

**Board of Regents'
Full Board Agenda
May 21-22, 2025
Fairbanks, Alaska**

Regents present

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

Leadership present

Pat Pitney, President
Aparna Palmer, University of Alaska Southeast Chancellor
Daniel White, University of Alaska Fairbanks Chancellor
Cheryl Siemers, University of Alaska Anchorage Interim Chancellor
Wayne Mowery, General Counsel
Kerynn Fisher, Board Executive Officer
Michelle Rizk, VP University Relations
Brian Smentkowski, VP Academic Affairs
Luke Fulp, Chief Financial Officer
Memry Dahl, Chief Human Resources Officer
Jackie Cason, Faculty Alliance Chair
Austin Cranford, Staff Alliance Chair
Tina Hamlin, Coalition of Student Leaders Chair
Jonathon Taylor, Public Affairs Director

1. Opening Items

A. Call to Order

Chair Seekins called the meeting to order at 2:42 p.m.
UAF Chancellor Daniel White provided the land acknowledgement; UAF Lucy McWilliams sang "America the Beautiful."

B. Adoption of Agenda

DISCLOSURE: Regent Perdue disclosed that, related to item 12(D) of the Consent Agenda, her stepson owns CDER Design and Development, a design firm that is a subconsultant on the Project Design Team for the UAF University Park Childcare Facility; she had no involvement in the selection. Chair Seekins determined that the relationship falls within the definition of the immediate family member under the EBEA; the item was removed from the consent agenda so that Regent Perdue could refrain from voting.

Item 7E was removed from the agenda and deferred to the September meeting.

MOTION

"The Board of Regents adopts the agenda as amended. This motion is effective May 21, 2025."

Motion by Joey Crum, second by Scott Jepsen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

2. Presentations

A. University of Alaska Fairbanks Student Experience

Nicole Misarti, Director of UAF's Institute of Northern Engineering, introduced students Andrew Zachry, Dylan Frick, Nishesh Chettri, and Angelena Kashatok to talk about their experience working on research projects using local resources to develop alternative cements, 3D printing concrete structures for construction in Alaska, and stabilizing soils for road construction using local fly ash. They talked about how working on these projects has shaped their professional development, career goals, and overall mission as future engineers, highlighting the impact of hands-on, applied research in their education. (video timestamp 03:37)

B. Staff Make Students Count

President Pitney recognized the 2025 recipients of the Staff Make Students Count awards. Recipients were selected by their respective staff councils from nominations by students and peers:

- UAA: Zac Clark, Associate Director of Student Life and Leadership
 - UAF: Lynnette Dunn, Office Manager, Department of Geosciences, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
 - UAS: Aimee Richards, Career Services Manager
- (video timestamp 15:11)

3. Reports

A. Governance Reports

Jackie Cason, Faculty Alliance Chair, discussed the book "Lives on the Boundary", working with students from disadvantaged backgrounds, helping those students succeed, diversity in academic environments, and a desire to connect with Regents over the coming year in smaller conversations. (video timestamp 28:52)

Austin Cranford, Staff Alliance Chair, shared concerns about staff wearing multiple hats and asked that existing workloads be considered in new initiatives; he also asked that as positions are reduced due to loss of federal funding that to look at shifts to other departments within the university rather than layoffs. He also celebrated the SDA for the childcare facility at UAF. (video timestamp 46:27)

Tina Hamlin, Coalition of Student leaders chair, noted the importance of mental health support, student concern about the lack of transparency in the February DEI motion, and a desire for greater transparency in tuition allocation. (video timestamp 50:47)

B. Chancellors' Reports

UAF Chancellor White highlighted potential in intellectual property, the recent commencement exercises (the largest class in a decade), increases in headcount/student credit hours/applications, the need for more student housing, and his appreciation for his leadership team as well as Provost Prakash's service to the university. (video timestamp 56:20)

UAS Chancellor Palmer noted a modest increase in SCH and stable enrollment, thanked the board for their investment in additional student recruiters, celebrated an Emmy for faculty member Twitchell, and noted that UAS will have a new provost starting in July. (video timestamp 01:10:46)

UAA Interim Chancellor Siemers also highlighted commencement statistics and thanked the Regents for holding the February meeting at KPC to get a sense of the community campus. (video timestamp 01:24:46)

C. President's Report

President Pitney welcomed incoming student regent Escobar and other members of the governance/leadership teams, thanked outgoing members for their service to the university, and celebrated the recent graduates. She noted that UA has been monitoring position vacancies and turnover closely, even before the federal landscape changed and the state implemented controls. She provided a response to public testimony from AGWA (graduate student) union members related to administrative fees and noted that UA is working with the union towards a solution. She also noted the recent transition in Native Student Services at UAA, and that the change has been in the works to strengthen support for Indigenous and rural students and acknowledge the concern that she's heard regarding the roll-out. (video timestamp 01:36:51)

4. Executive Session

MOTION

"The Board of Regents goes into executive session to discuss matters that the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect on the finances of the university and to receive legal advice related to employee relations, labor and union matters and matters the immediate knowledge of which could affect the reputation or character of a person or persons related to the board self-assessment. This motion is effective May 21, 2025."

