

**Official Minutes
Board of Regents
Meeting of the Full Board
February 23, 2024
Fairbanks, Alaska**

1. Individuals Present

Regents Present:

Ralph Seekins, Chair
Karen Perdue, Vice Chair
Dale Anderson, Secretary
Scott Jepsen, Treasurer
Seth Church
Joey Crum
Paula Harrison
Dennis L. Michel
Albiona Selimi

Regents Absent:

Stephen Colligan
Mary K. Hughes

Pat Pitney, Chief Executive Officer and President, University of Alaska

Others Present:

Aparna Palmer, Chancellor, University of Alaska Southeast
Sean Parnell, Chancellor, University of Alaska Anchorage
Daniel M. White, Chancellor, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Matthew Cooper, General Counsel
Luke Fulp, Chief Finance Officer
Paul Layer, Vice President for Academics, Students, and Research
Michelle Rizk, Vice President for University Relations and Chief Strategy, Planning and Budget Officer
Brandi Berg, Executive Officer, Board of Regents
Jacy Pietsch, Office Coordinator, Board of Regents
Jennifer Ward, Faculty Alliance Chair
Ronnie Houchin, Staff Alliance Chair
Joe Pavia-Jones, Coalition of Student Leaders Chair

2. Opening Items

A. Call to Order

Chair Seekins called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. on Friday, February 23, 2024.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Note for the record: Regent Perdue stated the Troth Yeddha' Indigenous Studies Center on the consent agenda, and as mentioned in past disclosures, the University of Alaska Fairbanks has a contract regarding this with Bettisworth North Architecture and Planning (BNAP). Her spouse, C.B. Bettisworth, formerly owned BNAP, and although he has sold his interest in the firm to the firm's current principals, his name is still on the firm, and he continues as a part-time employee with the firm, in addition to serving on its board of directors without compensation.

Chair Seekins said consistent with the determinations made by former Board of Regents' chairs and by him, Regent Perdue should refrain from voting, deliberating, or participating in that particular consent agenda item.

Regent Anderson stated he serves as a regent representative on the University of Alaska Foundation Board of Directors, and the foundation made a gift to all its board members, including him, of vests, which he was informed the value of the vest was approximately \$150, and said although the foundation and the university have a collaborative and cooperative relationship, it is a separate legal entity, and therefore, he disclosed receiving the vest as a gift from the foundation.

Chair Seekins said in light of the special relationship between the foundation and the university and the fact that Regent Anderson is a regent representative on the University of Alaska Foundation Board, he determined the gift was not made under circumstances from which it would reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence the performance of Regent Anderson's official duties, actions, or judgments as a regent. Therefore, the gift is permissible and not a violation of the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act, and no further action is required beyond the disclosure.

PASSED AS AMENDED (amendment noted by *)

"The Board of Regents adopts the agenda as amended. This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

Motion by Seth Church, second by Dale G Anderson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Seth Church, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

3. University of Alaska Student Experience

A. University of Alaska Student Experience

University of Alaska Fairbanks students Mr. Harrison Israels, Ms. Kinley Erickson, and Ms. Darja McCowan shared their student experiences. (video timestamp 08:57)

4. Reports

A. Governance Reports

Ronnie Houchin, Staff Alliance Chair, reported on the following topics: the alliance's new purpose statement adopted in December 2023, the employee engagement survey and its results, the goal to strengthen the relationship between university staff and human resources, highlighted recent accomplishments with university human resources and thanked and recognized his governance colleagues. (video timestamp 39:15)

Joe Pavia-Jones, Coalition of Student Leaders Chair, reported on the following topics: the biweekly coalition meetings significantly strengthening student government collaboration, the spring 2024 Juneau advocacy fly-in trip, the coalition's support of changes to student fees and stated appreciation to provide a report during this meeting. (video timestamp 45:27)

Jennifer Ward, Faculty Alliance Chair, reported on the following topics: the Faculty Initiative Fund and the project awards made in December 2023, the first annual alliance Thought Leaders Forum, which will be held online March 28-29, 2024, regarding AI in the university setting and the employee satisfaction survey and its results. (video timestamp 48:05)

