1. Individuals Present

Regents Present:
Jyotsna Heckman, Chair
Kenneth Fisher, Secretary
Gloria O’Neill, Treasurer
Dale Anderson
Sheri Buretta
John Davies
Courtney Enright
Mary K. Hughes
Lisa Parker
Andy Teuber

Regents Absent:
Michael Powers, Vice Chair

Patrick K. Gamble, Chief Executive Officer and President, University of Alaska

Others Present:
Tom Case, Chancellor, University of Alaska Anchorage
John Pugh, Chancellor, University of Alaska Southeast
Brian Rogers, Chancellor, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Michael Hostina, General Counsel
Carla Beam, Vice President for University Relations
Ashok Roy, Vice President of Finance & Administration and Chief Financial Officer
Daniel White, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research
Kit Duke, Chief Facilities Officer & AVP for Facilities and Land Management
Karl Kowalski, Chief Information Technology Officer
Erik Seastedt, Chief Human Resources Officer
Michelle Rizk, Chief Strategy, Planning and Budget Officer
Brandi Berg, Executive Officer, Board of Regents
Olivia Baker, Assistant, Board of Regents

2. Opening Items

A. Call to Order

Chair Heckman called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2015.

B. Adoption of Agenda

PASSED AS AMENDED (amendments noted by *)
"The Board of Regents adopts the agenda as amended. This motion is effective April 9, 2015."

Motion by Mary K Hughes, second by Kenneth J Fisher.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
C. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting February 19-20, 2015

**PASSED**

"The Board of Regents approves the minutes of its regular meeting of February 19-20, 2015 as presented. This motion is effective April 9, 2015."

Motion by Dale G Anderson, second by Mary K Hughes.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

D. Approval of Minutes - Special Meeting March 13, 2015

**PASSED**

"The Board of Regents approves the minutes of its special meeting of March 13, 2015 as presented. This motion is effective April 9, 2015."

Motion by Courtney F Enright, second by Lisa M Parker.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

3. Reports

A. President's Report

President Gamble provided an overview of the conversations with the Municipality of Anchorage and the Anchorage Mayor’s Office regarding the northern access right-of-way Elmore Road extension project taking place in the UAA U-Med district; said the Legislature has thus far kept the $1.8M operating budget for the unmanned aerial vehicles at UAF in the university budget; noted the assessment regarding the number of UA executives and officers and their salaries has been completed; said there are several initiatives built into the budget which will be detailed during the budget discussion, item 6.A. of this agenda; shared that the UA Museum of North received national recognition on April 7, 2015, with an award for being one of the 50 Most Amazing College Museums in the country, stating this is another indication of quality at the university and gave kudos to the museum.

B. Governance Reports

David Valentine, Faculty Alliance chair, noted progress is being made on the definition for career and college readiness; said collaboration is taking place with the office of information technology to design a survey regarding user's needs for a learning management system; stated the work on completing the student code of conduct is nearing completion; said three taskforces are working to align general education requirements (GER) noting math GER is aligned, the English GER taskforce reached a common agreement for developmental course titles and numbers with the deadline to complete all English GER by November 2015 and work continues on aligning the remaining GER; said LaNora Tolman, System Governance executive officer, is leaving her position; noted with the current budget environment there are concerns regarding the potential loss of top faculty members and thanked President Gamble for their monthly meetings and for working with governance during his term as Faculty Alliance chair.

Monique Musick, Staff Alliance chair, said she is looking forward to the Staff Make Students Count Awards during the June meeting; noted Regent Enright’s exemplary work and her black and white engineering outlook on issues while serving as student regent; said it has been a pleasure to work with President Gamble and appreciated his open door and open communication policies; thanked Chancellor Pugh and Chief Facilities Officer Duke for their hard work and dedication over the years; noted 49 percent of staff surveyed are in favor of reduced work schedules in lieu of furlough; stated additional clarity is needed from UA administration to facilitate the message regarding furlough and work reductions; said UA cannot afford to lose competitiveness in attracting and keeping valued employees; noted governance is working on refining their tracking and recordkeeping processes; stated the importance of open communication during this time of rapid change at UA and said governance needs to be involved in the hiring process for the new system governance executive officer.
Toby Wark, Coalition of Student Leaders chair, noted he was honored to speak to the board regarding issues of importance from the student perspective; reported on the student legislative advocacy trip in February, noting students met with representatives, senators and community members to advocate on behalf of UA; said legislators were interested in the common calendar alignment and GER alignment and said students are concerned about certain degree programs being eliminated and the retention of quality faculty at UA.

