

Honor Our Differences ♦ Prioritize the Academic Mission ♦ Educate for the Common Good ♦
Build the Future

United Academics AAUP-AFT Local 4996

Executive Board Meeting - Minutes (approved)

Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 **Time:** 8:30-10:00 am AKST

CALL TO ORDER - 8:30	
Land Acknowledgement	
Statement on Racial Justice and Social Equity	
Roll Call Members present: Jill Dumesnil, Sharon Chamard, Ingrid Johnson, Cindy Trussell, Ryan Harrod, Richie Berndt Members absent: none Staff: Melanie Arthur, Kate Quick Guests: none	
Motion to Approve 2026-01-21 agenda -IJ moves, SC seconds--approved	
Motion to approve minutes from 2026.01.07 - SC moves, CT seconds - approved	
REPORTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● President - report provided● Secretary - report provided● Treasurer - report provided● VP UAA - report provided● VP UAF - report provided● VP UAS - report provided● VP Extended sites - no report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Contract Manager - report provided● Organizing Manager - report provided	
NEW BUSINESS	
1. Legislative Relations Committee 2026 talking points	

a. Motion to approve 2026 Legislative talking points - SC moves CT seconds - approved

2. New(ish) faculty orientation on 2/6 -
 - a. unions 101, UNAC 101, talk through common acronyms, make it a Q&A rather than presentation/informative (they give the info via answers)
 - b. Host two of these for UA-wide—1 during workday and 1 in the evening
 - c. For new faculty in last 5 years
 - d. Zoom meeting format - this is YOUR union, we'll help you learn the ropes
3. Org VP structure -
4. Reframing general membership meetings
 - a. More structured and topic focused; consider changing times to draw in different people, make friendly to new faculty
 - b. Meet less often? Twice a semester? Change the times, alternate day/evening to allow more people to attend
 - c. Less formal? Only to discuss particular topics?
 - d. How to attract new people and not the usual folks?
 - e. Formal report outs?
 - f. Emails to members could be more specific mentioning what the main topic of discussion will be
 - g. Have a less structured meeting in general (i.e., minutes, etc.) but have structured, interactive discussion
 - h. President is required to give report to general membership at least once a semester, also important to keep Land Acknowledgement and Statement on Racial Justice and Social Equity
 - i. These meetings could be a vehicle for organizing, getting members to see that they are vital to the success of the union

- **NEXT MEETING:** Wed., February 4, 8:30-10:00 am AKST
- **Good of the Order**
- **Motion to Adjourn: IJ moves, SC seconds. Adjourned at 10:14**

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We live and work on the unceded territories of Alaska Native Peoples. We very much appreciate their past and ongoing stewardship of these lands.

STATEMENT ON RACIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL EQUITY AT UA

As part of our commitment to enkindle racial justice and social equity within the University of Alaska system, we will speak up when we experience examples of racism or injustice in our meetings and as we conduct our business.

This means we can and will interrupt the meeting to draw the issue to one another’s attention.

We will do this kindly, with care, and in good faith. This statement is a reminder that we commit to doing this in the service of ending the system of racial oppression that is perpetuated through institutionalized policies and individual bias.

United Academics Executive Board		
PRESIDENT	Jill Dumesnil, PhD	2023-2026
TREASURER	Sharon Chamard, PhD	2024-2026
SECRETARY	Richie Berndt, MSML	2025-2026
ORGANIZATIONAL VP - UAA	Ryan Harrod, PhD	2024-2027
ORGANIZATIONAL VP - UAF	Ingrid Johnson, PhD	2025-2027
ORGANIZATIONAL VP - UAS	Andrea Dewees, PhD	2024-2027
ORGANIZATIONAL VP - Extended Sites	Cindy Trussell, PhD	2024-2027
STAFF		
CONTRACT MANAGER Melanie Arthur, PhD		
ORGANIZING MANAGER Kate Quick, MFA		