B. Chancellors' Reports

Chancellor Palmer provided an update on the following topics: results of the Title IX processes and procedures review, the Title IX survey of students at the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS), the hiring of a new deputy Title IX coordinator, spring and fall enrollment, programs experiencing growth, dual enrollment, highlighted the Juneau online graduate programs ranking in the top 10 percent by *U.S. News and World Report*, a new interim dean at the UAS School of Education, the Sitka Discover program partnering with local high schools, the Ketchikan Campus expansion of health science training for high school students and recognized the new hires at UAS. (video timestamp 57:27)

Chancellor Parnell provided an update on the following topics: spring enrollment, the increase in community campus enrollment, student retention rates, student outreach efforts, the University of Alaska Anchorage's (UAA) support for military and veteran students, accessibility and affordability efforts at UAA, zero cost textbooks, FAFSA completion rates, UAA's online application process, Arctic Domain Awareness Center receiving a federal grant, UAA's continuous improvement measures, 2024 being the 70th anniversary of UAA and philanthropic support. (video timestamp 1:14:31)

Chancellor White thanked the board for attending the recent University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) tours, campus events, and encouraged the board to visit other UAF campuses, and provided an update on the following topics: the 50th year of the Festival of Native Arts, hosting the Alaska Science Olympiad, Nanook athletic successes, the UAF Strategic goals, demographics of college-going students, the modern student experience, R1 by 2027, edX statistics and course enrollment, UAF process improvements and thanked his executive staff. (video timestamp 1:24:46)

C. President's Report

President Pitney thanked Chancellor Palmer and the UAS Title IX coordinator for their efforts to engage with its students, introduced Senior Director for Alaska Native Success and Partnerships Komakhuk, congratulated Associate Vice President of Workforce Development Cothren on her 2023 PACE Economic Development Award, and provided an update on the following topics: the graduate student union negotiations, the employment engagement survey and areas requiring improvement, her upcoming engagements, including the UA Foundation and the Juneau legislative visit and thanked the universities' facilities services employees for an excellent job keeping the campuses safe and walkable during the odd winter weather events. (video timestamp 1:40:28)

5. Empower Alaska Public Awareness Campaign Update

A. Empower Alaska Public Awareness Campaign Update

Public Affairs Director Taylor provided an update on the Empower Alaska Public Awareness Campaign. (video timestamp 1:50:20)

6. Approval of the Roadmap to Empower Alaska

A. Approval of the Roadmap to Empower Alaska

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the Roadmap to Empower Alaska as presented. This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

Motion by Scott Jepsen, second by Dale G Anderson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Seth Church, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Board members, President Pitney, and administrative staff discussed the Roadmap to Empower Alaska. (video timestamp 2:24:51)

7. Arctic Leadership Initiative Update

A. Arctic Leadership Presentation

Promoting Arctic Policy, Research, and Leadership is a priority focus area adopted by UA Board of Regents. President Pitney provided an update on UA's Arctic Leadership Initiative and answered questions from the board. Rasmuson Foundation helped advance UA's vision by awarding a planning grant to identify program leaders, seek internal and external stakeholder input, and establish partnerships for implementation. (video timestamp 2:08:29)

8. Review UA Priority Strategies

A. Review UA Priority Strategies

Board members, President Pitney, and administrative staff discussed the UA Priority Strategies. (video timestamp 2:40:59)

9. Approval of the February 2025 Board of Regents' Meeting Location

A. Approval of the February 2025 Board of Regents' Meeting Location

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves Kenai Peninsula College Kenai River Campus as its February 2025 meeting location. This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

Motion by Joey Crum, second by Seth Church.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Seth Church, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Board members and President Pitney discussed location options for its February 2025 board meeting. (video timestamp 3:47:08)

10. Committee Reports and New Business

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

In addition to the action items, the committee received a presentation on UA health programs, a report on the UAA early childhood education bachelor of arts pathway to accreditation, an update on the Alaska College of Education Consortium, enrollment reports, academic program teach-outs, and the student information system modernization. (video timestamp 03:57:35)

B. Audit and Finance Committee

The committee received updates on UA finances and athletic financial data, heard reports on the State Small Business Credit Initiative, audit and compliance, updates on the Education Trust of Alaska, and enterprise risk management, and held an executive session.

Regent Anderson provided the following guidance, in the FY25 Board of Regents' budget request, athletics was on the front-page summary 'below the line,' pending development of a legislative proposal. While Juneau does not have an appetite for another piece of legislation this year, there is potential for some funding for athletics. President Pitney's primary focus for funding will remain on compensation and fixed costs, deferred maintenance, and R1; however, without objection from the board, he asked President Pitney to also look for opportunities to pursue the athletics operating requests this session. (video timestamp 03:58:48)

C. Facilities and Land Management Committee

***1. Schematic Design Approval for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Troth Yeddha' Indigenous Studies Center** (Moved from Consent Agenda Item 11.C.2.)