Motion by Scott Jepsen, second by Seth Church.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

The Board of Regents concluded an executive session at 5:30 p.m. Alaska Time in accordance with AS 44.62.310 to discuss matters that the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect on the finances of the university and to receive legal advice related to employee relations, labor and union matters and matters the immediate knowledge of which could affect the reputation or character of a person or persons related to the board self-assessment. The session included members of the Board of Regents, President Pitney, General Counsel Mowery, and such other university staff members as the president designated and lasted approximately 45 minutes.

(video timestamp 01:58:39)

5. Meeting Reconvened: Thursday, May 22 at 8 am

6. Government Relations Reports

A. Federal Relations Update

Federal relations director John Latini and APLU Vice President for Research Policy and Advocacy Debbie Altenburg provided an update on federal issues impacting the University of Alaska and higher education. Altenburg noted the increasing use of executive orders impacting universities, proposed reductions to F&A rates and other federal challenges. Latini provided an update on cancelled/frozen federal grants to UA, work with the Congressional delegation and the FFY planning process. Regents had questions on updated guidance from granting agencies, earmarks, and potential changes to Pell grants. (video timestamp 00:00:17)

B. State Relations Update

State relations director Chad Hutchison provided an update on the legislative session and bills relating to the university: HB10/SB118 adding a faculty member to the Board of Regents, HB28 to incentivize (via loan repayment) teachers and state workers to come to Alaska, HB29 to allow UA to analyze and potential join the state's health insurance plan, HB8 to allow for tuition waivers for peace officers and service members, and the student fee transparency act. (video timestamp 00:53:18)

C. Framing the Federal Landscape

President Pitney and the chancellors discussed the different ways UA programs use federal funding to help frame the budget discussions to follow, including communications to staff about impacted federal programs, proactive efforts to adapt to the changing funding landscape, and areas where UA programs may have new opportunities at the federal level. (video timestamp 01:10:41)

7. Budget Discussion

A. UA Budget Discussion / FY26 Budget and FY27 Budget Guidelines

Board members, President Pitney, and administrative staff discussed the university's FY26 and FY27 budgets. (video timestamp 01:34:37)

B. Acceptance of the FY26 Operating Budget Appropriation and Approval of Distribution Plan

POLICY CITATION

Regents' Policy 05.01.040 – Acceptance of State Appropriations states, "The board must accept state appropriations to the university before any expenditure may be made against the appropriation."

MOTION #1

"The Board of Regents accepts the FY26 Operating Budget Appropriation as presented. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Scott Jepsen, second by Joey Crum.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

MOTION #2

"The Board of Regents approves the FY26 Operating Budget Distribution Plan as presented and authorizes the president to revise the distribution plan, as appropriate, to implement the final state appropriation. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Scott Jepsen, second by Joey Crum.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

(video timestamp 02:42:21)

C. Acceptance of the FY26 Capital Budget Appropriation and Approval of Distribution Plan

POLICY CITATION

Regents' Policy 05.01.04 – Acceptance of State Appropriations states, "The board must accept state appropriations to the university before any expenditure may be made against the appropriation."

MOTION #1

"The Board of Regents accepts the FY26 Capital Budget Appropriation as presented. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Scott Jepsen, second by Joey Crum.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

MOTION #2

"The Board of Regents approves the FY26 Capital Budget Distribution Plan as presented and authorizes the president to revise the distribution plan, as appropriate, to implement the final state appropriation. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Scott Jepsen, second by Joey Crum.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

(video timestamp 02:44:24)

D. Acceptance of the FY25 Supplemental Operating Budget Appropriation and Approval of Distribution Plan

POLICY CITATION

Regents' Policy 05.01.040 – Acceptance of State Appropriations states, "The board must accept state appropriations to the university before any expenditure may be made against the appropriation."

MOTION #1

"The Board of Regents accepts the FY25 Supplemental Operating Budget Appropriation as presented. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Scott Jepsen, second by Joey Crum.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

MOTION #2

"The Board of Regents approves the FY25 Supplemental Operating Budget Distribution Plan as presented and authorizes the president to revise the distribution plan, as appropriate, to implement the final state appropriation. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Scott Jepsen, second by Joey Crum.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

(video timestamp 02:47:15)

E. Approval of FY26 Use of Fund Balance

*This item was postponed to the September 2025 Board of Regents meeting.

