The second day of the annual board meeting of the University of Alaska Board of Regents began with a great example of philanthropy when ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc., and BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc., officials presented the president of the Board of Trustees of the UA Foundation with checks totaling more than $3.4 million.

Ann Parrish accepted the checks from Kevin Meyers, president of ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc., and also a member of the UA Board of Regents, and Steve Marshall, president of BP in Alaska. ConocoPhillips contributed $1,830,000 and BP contributed $1,623,150 under the terms of the companies’ charter agreement with the State of Alaska.

The charter agreement specifies that 30 percent of the money BP and ConocoPhillips set aside each year for community giving will go to the University of Alaska Foundation for use by the university.

The latest contributions bring the amount contributed to the UA Foundation to almost $13.9 million over the last four years by the two companies.

Regents unanimously accepted the contract negotiated with the Alaska Community College Federation of Teachers, AFT, Local 2404 (AFL-CIO), the university’s oldest union.

The ACCFT represents about 300 community college-level instructors at all campuses in the UA system.

Bob Congdon, president of the ACCFT, told the regents during the public comment period that 202 ACCFT members had voted in the union’s ratification election, and that all had voted in favor of ratification.

The contract provides 2.6% salary increases each year for the three-year life of the contract, which will expire June 30, 2006.

The university has also reached a tentative agreement for a new three-year labor contract with its maintenance, trades and crafts union. The Alaska Higher Education Crafts & Trades Employees represents 280 skilled maintenance, trades and crafts employees at all of the university’s campuses statewide.

The new contract, if ratified by the union and the regents, will run from July 2004 to June 2007. The current three-year contract will expire in June. Details of the contract will be considered for acceptance by the regents after it has been ratified by the union’s members. Details of the contract will not be released until after ratification.

Regents authorized the administration to proceed with the sale of an 8.5 acre portion of UAF’s Agricultural Forestry Experiment Station land in Palmer to Triad Hospitals, Inc., which is planning to build a new hospital and medical center in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. The total estimated purchase price for the land is $625,695, subject to adjustment based on the final plat square footage.

Triad has indicated it may also need another 10-12 acres of land which is now being surveyed and platted, and the regents also authorized the administration to proceed with that sale with the understanding that the fair market value for the land will be established at the time of the sale.
The Facilities and Land Management Committee of the board approved the project agreement, the project and the schematic design for the expansion of Homer’s Kachemak Bay Branch of the Kenai Peninsula College, at a total project cost not to exceed $3.4 million.

The addition will include two new general purpose classrooms, a science room, a conference room, a distance education room and a student commons area.

Board Chair Brian Rogers and all other incumbent officers were re-elected by unanimous ballot for one-year terms which will expire next December. Elsa Froehlich Demeksa is vice chair; Frances Rose is secretary; and Joe Usibelli Jr., is treasurer.

The board authorized the administration to proceed with the sale of 2004 General Revenue bonds for acquisition of real estate, refinancing of deed of trust note, UAF Institute of Arctic Biology logistics facility, and the UAF Tanana Valley Campus Hutchison Career Center upgrade. Total amount involved is $10.7 million.

In other action, the board approved a resolution in memory of Ruth E. Burnett, a Fairbanks civic leader who served as a regent from 1983-1991. She died November 14 after a long and valiant battle against cancer.

Future Board Meetings

February 18-20, 2004
Juneau

April 14-15, 2004
Sitka