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the schematic design approval request for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Troth Yeddha' Indigenous Studies Center as presented in compliance with the campus master plan, with the approved budget not to exceed a total project cost of \$53,000,000. The Board of Regents authorizes the university administration to complete the full project design and to proceed with initial site development construction, not to exceed a cost of \$9,000,000. The University of Alaska Fairbanks will request additional approvals from the Board of Regents, prior to proceeding with additional construction phases, as funding is received. The funding sources identified in the philanthropic plan include individual philanthropists/private donors, corporate gifts, foundation grants, and public agency support (federal and state). This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

Motion by Dennis L Michel, second by Joey Crum.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Seth Church, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Abstain: Karen Perdue

2. Committee Report

In addition to the action items, the committee heard an update on the hockey ice arena P3 and received the first reading of Regents' Policies 05.12. and 05.06., and reports on potential future revenue opportunities – University of Alaska Fairbanks combined heat and power plant, the land management FY24 first and second quarter reports, an update on the land grant initiative, an update on IT, capital project approvals – delegation of authority report, schedule of projects for potential board approval, and construction in progress reports. (video timestamp 04:00:59)

The committee held a special meeting on December 7, 2023, to receive the FY23 annual land management report and a land grant initiative update and held an executive session.

The committee held a special meeting on September 18, 2023, to discuss contract means and methods, including Regents' Policy 05.06. - Procurement and Supply Management.

11. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Consent Agenda

PASSED AS AMENDED

"The Board of Regents approves the consent agenda items 11.B.1-2., 11.C.1., and 11.D.-F. as amended. This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

Motion by Joey Crum, second by Seth Church.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Seth Church, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

B. Academic and Student Affairs Committee - Items from February 22, 2024

1. Approval of Revisions to Regents' Policy 01.01.020. - University of Alaska Anchorage Mission Statement

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves revisions to Regents' Policy 01.01.020. - University of Alaska Anchorage Mission Statement. This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

P01.01.020. University of Alaska Anchorage Mission Statement.

Proposed updated UAA mission statement, track changes:

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) transforms lives through teaching, research, community engagement, and creative expression in a diverse and inclusive environment. Serving students, the state, and the communities of Southcentral Alaska, UAA is a comprehensive, open-access, public university established on the ancestral lands of the Dena'ina, Ahtna ~~Dene~~, Alutiiq/Sugpiaq, ~~Chugachmiut~~, and Eyak/dAXunhyuu Peoples.

Proposed updated UAA mission statement, clean copy:

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) transforms lives through teaching, research, community engagement, and creative expression in a diverse and inclusive environment. Serving students, the state, and the communities of Southcentral Alaska, UAA is a comprehensive, open-access, public university established on the ancestral lands of the Dena'ina, Ahtna, Alutiiq/Sugpiaq, and Eyak/dAXunhyuu Peoples.

2. Approval of an Associate of Science General Sciences Degree at the University of Alaska Anchorage

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the Associate of Science General Science degree at the University of Alaska Anchorage. This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

C. Facilities and Land Management Committee - Items from February 22, 2024

1. Schematic Design Approval for the University of Alaska Museum Planetarium Addition

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the schematic design approval request for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Museum Planetarium Addition as presented in compliance with the campus master plan, and authorizes the university administration to complete construction bid documents, to bid and award a contract within the approved budget, and to proceed to completion of project construction not to exceed a total project cost of \$8,300,000. This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

2. ~~Schematic Design Approval for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Troth Yedda' Indigenous Studies Center (Moved to New Business Item 10.C.1.)~~

D. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting of November 10, 2023

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the minutes of its regular meeting of November 10, 2023 as presented. This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

E. Approval of Minutes - Special Meeting of January 17, 2024

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the minutes of its special meeting of January 17, 2024 as presented. This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

F. Approval of Minutes - Special Meeting of January 30, 2024

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the minutes of its special meeting of January 30, 2024 as presented. This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

12. Board Governance

A. Discussion Regarding Board Governance

Executive Officer Berg said the board's annual assessment will be distributed following this meeting and discussed during the board's May 2024 meeting.

