Regents of the University of Alaska carried their request for a $16.9 million increase in state general funds directly to the legislature when they met March 6-8 in Juneau.

In addition to individual meetings between regents and legislators, the Board of Regents hosted a luncheon for legislators and legislative staffers at the Baranof Hotel in downtown Juneau on Wednesday, March 6. The next day the regents met at lunch with Gov. Tony Knowles, who for the third year in a row is supporting the university’s full operating budget request.

At the legislative luncheon, UAA’s School of Nursing was singled out for a legislative citation. Sen. Loren Leman and Rep. Sharon Cissna, both of Anchorage, made the presentation to Director Tina DeLapp.

Regents divided their meeting between the Baranof Hotel, where they met on Thursday, and the Egan Library at UAS where Friday’s sessions were held. They also toured the new Egan Library Classroom Addition.

Regents gave their approval to new academic programs at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The programs:

- Certificate in Geographic Information Systems
- Certificate in Massage Therapy
- Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology
- Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Certificate in Applied Ethics

The university’s 2002 Land Management Development Plan was approved by the regents. The plan is available to the public on the Land Management website at: www.ualand.com or by contacting the office at 3890 University Lake Drive, Suite 103, in Anchorage. The telephone number is 907-786-7733.

Regents approved the acquisition of University Center Mall property in Anchorage for UAA. Some 90,000 square feet of the Mall and adjacent property may be purchased, subject to legislative appropriation for acquisition and essential improvements. The space would accommodate ten laboratories, four classrooms, one or two smart theaters and conference room. The space would be utilized by UAA’s Community and Technical College, and related student services.

Project and schematic design for the UAA Ecosystem/Biomedical Health Facility Project were approved by the regents. The university administration was authorized to bid and award contracts not to exceed a total schematic design project cost of $4.85 million, subject to the availability of funding.

Project budget authority for UAF’s School of Fisheries and Ocean
Sciences facility at Lena Point near Juneau was increased from $1.7 million to $2.5 million. The increase enables the university to pay for clearing and infrastructure work that will be done by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Marine Fisheries Service, the federal agencies with whom the university will share the facility. The university has included $18 million in its FY03 capital budget request to fund its portion of the facility.

The board authorized the expenditure of transferred bond proceeds not to exceed $160,000 to initiate project scoping and development of a design-build RFP for the UAF West Ridge Research Building Shell Project, and also approved, subject to the availability of funds, revitalization projects at the UAF Arctic Health Research Building, and the Old Mineral Industry Research Lab.

Regents authorized the administration to bid and award contracts for projects at two community campuses. UAF’s Bristol Bay Campus Classroom Addition was approved at a total project cost not to exceed $1,850,000, and the UAS Ketchikan Hamilton/Robertson Technical Education Center remodel project was approved at a cost not to exceed $1,705,000.

UAS officials reported to the regents on their campus’ master planning efforts, and regents also reviewed the master plan for UAF’s Tanana Valley Campus in downtown Fairbanks. . .Karen Cedzo, chair of the Alaska Cooperative Extension Advisory Council, reported on council activities. . . Regents reviewed guidelines for the preparation of the university’s FY04 operating budget request and for the prioritization of FY04 capital projects.

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