Rachel Morse, System Governance Council chair, extended congratulations to Chief Facilities Officer Duke for being a consensus builder and a steward of Alaska’s resources; thanked Chancellor Pugh for his 28 years of distinguished leadership; thanked President Gamble for his strategic leadership; congratulated Regent Enright on her upcoming commencement and welcomed her to the community of UA alumni; was privileged to participate in the April 8, 2015 presidential search advisory committee meeting; noted governance would like a more in-depth interaction with the Summit Team and board members; said there were challenging conversations surrounding the issue of governance not attending the April board meeting held in Bethel; stated the SW Transformation Team is lacking participation from governance; noted LaNora Tolman’s, System Governance executive officer, departure indicating governance is looking forward to maintaining adequate leadership and support for the shared governance process; and stated while protecting the core at UA, the tools for outreach, communication and relationship building must also be maintained while working to right size the UA budget.

4. Public Testimony

A. Public Testimony

Daisy May Barrera, community member and UA graduate, introduced herself in her native language; thanked the board for meeting in Bethel and providing support to the campus; spoke in support of the Kuskokwim Campus (KuC) and noted her experience as a former student at KuC.

Keenan Mulvany, Alaska State Trooper, spoke in support of the fire science program at UAF; stated he was a full-time firefighter and medic 2006-2009 at UAF; noted how beneficial the fire science training has been to his experience as a trooper and stated 75 percent of UAF fire science alumni are employed in emergency services.

John Wallace, community member and former KuC student, spoke about his interaction with UA over the years; noted the importance of aligning general education requirements and credit transfers across the UA system and stated appreciation for KuC’s presence in the Bethel community.

Samuel Depken, USUAA senator, noted USUAA is focusing on providing information to students regarding the common calendar changes, UAA’s prioritization process and the scholarship application process; stated the largest student outreach program this year was a postcard writing campaign for students to contact legislators with a personal or standardized message to the Legislature noting 1400 postcard were mailed; said UAA is continuing to inform students on the budget and other ongoing UA issues and asked the board to remember to keep students informed as decision are made at the system level.

Beverly Hoffman, community advocate, spoke in support of KuC and their presence in the Bethel community; noted her experience with UA throughout the years; spoke in support of the Cooperative Extension Service and noted the importance of the education provided by the outreach efforts and her experience with the services.

Barb Angaiak, Lower Kuskowkim School District instructional coach, thanked the board for meeting in Bethel; noted her work with the outlying rural schools; spoke in support of KuC’s effort in providing teacher certification opportunities; said the use of video conferencing has allowed rural residents to balance the indigenous lifestyle with an educational lifestyle and stated the importance of educating teachers from local hometown communities rather than recruiting from out-of-state.

Norma Wyckoff, Bethel Chamber of Commerce member, spoke in support of the Strong Women program offered by the Cooperative Extension Service; noted the importance of the education provided by the outreach efforts and her experience with the services and thanked the board for supporting the Cooperative Extension Service.

Jenni Dobson, student, spoke in support of the Cooperative Extension Service; noted the importance of the services and training opportunities provided throughout the state of Alaska and her experience with the service.

5. Reports


A. Shaping Alaska's Future Priorities and Progress on Theme 3 - Productive Partnerships with Public Entities and Private Industries

Vice President White shared that the total number of degrees and certificates awarded in high demand job areas has increased more than 20 percent over the last five years and said one of the ways the university seeks to increase the number of workforce ready graduates is by building collaborations and partnerships with industry partners across Alaska.

UAS Provost Caulfield mentioned UAS partnerships with Vigor Alaska in Ketchikan and Hecla Greens Creek Mining in Juneau, said the four items of relevance in maintaining industry partnerships include: career technical preparation pathways for K-12 high school and middle school students, UA system collaboration regarding workforce development plans e.g. allied health, construction technology the Fisheries, Seafood and Maritime Initiative (FSMI), the success of workforce programs receiving $5M from the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) and the importance of the education tax credit for businesses donating to the university.

UAF Provost Henrich concurred with Provost Caulfield regarding the importance of TVEP, FSMI and the education tax credit; noted UAF has 250 significant private and public partnerships which are crucial to UAF's individual department missions e.g. local community partnerships for the Summer Arts Festival, Alaska Center for Energy and Power's international work in Africa and partnering with Alaska Native Corporation in support of Native education and noted partnerships are not necessarily just about the financial benefits but are also about the knowledge that can be gained through partnering with the public and private sectors and to benefit the needs within communities.

UAA Provost Gingerich said the community campuses are an integral part of partnerships across the system noting Kenai Peninsula College’s partnership with resource development firms to meet industry needs in process technology and industrial process instrumentation, Kodiak College's partnerships with the Kodiak Region Fishing Fleet for non-credit workforce development training in the form of short, intensive hands-on workshops and the UAA School of Nursing industry partnership with Alaska Area Health Education Center focused on strengthening, diversifying and improving distribution of the state’s healthcare workforce.

B. Educator Quality and Quantity Report

Jerry Covey, JSC Consulting, and Barbara Adams, Adams Analytic Solutions, reviewed and answered questions regarding the Educator Quality and Quantity Report.

