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of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

MEMORANDUM OF TRANSMITTAL

TO: UA President

FROM: System Office Mission Statement work team

DATE: July 29, 2022

SUBJECT: Work team response to ELT revisions to the System Office Mission Statement

On July 15 the System Office Mission Statement work team received an updated draft mission statement as edited by the System Office Executive Leadership team. We were told that we had an opportunity to review and refine the recommended edits.

Leading up to the [transmittal memo](#) sent on May 11, the work team had engaged in a very open, deliberate and transparent process to draft a mission statement that we all felt positive about, that addressed the concerns of the universities and defined the role of the System Office. Working on this together as a cross-university team was a step toward building better relationships with the universities.

Largely, the proposed edits shared in the [working document](#) strengthen the initial draft, in particular elevating the DEI efforts to the first sentence and removing the third statement. However, there is one phrase removed that had been of particular significance to the representatives on the work team: the System Office ... *works with the universities* to implement Board of Regents direction.

It is the request of the working team that that phrase be reinserted into the proposed mission statement. The revised statement would then read:

The University of Alaska System Office, through its support of the three universities' distinct missions, advances higher education and honors the Indigenous and diverse peoples of Alaska. The University of Alaska System Office manages corporate responsibilities, strategically stewards shared resources, and ***works with the universities to implement*** Regents' policies and directions to align with current and future needs of the state.

In order to complete this project with the same level of inclusion and transparency with which it started, we would appreciate a response to this memo, and the opportunity to share the proposed language with the System Office Staff Council and System Governance groups for additional review and input prior to advancing it to the Board of Regents agenda.