13. State Relations Report

A. State Relations Report

State Relations Director Hutchison provided an update on government relations issues affecting the University of Alaska. (video timestamp 3:21:00)

14. UA Foundation Report

A. UA Foundation Report

UA Foundation President Burnett provided an update on university system's development efforts and University of Alaska Foundation's activities. (video timestamp 4:04:46)

15. Corporate Resolutions

A. Approval of Revisions to the Industrial Security Resolution

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the Industrial Security Resolution as revised to reflect a personnel change to the University of Alaska Southeast vice chancellor for administrative services position, and authorizes the chair and secretary of the board to sign the resolution. This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

Motion by Joey Crum, second by Seth Church.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Seth Church, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

16. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

PASSED

"The Board of Regents goes into executive session to discuss matters that may have an adverse effect on the finances of the university, to discuss matters that may affect the reputation or character of a person, to discuss matters that are required by law to be confidential, and to receive legal advice related to: 1) labor negotiations and other personnel matters, 2) current litigation claims, 3) Technical Vocational Education Program funding, 4) a facility naming opportunity at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, 5) legislative strategy, and 6) accreditation. This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

Motion by Dale G Anderson, second by Dennis L Michel.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Seth Church, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

The Board of Regents went into executive session at 12:34 p.m. and concluded an executive session at 2:18 p.m. Alaska Time in accordance with AS 44.62.310 to discuss matters that may have an adverse effect on the finances of the university, to discuss matters that may affect the reputation or character of a person, to discuss matters that are required by law to be confidential, and to receive legal advice related to: 1) labor negotiations and other personnel matters, 2) current litigation claims, 3) Technical Vocational Education Program funding, 4) a facility naming opportunity at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, 5) legislative strategy, and 6) accreditation. The session included members of the Board of Regents, President Pitney, General Counsel Cooper, and such other university staff members as the president designated and lasted 1 hour and 44 minutes.

17. Approval of Naming a Facility at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

A. Approval of Naming a Facility at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the naming of a facility at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and authorizes Chancellor White to announce the naming at a time of his choosing. This motion is effective February 23, 2024."

Motion by Joey Crum, second by Seth Church.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Seth Church, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

POLICY CITATION

In accordance with Regents' Policy 05.14.080, Gifting Opportunities for Facilities and Infrastructure Naming, the president is authorized to establish naming opportunities that meet the minimum gift guidelines in this policy. The recommended naming opportunities and gift requirements or funding levels will be proposed by the respective chancellor and approved by the president. The president shall notify the board of the naming opportunities and minimum gift requirement established for significant facilities, improvements or areas which will require board approval or ratification in accordance with P05.12.090 - 05.12.092 for the actual naming.

In accordance with Regents' Policy 05.12.090, Naming of Campus Facilities: Formal Naming of Campus Facilities and Infrastructure, official naming of all "significant" buildings, building subcomponents such as wings, additions, auditoriums, and libraries, streets, parks, recreational areas, plazas and similar facilities or sites will be approved by the board.

RATIONALE AND RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Regents was asked to approve the naming of a facility at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The proposed name was discussed with the Board of Regents during the February 23, 2024 executive session.

18. Regents' Closing Comments

A. Regents' Closing Comments

Staff Alliance Chair Houchin thanked the board for its service and for keeping staff members in mind regarding university priorities and thanked the board for its support of staff.

Coalition of Student Leaders Chair Pavia thanked the board for having governance participate during the meetings.

Faculty Alliance Chair Ward thanked the board for asking good questions and said the alliance retreat will take place in Juneau during the week of February 26, 2024.

Chancellor White thanked the board for its service.

Chancellor Parnell thanked staff members, including executive leadership and governance, for making these meetings possible.

Chancellor Palmer thanked the board for challenging and supporting the chancellors and said she appreciates her colleagues and that the university is a wonderful place.

Regent Selimi thanked UAF for hosting the meeting and said she has officially traveled to all three universities and enjoyed the Festival of Native Arts event.

Regent Crum stated the board should write a letter of support for Regent Selimi and her nomination for the Truman Scholarship.

Regent Jepsen said it was a good meeting.

Regent Perdue said there was good dialogue during both days of the meetings and is happy with the board and how it is working together.

Regent Anderson thanked everyone for making the week of university activities a good one, noted appreciation for the 50th Festival of Native Arts event, and is looking forward to the February 23, 2024, Nanook hockey game.