6. Discussion Items

A. Budget Discussion

President Gamble provided an update on the status of the university’s FY16 budget noting the sovereign fund was introduced and has support of Senate Finance Committee; said deferred maintenance was reduced to $3M, the UAF engineering building does not remain on legislator’s list of items, the UAF 2+2 veterinary program is not receiving state funding which will require UAF to do an internal reallocation; noted the student advising request remains in the baseline budget thus far; said intent language to partner with UA for research efforts before seeking out-of-state assistance remains within the budget request; stated the Title IX request is currently an unfunded item; however, it is a federal mandated compliance issue that UA must perform; stated intent by the Legislature to scale down and phase out the WWAMI program in three years is currently pending and said the university building fund is not receiving support from the Legislature.

President Gamble reported that employee pay raises are not currently being funded by the Legislature; noted comments about salaries came up often within the Legislature regarding individuals at the university that make more than $100,000 per year; said the MacTaggart/Rogers Report and the Fisher Report are again being reviewed to consider UA's current issues and to compare data; shared information regarding the fluctuation of employee position 2010-2014, noting UA's staff to faculty ratio is 2.5:1 including temporary position (national peers ratio is 3:1); said the budget shortfall will be portioned out amongst the universities, each situation will be looked at case-by-case; stated prioritization of programs and expenditure will continue to be reviewed; said a SW Transformation Team led by Strategy, Planning and Budget Officer Rizk was formed to review the role of statewide in serving the system and noted the team will make recommendations to the Summit Team in August regarding how statewide can deliver a strong and sustainable set of core services, programs and functions in support of the...
entire system.

B. Update on UA Finances

Ashok Roy, vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer, provided an overview of the University of Alaska finances.

7. Planning and Development Committee

A. Discussion Regarding Board Governance

Regent Hughes noted the board self-assessment has been completed; said the Ex Officio Presidential Search Committee met on April 8, 2015, noting the work of the committee was constructive; stated appreciation for Academic Search, Inc. regarding their integrity in the search process and said many members of the committee reported a sense of accomplishment.

*B. Executive Session (added)

PASSED
"The Board of Regents goes into executive session to discuss matters that could affect the reputation or character of a person or persons related to the presidential search and board self-assessment. This motion is effective April 9, 2015."

Motion by Gloria R O'Neill, second by Courtney F Enright.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

The Board of Regents went into executive session at 2:55 p.m. Alaska Time in accordance with AS 44.62.310 to discuss matters that could affect the reputation or character of a person or persons related to the presidential search and board self-assessment.

The Board of Regents recessed its executive session at 4:10 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2015.

The Board of Regents reconvened its executive session on Friday, April 10 at 8:00 a.m. and concluded its executive session on Friday, April 10 at 9:00 a.m. The session included members of the Board of Regents and lasted approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes.

8. Program Prioritization Reports

A. UAF Program Prioritization Update

UAF Chancellor Rogers and Provost Henrichs provided an update on UAF's program prioritization.

B. UAS Program Prioritization Update

UAS Chancellor Pugh and Provost Caulfield provided an update on UAS's program prioritization.

9. Approval of Resolutions of Appreciation

A. Approval of Resolution of Appreciation for Kit Duke

PASSED
"The Board of Regents approves the resolution of appreciation for Kit Duke. This motion is effective April 10, 2015."
Motion by Courtney F Enright, second by Kenneth J Fisher.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: John Davies, Courtney F Enright, Kenneth J Fisher, Jyotsna L Heckman, Mary K Hughes, Lisa M Parker, Andy Teuber
Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson, Sheri Buretta, Gloria R O'Neill

WHEREAS, Kit Duke has served the University of Alaska with distinction as Associate Vice President for Facilities and Land Management since 2008; and

WHEREAS, Kit Duke received a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture, has professional registration in Alaska, holds certification from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and maintains multiple professional interests including leadership, team building and improving the quality of the built environment; and

WHEREAS, Kit Duke arrived with her husband Rhon at Beaver Creek, Alaska in the spring of 1970, and like many Alaskans at that time, arrived with lots of expectation but only $100, which they spent on a tent that became their residence at the family homestead property near Wasilla; and

WHEREAS, Kit Duke’s hard work and skills distinguished her as a leader at pivotal moments in Alaska’s history and helped create a lengthy list of projects and buildings credited to her legacy of over 45 years of planning and developing Alaska infrastructure in both private and public sectors of the construction industry; she contributed materially to the creation of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, served under Senator Arliss Sturgulewski as Executive Director for the Capital Site Planning Commission, worked on the initial legislation that resulted in the Alaska Public Building Fund, and planned and developed new courthouses for Fairbanks, Anchorage and several remote communities while working for the Alaska Court System; and

