Fourteen students applied for the Seawolf Student Leader Award and four students applied for the Seawolf Community Service Award. This program recognizes students who through their commitment and volunteer service made significant contributions to campus life. Award recipients will receive a 12-credit tuition waiver for spring 2010. Another 14 students applied for the USUAA Leadership Scholarship; an opportunity for students that have demonstrated excellent leadership within the UAA campus community to receive a $1,000.00 scholarship.
- Residence Life partnered with Student Life and Leadership to bring Hypnotist Sailesh to the Gorsuch Commons to perform during UAA Homecoming week. Over 200 residents attended the event.
- The Dean of Student’s office collaborated with the Student Health and Counseling Center, University Police, Residence Life, Student Life & Leadership, Student Union and Commuter Student Services, and Career Services Center to sponsor the OkSOBERfest carnival. The event raised alcohol awareness across campus and celebrated National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week.
- *The Northern Light* completed their first readership survey with significant response from students. The data shows 80% surveyed felt the paper did a good to excellent job of covering campus news. The survey was conducted through the Student Voice system.
- Career Services Center hosted Safety Career Fair, Business Expo, and Accounting Week. Each event gave students an opportunity to network with employers throughout Alaska.
- Club Council and the Office of Student Clubs and Greek Life hosted the annual Haunted Halloween Fun Night (over 20 years of tradition) for children in the Anchorage community, giving them a safe place to enjoy Halloween carnival style activities. Thirty-three student clubs participated with fun booths and raised more than $5,000 for their individual student clubs. Over 2,500 children and their parents attended the event.
- Student Conduct statistics:

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<tr>
<td>SCC – 10 Drugs</td>
<td>11</td>
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Upcoming events:
- International Job Fair, November 19, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Student Union.
- Family Movie Night “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory,” November 20, - 6:00 p.m., Student Union. Free for students and families, $10 general public.
- USUAA Thanksgiving Feast, November 2, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Gorsuch Commons.
Staff Alliance & Classified Council Reports to Assembly, November 2009
Megan Carlson, Classified Council President & Staff Alliance Member

Classified Council
The Classified Council held an abbreviated meeting in November, followed by a joint meeting with the APT Council. It was a great opportunity to talk about our shared interests. Kim Stanford and I also presented a PowerPoint on the Staff Health Care Committee’s response to the pharmacy vendor’s recommendations for changes to our plan. You can find the PowerPoint here: http://edit.uaa.alaska.edu/governance/classified/upload/SHCC-Update-for-UAA-s-Staff-Councils-Nov-2009.ppt. I’d be happy to answer any questions you have. I’ve also included the SHCC’s memo summarizing our recommendations with my written report.

The Council’s goals for this year are: (1) Improve communication and awareness, (2) Service to our local communities, (3) Staff community building, and (4) Collaboration with other governance groups. I’m proud to report that 19 of our 23 members are serving on at least one of the committees working on these goals. It’s great to see so much energy on the Council!

Staff Alliance
The Staff Alliance November meeting primarily focused on health care and compensation issues. We have finalized the criteria for the staff governance seat on the Joint Health Care Committee (which is the group primarily made up of union and management representatives, who make decisions about UA health care).

Planning and Budget Advisory Council
A strategic resource allocation consultant was on campus in the last week of October to meet with leadership groups and discuss how we might better align our resources with our strategic priorities. This is something PBAC will continue to discuss in the coming year, in addition to talking about how to better communicate what we are doing to the campus community.

Staff Health Care Committee
As I mentioned above, the Staff Health Care Committee submitted our response to Caremark’s recommendations for changes to the pharmacy plan. The Joint Health Care Committee will be starting their discussion of the recommendations later this month, and is expected to make final decisions during December.
APT Council Report

APT held its first annual retreat on September 28, 2009 in LIB 301. The retreat was well attended by APT members from the UAA campus as well as the extended sites. APT was fortunate enough to have Dr. Michael Driscoll (Provost), Dr. William Spindle (Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services), Dr. Bruce Schultz (Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs), and Kristin DeSmith (Assistant Vice Chancellor of University Advancement) as guest speakers at the retreat.