Regent Church said the challenges of deteriorating infrastructure are not affecting the spirit or morale at the three universities; he sees passion in the eyes of staff, noting a phenomenal job, and sees excellent leaders.

Regent Michel thanked the administration and staff, said the board is making good progress, and thanked his fellow board members.

Regent Harrison challenged the board to make a private donation to the Troth Yeddha' Indigenous Center and thanked President Pitney for a good meeting.

President Pitney thanked the board and staff for meeting in person and said the board's challenges to the administration are good; thanked UAF for hosting the meeting and said a special full board meeting would be held prior to the May 2024 meeting. (video timestamp 04:42:30)

19. Adjourn

A. Adjourn

Chair Seekins adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m. on Friday, February 23, 2024.

20. Public Testimony, from February 20, 2024

Sydney Card, Anchorage, shared her interest in mariculture and her experience at the Sitka campus and the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS).

Claudia Lessig, Anchorage, University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) gymnastics team member, stated support for the university's strategic plan, noting the focus on student success and positive student experiences; said the team hosted two home events, has done 675 volunteer hours, and creates a community bond through its athletics.

Danika Bailie, Bethel, stated support for opening the Kuskokwim Campus dorms.

Vannessa Yazzie, Bethel, stated support for opening the Kuskokwim Campus dorms.

Palia Solino, UAA gymnastics team member, stated the team actively contributes to distinction and continuous improvement, has a team GPA of 3.8, and reminded the board about participating in UA Giving Day.

Jasz Garrett, Juneau, stated students at UAS are concerned about Title IX issues on campus and suggested updated training and said students want to be heard.

Andrew Schultz, Juneau, said UAS is failing students regarding Title IX; students feel ignored or gaslit; stated current University Regulations must do more to support students and there is a need to hire more Title IX staff and currently, UAS does not have campus security.

Kristen Reece, Fairbanks, expressed support for the design of the Troth Yeddha' Indigenous Center and support for Indigenous education.

Eli Gordon, Kodiak, shared his positive experience with the programs and his experience at Kodiak College.

Steve Belden, Kodiak, shared his positive experience with the programs and his experience at Kodiak College.

McKenzie Polsak, Fairbanks, shared her opposition to master's students who will graduate in summer 2024 having to wait until Spring 2025 to walk in commencement and stated it is a disservice to military and foreign exchange students.

Jiovanna Wilde, Fairbanks, stated support for the Troth Yeddha' Indigenous Center and shared her experience with University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Rural Student Services department.

Brooke Arnett, Bethel, stated support for opening the Kuskokwim Campus dorms.

Brayden Nicholetts, UAF hockey team member, thanked Chair Seekins and the board for its support.

Emily Moorhead, Fairbanks, shared her opposition to master's students who will graduate in summer 2024 having to wait until Spring 2025 to walk in commencement; stated it is one of life's biggest accomplishments and is an important milestone for first-generation students and asked the board to change the policy.

TJ Lloyd, UAF hockey team member, shared his experience at UAF and thanked the chair and the board for its support and time.

Isabella Koumal, Fairbanks, shared her opposition to master's students who will graduate in summer 2024 having to wait until Spring 2025 to walk in commencement and asked the board to change the policy.

Alazae Waghiyi, Fairbanks, stated support for the Troth Yeddha' Indigenous Center, said it would serve as a vibrant space for all, elders, students, and leaders, and is vital for educational success, and a focal point for rural students.

Beverly Hoffman, Bethel, stated support for reopening the Kuskoskim Campus Sackett Hall Dorm.

Garry White, Sitka Economic Development Association member, stated support for mariculture workforce training in Southeast Alaska.

Joel Markis, Sitka, thanked the board for the mariculture programs across the university system and shared his experience with students in the courses.

Casey Coupchiak, Anchorage, shared his experience at the Bristol Bay Campus while attending UAA.

Elizabeth Ripley, Mat-Su Health Foundation president and CEO, stated support for the Mat-Su greenbelt and its works with UAF to continue to keep the greenbelt open for the health and wellness and quality of life of valley residents.

Abel Bult-Ito, Fairbanks, and president-elect of Faculty Alliance, said the faculty is actively advocating in Juneau for the board's priorities.

Jackie Cason, UAA faculty and Faculty Alliance member, shared the faculty's passion and its engagement with students and how such engagement contributes to the student experience.

Dan Ogg, former regent, and Kodiak College Advisory Council member, stated his support for Kodiak College.