WHEREAS, Kit Duke has consistently proven herself an asset to the university, in coordinating many players and involving community partners as she worked to improve revenue from the university’s land portfolio and with each campus to develop a more successful funding approach for capital projects. Her ability to gauge the potential for capitalizing on revenue opportunities has pushed UA into a better position for a sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, Kit Duke has strengthened relationships across the system by creating a more collaborative working environment, improved relationships with the Board of Regents Facilities and Land Management Committee, implemented data-driven decision-making, and with support from the board and President Gamble, ventured into activities that more than doubled land-based revenues in FY13-14 while holding expenses steady; and

WHEREAS, Kit Duke’s consensus-building abilities facilitated the complete rewrite and subsequent board adoption of Regents’ Policy Chapters 05.11 and 05.12., and the adoption of more efficient administrative processes; and

WHEREAS, Kit Duke, through a rigorous and cost-effective funding and accountability approach, oversaw a significant reduction in the deferred maintenance backlog, and created the groundwork for the University Building Fund to support re-capitalization and on-going maintenance of university buildings and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Kit Duke had policy oversight for many new and expanded building projects including UAF’s Margaret Murie Building, engineering building and William Wood Center; UAA’s Alaska Airlines Center, Engineering and Industry Building and associated spine segment; and UAS’s freshman dorms; and

WHEREAS, Kit Duke retires June 1, 2015, and will be moving into her cabin near Big Lake with her husband, visiting the few Alaska communities she has yet to see, taking up watercolor painting again and becoming a central part in the lives of her eight grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Alaska thanks Kit Duke for her contributions to the state in promoting innovative solutions and best practices for facilities and infrastructure development and management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be appropriately engrossed and conveyed to Kit Duke with a copy to be incorporated into the official minutes of the April 9-10, 2015 meeting of the Board of Regents.

B. Approval of Resolution of Appreciation for John Pugh
PASSED  
"The Board of Regents approves the resolution of appreciation for John Pugh. This motion is effective April 10, 2015."

Motion by Jyotsna L Heckman, second by Kenneth J Fisher.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
Yea: Dale G Anderson, John Davies, Courtney F Enright, Kenneth J Fisher, Jyotsna L Heckman, Mary K Hughes, Lisa M Parker, Andy Teuber  
Not Present at Vote: Sheri Buretta, Gloria R O'Neill

WHEREAS, John Pugh has had a distinguished career at the University of Alaska Southeast spanning 28 years, which has included the positions of Dean of the School of Education, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dean of Faculty, and as Chancellor; and

WHEREAS, John Pugh came to the university after a 15-year career with the State of Alaska, where he served as Director of Family and Youth Services, as Deputy Commissioner in the Department of Health and Social Services, and Commissioner of that department from 1983 to 1986; and

WHEREAS, John Pugh was appointed Chancellor of the University of Alaska Southeast by University of Alaska President Mark Hamilton in 1999; and

WHEREAS, John Pugh, in his role as UAS Chancellor, has provided extraordinary leadership resulting in significant expansion of academic and workforce programs at UAS, serving as chief administrator of three university campuses in Southeast Alaska: Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka; and

WHEREAS, John Pugh, as UAS Chancellor, served as chair of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, a trustee of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, on the Board of Commissioners of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities from 2009-2015, and as the State of Alaska Representative on the Board of American Association of Colleges and Universities since 2006, and on the Alaska Airlines Southeast Community Advisory Board since 2011; and

WHEREAS, John Pugh oversaw the transition of the Juneau campus into a strong four-year liberal arts institution, provided the vision and secured the necessary faculty and facilities to make this a reality. Under his leadership, the campus went from a primarily part-time to a full-time student body; and

WHEREAS, John Pugh was instrumental in strengthening science programs, particularly Environmental Science and Marine Biology and transformed teacher education at UAS and the University of Alaska System by creating the Master of Arts in Teaching program, which led to more teachers with advanced degrees teaching in Alaska schools; and

WHEREAS, under John Pugh’s leadership UAS has experienced dramatic improvements to its facilities, including the Juneau Egan Classroom Wing addition, the Charles Gamble Jr.- Donald Sperl Joint Use Facility REC (shared with the Alaska National Guard), the Anderson Building remodel and major renovations at the Ketchikan and Sitka campuses; and

WHEREAS, John Pugh has successfully marshaled needed resources to complete the new freshman housing facility on the Juneau campus—a building that is invigorating student and campus life and helping increase student retention through graduation; and

WHEREAS, John Pugh has played a major role in bringing the number of UAS graduates to an all-time high in recent years and;

WHEREAS, John Pugh has embraced statewide cooperation between the three universities and K-12 school districts for academic and workforce programs and;

WHEREAS, John Pugh has built strong sustainable relationships with multiple sectors of the community through forums such as the Evening at Egan Fall Lecture series, Sound and Motion Spring Arts series and Community Day on Campus and;

