

## University of Alaska FY09 Budget Request Update

Governor's Budget Release Talking Points Draft

December 10, 2007

### Operating Budget

1. UA's Board of Regents and administration are encouraged by the Governor's support for maintaining existing programs and growth in three high priorities; health programs; engineering and construction management programs; and, climate change research. UA's priorities are clearly those that address highest state needs.
2. Supporting increases for UA's existing programs and services and priority program growth shows confidence in UA's ability to deliver results that will address most acute workforce shortages in Alaska.
3. In the last nine years, the University of Alaska has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the state's priorities and over this time period UA has:
  - Doubled the number of nurses
  - Tripled the number of qualified allied health workers
  - Met the Process Technology workforce need with 85 graduates annually
  - Attracted more than 60% of Alaskan college bound high school graduates
  - Doubled the amount of externally funded research to \$124.0 million in FY07
4. Other Board of Regents' priorities not included in the Governor's budget proposal include: fisheries program; energy, health and transportation research; student success initiatives; cooperative extension; AFES; and UATV for distance education and outreach. In addition to the Governor's endorsed items, the legislature will be asked to add funding for these important program requests.

### Capital

1. The Governor's budget recognizes the absolute necessity for consistent annual funding for Major Renewal and Renovation (R&R) for Existing Facilities. This capital request has consistently been the Board's #1 capital budget priority. The Governor's budget includes \$40 million of UA's \$50 million annual need.
2. There is also continued General Fund support for the Alaska Small Business Development Center (\$550K) and some receipt authority for non-state funded projects including the Alaska Regional Research Vessel (ARRV).
3. The Board's additional capital priorities including the UAF BioSciences Facility (BIOS) and UAA Health Sciences Building and funding to pay down the accumulated backlog of major R&R projects are not included in the Governor's capital budget.
4. The legislature will be asked to consider fully funding UA's annual R&R needs as well as a significant share of the accumulated facilities major R&R backlog. Given the available funding surpluses, the time is now to establish an adequate system to protect the state and university's existing facilities for the long term. This requires consistent adequate major R&R funding.
5. The BIOS Facility at UAF is critical for UA's continued externally funded competitive research increases. In research, adequate and functional space is the primary limiting factor. UAF is conducting 4 times the level the research of 1990 in 1.3 times the space which averages more than 30 years old.
6. UAA's Health Sciences Building is a critical next step for continued expansion of UA's health programs. The nursing, allied health and behavioral health programs have more than doubled the number of students qualified for Alaska's jobs, but this is a long way from meeting employers demand for qualified health workers. A redoubling in the next ten years would be necessary and a facility is needed for continued growth of these critical health workforce programs.

Full details of the Board of Regents' UA's FY09 Operating and Capital Budget Requests can be seen at:  
<http://www.alaska.edu/swbudget/>