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SOUNDINGS

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

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Assessment proposal in the works

Don Cecil and Ron Seatter, chair of the Chancellor's Committee on Student Assessment, met with UA President Donald O'Dowd Monday, November 28, to discuss the progress the committee has made toward producing a proposal to assess student writing ability at UAS.

The interest in student assessment stems from nationwide focus on the topic. To date, 35 states have mandates from their legislatures to come up with assessment programs for higher education. Cecil said, "We don't have a mandate yet so we still have a lot of flexibility in instituting our own system. Student assessment works as a kind of consumer protection plan so institutions can insure that students can actually do what their transcripts say they can. The meeting was very positive and he (O'Dowd) seemed pleased with the direction we are going.

"He wants to see a faculty driven assessment program not an administration driven program. We want to see it benefit first of all students, then faculty, then other constituencies. We want a system that promotes more learning and better teaching not just a test that proves to the legislature that we have a system of quality control. Writing will be the first component; other areas will probably include critical thinking, research skills, speaking, and computing," said Cecil. Cecil also said that the proposal will be reviewed by UAS faculty prior to adoption.

A Note on Faculty Senate

This from **Centerpiece** a publication of the National Center for Postsecondary Governance and Finance:

"The literature on faculty senates reaches two conclusions: Senates should play an important role in shared governance of higher education; and they are not effective very often. Little has been written on how senates could become more effective.

"Most senates consist of elected, unpaid members who generally do not serve for long periods of time. Thus, senators often lack opportunities to become acquainted with senate work at peer campuses or to gain a national perspective on higher education issues."

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Classified Donation Drive

The UAS Classified Association is starting a Donation Drive for the holidays. There will be red and green decorated boxes placed in the Maurant Building (bottom floor), between A&R and the Library, at the Bill Ray Center, and other drop places. Donations of cans/boxes of food, books, records, etc. will be distributed among the communities of the UAS campuses, each taking care of their own community. So not to forget children in the hospital or the animals in

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Burnett New UAS Financial Aid Officer

Barbara Carlson Burnett recently took over the duties of UAS's financial aid officer. Dianne Schmitt vacated the position in early October. Barbara came to the University in 1985 as an admissions counselor and most recently worked as a counselor/advisor. As financial aid officer she takes on the responsibility for administration of all federal, state, and private financial aid programs for UAS students region-wide.

Sing It Yourself Messiah

On Sunday, December 4th at Chapel by the Lake, the Juneau Oratorio Choir will once again present the "Sing It Yourself Messiah." The public is invited to either "come and sing! or come and listen!" as members of the community join the 30-piece orchestra directed by J. Allan MacKinnon for one of the Capital City's most joyous holiday events. Rehearsals begin at 2 p.m., with the actual performance starting at 4 p.m. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and senior citizens. Tickets are available at Big City Books, Hearthside Book Stores, or at the door.

KTOO Fundraiser

UAS will participate in the KTOO-TV fundraiser by manning the phones on Wednesday, December 7 from 6:30-11:30 p.m. If you'd like to volunteer call Zrinka at X525.

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Recognizing that part of the difficulty stems from two central facts--the isolation of senate leaders and a perception that senates lack influence--the National Center along with the American Association of Higher Education (AAHE) and two state university senates, State University of New York and University of Maryland, will hold a national workshop to strengthen senate partnership in the governance of postsecondary institutions.

Entitled "From Isolation to Influence: A National Symposium on Academic Senate Leadership," the meeting will take place April 1-2, 1989 preceding the AAHE national convention in Chicago. Participants will be invited to join a national academic senate network that will be sponsored by and housed at SUNY headquarters at Albany, NY. The network will begin operation during the 1989-1990 academic year.

For additional information contact Tim Gilmour at NCPGF, 4114 CSS Building, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-2435.

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shelters, any toys or stuffed animals (in good condition), cans or boxes of cat or dog food or kitty litter, will also be much appreciated by our four-legged friends. Jan Crichton, Donna Chantry, Chelli Leedy, Pauline Fredrickson, and Karen Cummins are the organizers and contact people. NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL OR INSIGNIFICANT!!

Ketchikan campus has already made a delivery to the Salvation Army and is filling up their boxes for a second time! Good work Ketchikan.

More Classified Information

New governance duties for the UAS Classified Association have been bestowed on Lois Foster, Ketchikan Campus, and Susan Warner, Juneau Campus. Lois will be working on personnel issues and Susan on compensation issues.

UAS Daycare Benefit

Don't forget the Folk Blue Grass Benefit for the UAS Daycare Center. Dec. 8 at McPhetres Hall, 6-10 p.m.. Child care and food available.

Personnel Notes

Conflict of Interest - All University employees need to be aware of University Regulations on conflict of interest and the new Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act. The ethics law requires annual disclosure of outside employment and/or contracts, with an update each time there is a change. Any questions on ethics or conflict of interest issues should be directed to Carol Griffin at X536 or JYETHIC. Copies of University Regulations are located in the library, Chancellor's Office and Personnel Services.

December 30 Payroll Distribution - As the Juneau Campus will be closed between Christmas and New Year, paychecks will be available to employees on Friday, December 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. only in the Mourant Building at the Personnel Services reception desk. Those checks not picked up on Friday will be distributed to cost center clerks for each department on Wednesday, January 4, 1989. Please note that checks will be released only to employees unless written authorization to release to another person is received by December 23, and that identification will be required in all cases.

Employees' Address Update - All employees are asked to verify that the address listed on the face of the paycheck is correct. This is the address to which W-2 forms for 1988 will be mailed in January. If your address is not current, please update it by calling X536 or stop by and complete an address change form.

Reimbursement Account Reminder - Employees with a 1988 reimbursement account are reminded that to be reimbursable, expenses must be incurred by December 31, 1988 and must be submitted by March 15, 1989. Any funds remaining in the account cannot legally be returned to the employee. Account statements were recently mailed to all participants.

Campus Calendar

Dec. 2	Academic Curriculum Committee, 12-2 p.m. Student Art Show opens, Golden Jade Gallery
Dec. 4	Mel Flood Big Band, Penthouse, 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 6	University Singers Concert, Chapel by the Lake, 8 p.m.
Dec. 8	Guitar Recital, Hendrickson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	Academic Curriculum Committee, 12-2 p.m.
Dec. 11	Piano Recital, Hendrickson Hall, 2 p.m.
Dec. 12	Juneau Administrative Council, 2 p.m.
Dec. 14	Council of Deans and Directors, 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Dec. 15	Men's Basketball - Western Washington at JDHS, 9 p.m.
Dec. 16	Faculty Senate, 12:30 p.m.

Holiday Treat

Don't miss the 10th Anniversary Christmas Extravaganza of the "Aventures of the Grumpsicle" presenting dance students of Janice Holst and featuring "UAS Ballet" students in a "Currier & Ives" rendition of an old time favorite sleigh ride! and "The Can-Can".

It's planned for Dec. 10th at 7:30 p.m., and the 11th at 3:00 p.m. at JDHS Auditorium. All tickets \$5 available at Hearthside Books.

Campus Closure

The Juneau Campus will be closed in observance of the holidays from Dec. 24, 1988 to Jan. 3, 1989.

Christmas Party

The Juneau Campus of UAS will celebrate the holidays at the annual Christmas Party at the Penthouse Friday, December 9 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6 and can be purchased through departmental representatives. Don't miss it.

SOUNDINGS

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