WHEREAS, John Pugh reestablished the UAS Office of Development in 2000, increased the number of UAS funds at the University of Alaska Foundation from 14 to 116 including 63 endowments, established the Chancellor’s Circle.
WHEREAS, under John Pugh’s leadership, the UAS Office of Development carried out successful fundraising campaigns to enhance the Juneau campus with the Noyes Pavilion, a grand piano, the raven sculpture, the eagle totem pole, the Auke Lake trail, and the whale sculpture, as well as the Ketchikan campus with the Rainbird Trailhead; and

WHEREAS, John Pugh has supported the UAS mission of student learning enhanced by faculty scholarship, undergraduate research and creative activities, community engagement, and the cultures and environment of Southeast Alaska, as well as the vision of UAS as a destination of choice for students seeking excellent academic programs and engaging learning opportunities that integrate the environment and cultures of Southeast Alaska and values of excellence, diversity, access, collaboration, sustainability and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, John Pugh is a tireless advocate for education and higher education and is recognized for nearly three decades of distinguished, faithful and meritorious service to UAS, the University of Alaska and the State of Alaska.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Alaska officially recognizes and thanks John Pugh for his commitment and service to the university and its students over many years. He will be sincerely missed by all who have had the pleasure of working with him; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be appropriately engrossed and conveyed to John Pugh, with a copy incorporated into the official minutes of the April 9-10, 2015 meeting of the Board of Regents.

*C. Approval of Resolution of Appreciation for Patrick K. Gamble (postponed to a future agenda)

D. Approval of Resolution of Appreciation for Courtney Enright

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the resolution of appreciation for Courtney Enright. This motion is effective April 10, 2015."

Motion by John Davies, second by Dale G Anderson.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Dale G Anderson, John Davies, Kenneth J Fisher, Jyotsna L Heckman, Mary K Hughes, Lisa M Parker, Andy Teuber
Abstain: Courtney F Enright
Not Present at Vote: Sheri Buretta, Gloria R O'Neill

WHEREAS, Courtney Enright was elected by her peers at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as their candidate for student regent in fall 2012; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Enright, in spring 2013, was appointed by Governor Sean Parnell and confirmed by the Alaska Legislature to serve a two-year term as the University of Alaska’s student regent; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Enright will graduate in May 2015 from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and in August 2015 with a Masters in Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Enright is a fourth-generation Alaskan and takes immense pride in the history of the state and her place in its diverse community; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Enright is dedicated to serving her community, as demonstrated through her involvement in the Conference of Young Alaskans Steering Committee, the Library Advisory Board to the Ketchikan Public Library, and the Honors Student Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Enright has devoted her time to juvenile justice, serving on the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, the Coalition of Juvenile Justice and as an Alternate Member representing Alaska,
WHEREAS, Courtney Enright has served as an intern for U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski and for the Alaska Space Grant Research Lab; as a University of Alaska Fairbanks Student Ambassador; and as public relations officer, treasurer and president of the Society of Women Engineers; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Enright has participated in Lions Club International, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Aurora Borealis Rotaract, the Society of Petroleum Engineering, the First City Republican Women and the United Campus Ministries; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Enright acted as a representative of the student population by regularly reaching out to student governing bodies and community campuses for their thoughts and concerns. She skillfully articulated the needs of her fellow students while balancing concerns for the university as a whole. She advocated strongly on issues that are now on the university timeline for completion - specifically the issues around establishing a common calendar, transfer of credits, degree programs and grades across the UA system; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Enright led students to a greater understanding of both their and the university’s position in the current fiscal environment. Because of those conversations, she, with student support, voted in favor of the administration’s proposed five percent tuition increase as the university faced financial challenges; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Enright consistently proved her dedication to her role on the board by arriving at each meeting prepared, energized and eager to participate. She was completely engaged in the process – she raised the bar, questioned authority and asserted her opinion with true Southeast gumption. Her service extended beyond board functions to her daily life, where she represented students and the university in her other leadership roles and even in passing conversation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents acknowledges Courtney Enright’s bright future with Baker Hughes, Inc. as a field engineer working offshore in the Gulf of Mexico and the many career opportunities that will follow.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents officially recognizes Courtney Enright for her exceptional service to Alaska and the University of Alaska. The board expresses profound thanks on behalf of students, staff and faculty of the university for her contributions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be conveyed to Courtney Enright with a copy to be incorporated into the official minutes of the April 9-10, 2015 meeting of the Board of Regents.

10. Reports

A. University Relations/State Relations Report

Vice President Beam updated the board on university relations issues at the University of Alaska.

Associate Vice President Christensen provided an update regarding the status of legislation concerning the University of Alaska.

