SAC Accreditation Guidelines
May 17, 2009

It is understood that these guidelines are meant to address accreditation policies and procedures when such pertain to “institutional or programmatic accreditation which may have an impact on institutional or system resources”.*

1. **Annual Notification:** Each September MAU representatives will transmit in writing, to the VP for Academic Affairs, a list of all existing institutional, school, college, and degree or certificate programs that are accredited at the date of submission. The list must identify the accreditation agency/association for each accredited school, college, degree or certificate program, and the date when renewals, extensions, or new accreditations (for schools, colleges, or degree or certificate programs) are due or expected. Such list will be exhaustive and given to the President and Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the BOR;

2. **New degree or certificate programs:** The template being utilized (Hex form) to review and present new degree or certificate programs to SAC and the BOR, shall have a section added which indicates whether there is a need and/or plan for accreditation for the proposed degree or certificate program. In such case, the accrediting agency and type of accreditation shall be specified. In all cases, at the time a proposal is submitted for a new degree or certificate program for which there is a need and/or plan for accreditation the Hex form must provide this information. In those cases where the need and/or plan to seek accreditation is identified after BOR approval of a degree or certificate program, paragraph 3 of these guidelines shall apply and notification shall be made pursuant to item 4 of these guidelines;

3. **Changes to programs:** It shall be considered a “substantive” change when a new or separate accreditation for any specific school, college, degree or certificate program is being sought;

4. Written notice will be provided to SAC when the decision is made to seek any substantive change, but in no case less than two (2) months prior to MAU sanctioned contact with external accreditation authorities/associations/groups;

Notification to SAC for purposes of these guidelines shall come from the Office of the Provost. It is understood that each MAU shall establish a procedure for approval consistent with these guidelines which shall be shared with SAC;

*The following language was approved by the BOR on February 17, 2009 and will be incorporated into the next UA Strategic Plan.

“The University of Alaska System shall engage in policy coordination, communication and alignment, prior to requesting substantive changes to institutional or programmatic accreditation which may have an impact on institutional or system resources. Such accreditation changes, if warranted, shall reflect institutional and programmatic priorities as set forth in the Academic Master Plan.”