Coalition of Student Leaders

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Date: May 18, 2017

To: UA Board of Regents

James R. Johnsen, President, University of Alaska

From: Colby Freel, Chair, Coalition of Student Leader Colly Fuel

Re: Shared Governance Feedback

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on shared governance at the University of Alaska. The Coalition of Student Leaders polled its membership; the feedback received is below.

- Student Governance at UA
 - When active and engaged student leaders emerge, the system works well. Student leaders, when engaged, are successful at reaching constituents and mobilizing stoutness to advocate for the University. Unfortunately, the ability of student governance groups to be effective varies significantly from year-to-year as active and engaged students transition throughout their academic career.
- How can UA administration more effectively solicit advice from student governance groups?
 - Consider bringing back in person testimony. This will ensure that opportunities for feedback are adequately noticed and occur before any proposed action by the Administration or the Board.
- How can UA administration more effectively communicate with student governance groups?
 - o Consistent and direct communication with students through email and videos.
 - Engage MAU-level University Relations departments to communicate with students.
- How can student governance groups more effectively provide advice to the BOR and UA administration?
 - o If individual student governance organizations were intentionally contacted by the UA administration, they may be more inclined to provide more feedback.
 - Students, and often student government groups, are not aware of the issues the President and the Board are dealing with. If contacted directly, students may be more likely to participate in the governance process.