B. Kuskokwim Campus Presentation

Mary Pete, Kuskokwim Campus director, presented an overview of the Kuskokwim Campus including student and community programs offered at the campus.

Richard Tuluk, Hooper Bay Learning Center Advisory Council chairman, provided an overview of the Hooper Bay Learning Center.

C. Update on the Northern Access Right-of-Way (Elmore Road Extension) in Anchorage, Alaska

Kit Duke, chief facilities officer and associate vice president for land management, provided an update on the
Northern Access Right-of-Way (Elmore Road Extension) in Anchorage, Alaska.

11. Approval Items

A. Approval of Revisions to the Industrial Security Resolution

**PASSED**

"The Board of Regents approves the Industrial Security Resolution as revised to reflect changes in administrative staff and authorizes the chair and secretary of the board to sign the resolution. This motion is effective April 10, 2015."

Motion by Mary K Hughes, second by Kenneth J Fisher.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Not Present at Vote: Sheri Buretta

**RATIONALE/RECOMMENDATION**

The president and selected members of the university administration are routinely designated by the Board of Regents to handle any duties and responsibilities relating to classified information in connection with contracts with the Department of Defense and other federal agencies. These individuals are given an extensive security screening and are the only members of the administration, including the Board of Regents, to have access to classified information.

The university has received similar security clearances since the mid-1950s. Execution of the resolution allows regents and other members of the administration to be exempted from security clearance procedures. The resolution is identical to resolutions previously passed except for changes to members of administrative staff.

B. Approval of Revisions to the UA Optional Retirement Plan

**Note for the record:** Regent Parker disclosed a potential conflict before the vote noting her husband is a professor at Kenai Peninsula College. Chair Heckman ruled that Regent Parker did not have an interest different than the broad group of people affected, and in fact her husband, who is a faculty member, is not affected by the amendment. Regent Parker was allowed to vote.

**PASSED**

"The Board of Regents approves the adoption of Amendment Four to the University of Alaska Optional Retirement Plan and University of Alaska Pension Plan, as proposed by the UA Summit Team. This motion is effective April 10, 2015, provided that the board delegates to the president full authority and discretion to vary implementation and/or the effective date as necessary to comply with any legal and collective bargaining requirements."

Motion by Mary K Hughes, second by Courtney F Enright.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Not Present at Vote: Sheri Buretta

**POLICY CITATION**

Regents’ Policy 04.06.050:
A. Several retirement programs are available to University of Alaska employees. The placement of an employee who is eligible for one of the retirement programs will be governed by the appropriate state statute and/or the university’s master plan document.

B. The University of Alaska Statewide Office of Human Resources will be responsible for preparing and maintaining an accurate and inclusive listing of all university job titles for inclusion in each of the available retirement programs. (06-03-94)

*University of Alaska Retirement Program, Article 9.1:*
Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Retirement Committee for review and comment prior to delivery to the president or the board for approval. The president is authorized to adopt plan amendments; provided, however, that the
board reserves to itself the authority to approve any amendment consisting of a change of contribution rates to any of the plans or the maximum annual limit for covered wages under the pension plan, or any action which causes a full or partial plan termination, or a plan merger or consolidation.

RATIONALE/RECOMMENDATION
Chancellor Rogers presented the Summit Team’s recommended changes to the University of Alaska’s Retirement Program as Amendment Four to the plan document, as amended and restated January 1, 2009. Please note that the first two items in Amendment Four (attachment below) are housekeeping items and do not require Board consideration.

The University of Alaska needs to make the amendment to the plan document to avoid increasing costs as a result of legislation that changed PERS statutes governing employer contributions.

Background
At its February 2006 meeting, the Board of Regents approved a proposed amendment to establish a new tier of the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) and the UA Pension Plan. The new ORP tier (“Tier 3”) established an employer contribution rate of 12 percent, an employee contribution rate of 8 percent and a three-year vesting requirement for the employer contribution. Eligibility provisions were changed to include all newly hired benefit-eligible employees, including exempt and non-exempt staff (previously excluded employee classifications). The new UA Pension Plan tier (“Tier B”) required that an employee elect ORP to be eligible for pension, and also established a three-year vesting requirement.

These new tiers were in response to changes in the State of Alaska’s retirement programs (PERS and TRS) to a defined contribution model effective July 1, 2006. The University wanted to maintain a competitive and cost-effective defined contribution retirement program while retaining the ability to control future costs. The University's PERS contribution rate is 22 percent and the ORP Tier 3 rate is 12 percent. It would appear that ORP Tier 3 would cost the university less over time, which was the original goal. Requiring ORP enrollment to be eligible for the UA Pension Plan was an incentive to choose ORP over PERS.

Legislative Changes to PERS
SB125 amended AS 39.35.255 to introduce the requirement that employers contribute 22 percent of the greater total of all base salaries of current active PERS members, or active PERS members for fiscal year 2008. The university's PERS wage base has steadily decreased below the 2008 level and continues to decrease because approximately 79 percent of new benefit-eligible employees choose ORP Tier 3 over PERS.

