Budget, projects & tuition on September agenda

The University of Alaska Board of Regents at the September 18-19, 2008, meeting reviewed UA’s upcoming operating and capital budgets, approved stages of various capital projects and set tuition rates for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Regents also hosted a legislative reception and toured current University of Alaska Anchorage science facilities. Science programs will see a major space shuffle in the months ahead as UAA anticipates the new ConocoPhillips Integrated Sciences Building’s opening next year. The new building will relieve current overcrowding.

A large portion of the meeting was spent reviewing the proposed budget for FY10. The budget’s top priority is college and work preparedness, including outreach programs to K-12 school districts, Tech Prep and career awareness programs, testing, placement and teacher preparation.

The top priority is the result of faculty efforts over a number of years to improve student success. Projects aim to help students at three different stages---while they’re in the K-12 system; during the transition to college; and then once they’re at a UA campus.

UA President Mark Hamilton proposes putting $2.6 million toward those bridging and outreach programs. Other priorities include increased funding for energy, engineering and climate change programs, at $3.8 million; beefing up health programs by just over $3 million; and workforce and campus programs expanded by $2.3 million. The proposed budget totals $343.5 million in state general funds.

BOARD OF REGENTS

Chair
Mary K. Hughes (2002-2009)

Vice Chair
Cynthia Henry (2003-2011)

Secretary
Michael Snowden (2003-2009)

Treasurer
Carl Marrs (2005-2013)

Tim Brady (2005-2015)

Fuller Cowell (2007-2015)


Erik Drygas (2007-2011)


Bob Martin (2005-2013)


Board Office
Jeannie Phillips
202 Butrovich Bldg.
P.O. Box 755300
907.450.8010
www.alaska.edu/bor
email: sybor@alaska.edu

The University of Alaska Board of Regents is the governing body responsible for the university policy and management through the president. Regents are appointed by the governor for eight-year terms, subject to legislative confirmation. A student regent is appointed for two years from candidates nominated on each campus. (Regents’ term of office shown in parentheses.)
Other funding sources include federal sources, grants and university-generated receipts.

The budget likely will see some adjustments before the board reviews and takes final action Oct. 31 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The budget request then goes to the state. The emphasis on K-12 outreach, long in the works, is timely in light of Education Commissioner Larry Ledoux’s recent announcement about an education summit in November.

**Tuition 2010-2011**

Regents approved a 4 percent tuition increase for 100- and 200-level courses and a 7 percent increase for all other levels beginning in fall 2010. The new rates are a deliberate shift from double-digit increases regents deemed necessary several years ago. The action marks the fourth consecutive year that increases have been held to 7 percent or less.

UA tuition ranks ninth out of 15 Western states for tuition costs among four-year public universities, said Saichi Oba, assistant vice president for student services and enrollment management at the UA system.

**Construction update**

The board also reviewed several campus capital projects in progress. Those actions included:

- Formal project approval for a $10.7 million remodel of the Anderson Building at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau, which includes money for pedestrian improvements between the main campus and the building, across Glacier Highway from the campus center;
- Schematic design approval for the $7 million exterior envelope of the Tanana Valley Campus, which will improve the insulation value from R-4 to R-21;
- And formal project approval for a $3.5 million rehabilitation of foundation pilings for two buildings at the Northwest Campus in Nome.

**Future Board Meetings**

- October 31, 2008
  - Fairbanks
- December 1-2, 2008
  - Fairbanks

Published by the Office of Public Affairs, 206 Butrovich Building, P.O. Box 755340, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5340. (907) 450-8100 syserve@alaska.edu.

For archived issues of the Regents’ Recap, see http://www.alaska.edu/opa/regentrecap/