APT also took time at the event to come up with their goals for the year 2009 – 2010, to include:

1. Evaluate Governance Structure
2. Service
3. Compensation
4. Recognize and promote community involvement
5. Collaborate with other governance groups/APT employees

The APT council is looking forward to having a productive year in providing advocacy for all UAA employees.
On Monday, October 18th, Caremark presented staff governance members with recommendations for changes to the University of Alaska’s pharmacy plan to reduce costs. The Staff Health Care Committee (SHCC) met on Tuesday, October 27th to review the feedback received following the presentation, and to evaluate Caremark’s recommendations. This memo provides a summary of the SHCC’s principles, concerns, and recommendations for our pharmacy plan.

Principles

1. Health care costs are rising, and the SHCC understands and appreciates the administration’s efforts in controlling these rising costs. At the same time, the SHCC members take seriously our responsibility to protect the best interests of the thousands of staff we represent.

2. We approached this task with open minds, aiming to identify reasonable compromises within Caremark’s proposal to help control these costs. Some of these compromises may not be popular with our constituents, but we feel that they are compromises that we can stand behind.

3. We feel strongly that the patient and the doctor are the people most qualified and informed to make health care decisions. If the patient and doctor decide together that a generic medication does not work properly, due to side effects or lower effectiveness, this decision should not be overruled by the pharmacy plan, and the patient should not be penalized for factors beyond their control.

4. Employees at UA are spread throughout the state, which means that many of us live in places that reach remarkably low temperatures, or regularly have mail delays several days long due to weather. Any changes to the plan should take these factors into account.

Concerns

1. The last major changes to the pharmacy plan were just implemented two years ago. When these changes were implemented, employees paying $10 for brand medications began paying either $20 or $35 depending on the brand being used. The added cost for the higher tier of brands was an increase of 250%. 

While a single instance of a $25 increase may not seem small, many of us are on multiple medications, and/or monthly medications. Employees are still feeling the effects of the significant increase in copay costs. The committee is very concerned about raising copay rates again so soon, particularly to the degree Caremark has recommended (up another $5 for preferred and $15 for non-preferred brands).

2. If all of Caremark’s recommendations were implemented simultaneously, it would be impossible to identify which of the recommendations resulted in cost savings. It makes more sense to select a smaller number of targeted changes and assess the results based on those changes.

3. The committee is deeply concerned about the potential for Caremark’s recommendations to build on each other. If they were all implemented, an employee could stand to pay $150 a month for remaining on a non-preferred brand of insulin, purchased at her retail pharmacy to ensure that the medicine is not damaged by the cold or stolen by neighbors. This amount is up from the $35 she is currently paying, and $10 she paid just two years ago. This is the most dramatic example, but many of us on the SHCC can find similar multiplying penalties that would hit us as well. It is simply unacceptable to penalize a patient to that degree for medical decisions made in consultation with her doctor.

4. Although Caremark has answered questions regarding their mail program, the committee remains concerned about the effectiveness of the service, particularly with regards to the limitations posed by extreme temperatures and rural locations with regular mail delays due to flights being unable to get in. Doubling the copay for patients who choose not to use the mail program is not an “incentivized mail program” — it is clearly punishment. There are also members of the committee who are concerned about the impact on local pharmacies if employees are forced to purchase all maintenance prescriptions through the mail.

5. The committee also notes that pharmacy costs have gone down in the past year, and that there are a number of metrics in which we are making considerable progress or doing better than the industry average, according to Caremark’s figures. With those facts in mind, drastic increases in copays and new penalties do not appear justified at this time.