The effect of the statute change is a PERS fixed cost of $28.1 million (22% x 2008 PERS salary base of $127,596,664) and an additional approximately 17.4% for new employees electing the ORP Tier 3. The university can achieve savings and cost avoidance by amending ORP Tier 3 to again exclude PERS-eligible exempt and non-exempt employees.

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Summit Team Recommendation
The Summit Team recommends that:
1. The Optional Retirement Plan Tier 3 be amended effective July 1, 2015 to exclude non-faculty and non-officers/senior administrators with initial hire dates of July 1, 2015 and later. This removes new exempt and non-exempt employees from ORP eligibility.

2. Eligibility for the UA Pension Plan Tier B be reinstated for all retirement-benefit eligible employees with an initial hire date of July 1, 2015 and later. This helps retain recruitment competitiveness with other public employers who offer PERS and either Social Security or another supplemental plan.

3. The contribution rates as percentages of covered wages and the three-year vesting requirement for employer contributions are unchanged.

The Retirement Committee reviewed Amendment Four and approved it as presented, and recommended that President Gamble approve and accept the amendment. General Counsel recommended Board of Regents’ approval of the proposed amendment prior to having President Gamble take action to approve it.

12. Consent Agenda
A. Approval of Consent Agenda

**PASSED**

“The Board of Regents approves the consent agenda items 12.B.1-3 and 12.C.1-3 as presented. This motion is effective April 10, 2015.”

Motion by Lisa M Parker, second by Kenneth J Fisher.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Not Present at Vote: Sheri Buretta

B. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

1. Approval of Revisions to Regents' Policy 04.04.070 – Emeritus Status

**PASSED**

"The Board of Regents approves revisions to Regents' Policy 04.04.070 – Emeritus Status as presented. This motion is effective April 10, 2015."

P04.04.070 - Emeritus Status.
Emeritus status is an honor conferred by the chancellor, president, or Board of Regents upon the outstanding retirees of the university and not an automatic recognition of services rendered. The perquisites of emeritus status will be provided by university regulation.

2. Approval of the Conversion of the Bachelor of Science in Engineering at the University of Alaska Anchorage to a Bachelor of Science in Computer Systems Engineering, a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

**PASSED**

"The Board of Regents approves the conversion of the Bachelor of Science in Engineering at the University of Alaska Anchorage to a Bachelor of Science in Computer Systems Engineering, a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. This motion is effective April 10, 2015."

3. Approval of a Master of Security and Disaster Management at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

**PASSED**

"The Board of Regents approves a Master of Security and Disaster Management at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. This motion is effective April 10, 2015."

C. Facilities and Land Management Committee

1. Project Change Request for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Engineering Facility

**PASSED**

"The Board of Regents approves the project change request for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Engineering Facility as presented in compliance with the campus master plan, and authorizes the university administration to complete construction documents for the Alaska Center for Energy and Power Office Build-out adding $6.5 million in FY15/16 non-general funding, increasing the total project cost to $118.1 million, not to exceed a total expenditure of $81.3 million. This motion is effective April 10, 2015."

2. Schematic Design Approval for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Combined Heat and Power Plant

**PASSED**

"The Board of Regents approves the schematic design approval request for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Combined Heat and Power Plant as presented in compliance with the campus master plan, and authorizes the university administration to complete construction bid documents to bid and award a contract within the approved budget of $248,000,000, and to proceed with completion of project site construction, not to exceed $68,000,000 which is a $15,000,000 increase from the previous approval. This motion is effective April 10, 2015."
3. Formal Project Approval for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus Phased Renovations

PASSED
"The Board of Regents approves the formal project approval request for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus Phased Renovations as presented in compliance with the approved campus master plan, and authorizes the university administration to proceed through schematic design not to exceed a total project cost of $7,451,068. This motion is effective April 10, 2015."

13. New Business and Committee Reports

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee
In addition to the action items, the committee reviewed the teach out requirements from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and heard reports on the program suspension process and UA graduate employment within Alaska.

B. Audit Committee
The committee heard an audit status report.

C. Facilities and Land Management Committee
In addition to the action items, the committee heard reports on deferred maintenance and renewal spending, UAA UMED master plan, UAA residential campus revitalization and construction in progress.

14. Future Agenda Items

A. Future Agenda Items
No future agenda items were brought forward.

15. Board of Regents' Comments

A. Board of Regents' Comments
Regent Davies thanked Chief Facilities Officer Duke, Chancellor Pugh and Regent Enright for their service to UA and requested an update on UA lands monetization policy and other ways to utilize the land; e.g. renewable energy farm.

