



To United Academics Bargaining Unit Members:

The United Academics Election Committee is pleased to announce the outcome of the nomination period for our 2026 officer election. We had only one nominee for each position, and all gathered more than enough endorsements. When endorsements are part of the nomination process, allowing write-in campaigns would negate our bylaws. Election rules at our national affiliate and charter-holder, American Federation of Teachers, state that when there is only one nominee for each position in an election, those nominees should be declared the winners; holding an official vote is not necessary.

Therefore, we declare [Jill Dumesnil \(UAS\)](#) as the next president, [Sharon Chamard \(UAA\)](#) as the next treasurer, and [Richie Berndt \(UAF\)](#) as the next secretary. We would always prefer a competitive election, but with 20+ endorsements each, we can rest assured that these candidates are highly recommended for their respective positions.

Each of their candidate statements are included below and illustrates their qualifications for the positions as well as their commitment to our union. Let's all congratulate [Jill](#), [Sharon](#), and [Richie](#) and thank them for stepping up to continue in these roles.



### **Jill Dumesnil**

*My decision to seek re-election as President of United Academics is driven by a desire to continue fostering collaboration and ensuring effective representation for all our members across the University of Alaska system. I deeply value the dedication of our over 1,100 faculty, and I recognize the truly unique challenges inherent in serving 19 campuses spread across more than 665,000 square miles. Over my past term, my focus has been on building bridges—working with members, campus leaders, and administration to respect the diverse needs of our large campuses and our vital rural*

*community campuses. I believe that by standing together and approaching challenges collaboratively, we can achieve outcomes that benefit every faculty member and, ultimately, strengthen the entire University system.*

*The path forward requires unity and a shared vision. In the upcoming term, I am committed to facilitating transparent and inclusive conversations as we approach*

contract negotiations, focusing on securing fair compensation, providing job security, protecting the principles of shared governance, and upholding academic freedom. My experience navigating the complexities of our system will be invaluable in ensuring that multiple perspectives shape our collective future. I ask for your support to continue this vital work of collaborative advocacy, to ensure that our union remains a positive and unifying force, and to work side-by-side with you to build a more secure and thriving environment for all University of Alaska faculty.



### Sharon Chamard

*I have been an active member of UNAC since joining the UAA Justice Center faculty in 2003. I served multiple years on the Representative Assembly, and as Organizational Vice-President at UAA and most recently as Chair of the Elections Committee. Currently, I am serving as UNAC Treasurer and am seeking election to another term. I wish to continue in this role*

*to contribute in a meaningful way to the effectiveness and usefulness of the union for its members.*

*My disciplinary specialties are criminology and criminal justice, and over the years I've used the negotiated benefit of tuition waivers to study a variety of other subjects, including German and accounting. Last May I earned an OEC in Bookkeeping, which has greatly enhanced my competency as UNAC Treasurer.*



### Richie Berndt

*I am running for re-election as Secretary because I believe a strong, organized, and engaged UNAC is essential to protecting faculty rights, shared governance, and working conditions across the University of Alaska system. I have served as UA faculty since 2019 and currently serve as Program Director for the UAF Community and Technical College Paramedic Program and Allied Health Program. In these roles, I see firsthand how decisions made at the system and campus levels affect faculty workload, program sustainability, academic freedom, and our ability to serve students*

*and communities. This experience drives my commitment to union leadership that is transparent, accountable, and responsive to faculty voices.*

*As Secretary, I have worked to ensure accurate records, clear communication, and continuity in UNAC's work so that faculty concerns are documented, preserved, and acted upon. Effective advocacy depends on organization and follow-through, and I take that responsibility seriously. I am committed to strengthening faculty solidarity, supporting collective action, and ensuring UNAC remains a strong, informed advocate for all members. I respectfully ask for your support to continue this work.*

The new term for these officers begins July 1, 2026, and ends June 30, 2029. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

In solidarity,  
**UNAC Elections Committee**

Terissa Bell, Chair, UAS Sitka Campus ([tlbell@alaska.edu](mailto:tlbell@alaska.edu))  
Page Brannon, UAA ([plbrannon@alaska.edu](mailto:plbrannon@alaska.edu))  
Melissa Dolese, UAS ([mjdoles@alaska.edu](mailto:mjdoles@alaska.edu))  
Jennie Carroll, UAF ([jlcarr@alaska.edu](mailto:jlcarr@alaska.edu))

## Executive Board and Staff Contacts

**President - Jill Dumesnil, PhD**  
[jill.dumesnil@unac4996ak.com](mailto:jill.dumesnil@unac4996ak.com)

**Treasurer - Sharon Chamard, PhD**  
[sharon.chamard@unac4996ak.com](mailto:sharon.chamard@unac4996ak.com)

**Secretary - Richie Berndt, MSML**  
[richie.berndt@unac4996ak.com](mailto:richie.berndt@unac4996ak.com)

**UAA Organizational VP - Ryan Harrod, PhD**  
[ryan.harrod@unac4996ak.com](mailto:ryan.harrod@unac4996ak.com)

**UAS Organizational VP - Andrea Dewees, PhD**  
[andrea.deweess@unac4996ak.com](mailto:andrea.deweess@unac4996ak.com)

**UAF Organizational VP - Ingrid Johnson, PhD**  
[ingrid.johnson@unac4996ak.com](mailto:ingrid.johnson@unac4996ak.com)

**Extended Sites Organizational VP - Cindy Trussell, PhD**  
[cindy.trussell@unac4996ak.com](mailto:cindy.trussell@unac4996ak.com)

**Contract Manager - Melanie Arthur, PhD**  
[melanie.arthur@unac4996ak.com](mailto:melanie.arthur@unac4996ak.com)

**Organizing Manager - Kate Quick, MFA**  
[kate.quick@unac4996ak.com](mailto:kate.quick@unac4996ak.com)

**United Academics Local #4996 (UNAC)** is the bargaining unit that represents all post docs, non-tenure track (term), tenure track, and tenured faculty at the University of Alaska. UNAC is affiliated with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) as well as the Alaska Public Employee Association (APEA) and Alaska AFL-CIO.

[www.unitedacademicsak.org](http://www.unitedacademicsak.org)

United Academics AAUP/AFT | P.O. Box 755895 | Fairbanks, AK 99775-5895 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!