Plan Recommendations

1. The committee recognizes the amount of money that can be saved by encouraging employees to shift to generic prescriptions, although the doctor and patient should be the primary individuals making decisions about whether the brand will work as effectively. The committee supports the recommendation for Performance Step Therapy, which would require patients to try generic medications before using a brand. However, it is imperative that exceptions should be made when a physician can document that the generic does not work, has not worked, or is not an option for the patient.

2. With recommendation #1 in place, Caremark’s “Dispense as Written” recommendation should not be necessary. If the Performance Step Therapy is in place, the only patients on brands should be those who have a medical reason to do so. In those cases, the patient should not be punished for having a medically valid reason for needing the brand.

3. Also with recommendation #1 in place, it does not appear that Caremark’s recommendation to narrow the preferred brand list should be necessary either. The committee also notes that Caremark estimates that narrowing the preferred brand list would affect over 1000 participants, which is a third of every participant using the pharmacy plan in a given month.

4. The committee recommends implementing a genuine incentive for trying the mail order program, rather than a penalty that is wrongly labeled as an incentive. There are serious problems with forcing everyone on maintenance medications onto the mail order program (addressed above under “Concerns”), but if there were a greater incentive, more people might elect to try the program and find that it works well for them. The committee recommends making the mail order program 50% of the retail cost (instead of 66%) for the first order. This would incent people to try the program, but it should not be a significant ongoing cost to the plan because it would only apply to employees who are new to the mail order program.
5. The committee is not convinced that the Specialty Management Program is worth the meager savings it would result in. It also has concerns about patient progress being evaluated by the pharmacy vendor, rather than the physician and patient.

6. Finally, the committee has reservations about raising the copays on the plan after such a short period of time. However, in the spirit of compromise, the committee is willing to support an increase of $5 for both the preferred and non-preferred brand medications. We simply cannot support an increase of $15 for non-preferred brands, when this level was already increased so dramatically two years ago.

Please also note that the committee will only support an increase to the copays for brand medications if it is not accompanied by any of the additional recommended penalties for using a brand or not using the mail program.

Additional Recommendations

1. In the longer term, the SHCC recommends that the university consider modifying the generic/brand copay structure so that the first brand tier is for brands with no generic available and for brands that are documented as being necessary for medical reasons, and the second brand tier is for brands taken when there is a generic available and there is not a documented medical reason for using the brand instead. We recognize this proposal would require more research prior to implementation, but feel that this would be a better driver of behavior, and would limit the penalties an employee incurs for using a brand when they are unable to use the generic version or when none exists.

2. It is important to communicate better with the university's employees about the major factors that affect the cost of our health care plan and how we can control those costs. It is appropriate for this communication to come from Human Resources, perhaps at both the system and MAU levels. We would be happy to provide input on what to include in this communication, and to help disseminate it, but it is important that it comes from Human Resources.

3. The committee would like to remind Human Resources and the Joint Health Care Committee that non-represented staff to make up 60 to 70 percent of the university's workforce. It is concerning that these thousands of staff continue to be represented by only one voting member on the Joint Health Care Committee. We would like to reiterate our request to move toward greater equality in staff representation on the Joint Health Care Committee.

Final Notes of Appreciation

The committee would like to thank Heather Swanson, who has served as the non-represented staff member of the Joint Health Care Committee since the position was created. They would also like to thank the Joint Health Care Committee for genuinely welcoming Ms. Swanson’s input along with that of her alternate, Lisa Sporleder. We look forward to continuing to work with the JHCC in the future.

Finally, we would like to thank Mike Humphrey for setting up the Caremark presentation for staff governance members throughout the UA System to attend, and for always being a reliable resource for information as we seek to better understand the implications of recommendations regarding our health care plan. We would also like Mr. Humphrey to extend our thanks to Caremark for their responsiveness to our questions.

I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions.

Megan Carlson, Staff Health Care Committee Chair
907-786-1054
anmac3@uaa.alaska.edu