Regent Enright noted appreciation for staff members who organize the board meetings; thanked Kuskokwim Campus Director Pete and her staff for the hospitality; stated she has tremendously enjoyed working with each of the regents; said she has a high regard for the leadership roles that each regent provides; noted she and her sister are graduating from UA in May and stated the importance of remembering how UA impacts the students who enter the system and how UA can continue to provide an opportunity for students to contribute to the state of Alaska.

Regent Anderson thanked Kuskokwim Campus Director Pete and her staff for the hospitality; noted his takeaway from the spring rural campus meetings is the sense of partnership within each of their communities; said the rural campuses are a role model for the system when it comes to community partnerships; reported he attended a sub-committee meeting with the State Board of Education in March 2015 and an ACPE meeting in April 2015 where discussions focused on remedial education, developing a clear definition of college readiness and dual credits and said he would like to see fisheries and timber education become a priority and overseen by UAS.

Regent Fisher said the following action items were approved during the April 2015 ACPE meeting: authorization renewals for Alaska Bible College, Center for Employment Education, Hair Science, Vocational Training & Resource Center and program amendments at Alaska Pacific University and Northern Industrial Training; stated he would miss Chief Facilities Officer Duke, Chancellor Pugh and Regent Enright and looks forward to seeing them in the
future around the state.

Regent Hughes noted appreciation for meeting in Bethel; thanked Kuskokwim Campus Director Pete and her staff for the hospitality and noted the Bethel community is a model for the university and the state of Alaska for their collaborative efforts and giving attitude.

Regent Parker thanked Kuskokwim Campus Director Pete, her staff and the Bethel community for the hospitality, enjoyed the community reception and the students who performed Native dances; thanked President Gamble for sharing the UA Museum of the North national recognition award information; said regarding programs in Southeast she agrees with Regent Anderson that fisheries should be a focus at UAS and thanked Chief Facilities Officer Duke, Chancellor Pugh and Regent Enright for their service to UA.

Regent O’Neill thanked Kuskokwim Campus Director Pete and her staff for the hospitality and said it was nice to be back in the region where her grandmother was born.

President Gamble thanked Kuskokwim Campus Director Pete and her staff for the hospitality; said farewell to Chief Facilities Officer Duke, Chancellor Pugh and Regent Enright and thanked them for their service to UA; stated he will stay on staff a little longer, will continue to work on the budget situation and at reforming the leadership team and said the recruitment for the UAS chancellor position is going well.

Chancellor Rogers thanked the board for their decision to continue to meet in rural Alaska noting it is fundamental to the university’s mission; said the Sikuliaq was commissioned in Seward, has conducted some ice trials in the Bering Sea and is in Dutch Harbor preparing for science cruises; noted for the second year in a row, Mats Eriksson won the NCAA Elite 89 Award for having a 3.977 cumulative GPA; stated UAF met their fiscal year-end fundraising goal of $8.7M on April 7, 2015 and will continue to engage with donors to exceed the goal; said the Wood Center addition won an excellence in architecture merit award from the Society for College and University Planning and American Institute of Architects and thanked the board for their service to the university.

Chancellor Pugh thanked Kuskokwim Campus Director Pete and the campus staff and faculty for the hospitality; said it was wonderful to meet in Bethel; noted the budget climate and wished the Summit Team well with their work; said UAS is hosting a retirement party for him on May 30, 2015 and thanked the board for their volunteer time and their service to the university.

Chancellor Case thanked Kuskokwim Campus Director Pete and her staff for the hospitality; stated coming to a rural community provides a better understanding of Alaska in its totality; noted meeting in Bethel was very worthwhile; congratulated Chief Facilities Officer Duke, Chancellor Pugh and Regent Enright and stated his respect for each of them; thanked the board for their service to the university; said UAA's Political Science Professor Signé was named one of the 2015 World Economic Forum’s Young Global Leaders; stated on April 10-13, 2015, the Seawolf Debate team will host the United Stated Universities Debating Championship noting the team is ranked 17th in the world; noted Oliver Petraitis is UAA’s 10th Fulbright scholar in a decade; said Senator Murkowski visited UAA, spoke with 30 selected students to discuss sexual assault and how to empower students to take action against sexual assault and noted the experimental economics program under the guidance of Rasmuson Chair Jim Murphy continues to make an impact both globally and at UAA by establishing a joint MBA with Nankai University in China.

Chair Heckman wished Chief Facilities Officer Duke, Chancellor Pugh and Regent Enright well, thanked them for their service and noted it is painful to see each of them leave but knows each will be a goodwill ambassador for UA; thanked Kuskokwim Campus Director Pete and her staff for the hospitality; stated she was very glad that the board held its meeting in Bethel; said many community members expressed thanks to board members for coming to Bethel and stated it was a lengthy meeting with good discussions.

16. Adjourn

A. Adjourn

Chair Heckman adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2015.