F. Approval of the FY26 Natural Resources Fund Budget

POLICY CITATION

Per Regents' Policy 05.07.010(C), the Natural Resources Fund is to be used to "provide a margin of support over and above" what otherwise would be possible through traditional state, federal and private sources, and used to provide funding to projects and programs necessary to establish or enhance the quality of the university's academic programs, research, or public service. The sources of the funds available comes from the spending allowance generated by the Land Grant Endowment and Inflation Proofing Fund, currently set by the board at 4.5% of the average of the December 31 market value for the immediately preceding five years of the fund. Withdrawal of earnings in any fiscal year is limited to the unexpended accumulated earnings of the endowment as of the preceding December 31.

SUMMARY

The approved FY26 Natural Resources Fund budget provides on-going support at FY25 levels for the UA Scholars Program (with an additional \$1M to SAF efforts), SW Land Management operations, system-based scholarships, IANRE USDA land grant match and Cooperative Extension support and the UA Press as well as the Staff Development Fund and Faculty Initiative Fund. The approved budget also includes increased funding for priorities under the Roadmap to Empower Alaska, including funding for the the economic contribution report and Empower Alaska Campaign, as well as \$500K in philanthropic support to the UAF Foundation to offset reduced management fees in September 2024 MOU

MOTION

"The Board of Regents approves the proposed FY26 Natural Resources Fund Budget as presented. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Scott Jepsen, second by Joey Crum.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

(video timestamp 02:58:51)

8. Roadmap to Empower Alaska

President Pitney and administrative staff provided an update on UA Priority Strategies and the Roadmap to Empower Alaska. Chancellor White noted that UAF is projecting 104 Ph.D. recipients. Achieving R1 status may be a reach in 2027, but UAF is on track for the 2030 cycle. Public affairs director Taylor reported on the Empower Alaska awareness/branding campaign, noting that three videos were filmed highlighting different programs. The campaign has won several public relations awards. CFO Fulp introduced staff working on a process improvement project to highlight their success in automating student refund disbursements, saving hundreds of hours in staff time to manually process refunds. (video timestamp 03:08:24)

9. Alaska Native Success Initiative

Senior Director for Alaska Native Success Partnership Kristel Komakhuk provided an update on the Alaska Native Success Initiative, including a recent roundtable meeting with Alaska Native Corporation and educational foundation representatives. University ANSI leads Jessica Black (UAF), Michele Yatchmenef (UAA) and Ronalda Cadiante Brown (UAS) provided updates on Alaska Native student enrollment, outreach to rural communities and support services at their respective universities. (video timestamp 03:32:30)

10. Executive Session

MOTION

"The Board of Regents goes into executive session to discuss matters that the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect on the finances of the university, to receive legal advice related to regulatory compliance updates and legislative strategy, and to discuss matters that the immediate knowledge of which could affect the reputation or character of a person or persons related to board governance and the board's self assessment and the appointment of the Sydney Chapman Chair in Physical Sciences. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Scott Jepsen, second by Joey Crum.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

The Board of Regents concluded an executive session at 1:30 p.m. Alaska Time in accordance with AS 44.62.310 to discuss matters that the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect on the finances of the university and to receive legal advice related to regulatory compliance updates and legislative strategy, and to discuss matters that the immediate knowledge of which could affect the reputation or character of a person or persons related to board governance and the appointment of the Sydney Chapman Chair in Physical Sciences. The session included members of the Board of Regents, President Pitney, General Counsel Mowery, and such other university staff members as the president designated and lasted approximately one hour and 45 minutes.

(video timestamp 04:01:51)

11. Resolutions of Appreciation

A. Approval of a Resolution of Appreciation for Anupma Prakash (video timestamp 01:31)

WHEREAS, Anupma Prakash is retiring from her position as the University of Alaska Fairbanks' provost and executive vice chancellor after a distinguished career in leadership and research roles spanning more than two decades; and

WHEREAS, Prakash holds a Ph.D. in earth sciences from the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee in India, and master's and bachelor's degrees in geology from Lucknow University, India; and

WHEREAS, Prakash conducted postdoctoral research with the Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation faculty at the University of Twente in the Netherlands; and

WHEREAS, Prakash joined the college's Department of Geosciences faculty and the Geophysical Institute in 2002, served as interim dean and associate dean at the UAF College of Natural Science and Mathematics; and

WHEREAS, Prakash contributed extensively to remote sensing-based mapping of Alaska's natural resources and changing landscape, and is internationally recognized for her research on underground coal mine fires; and

WHEREAS, Prakash has served as director of both the CNSM Division of Research and the National Science Foundation-funded Alaska Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and throughout her tenure, she mentored more than 30 graduate students and supported the research of many others; and

WHEREAS, Prakash excelled in teaching and research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and has also left her mark as an accomplished administrator and leader, with her steady hand at the rudder helping ensure that UAF weathered challenges and emerged as an institution ready to take on new challenges and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Prakash's accomplishments during her seven-year tenure as provost and executive vice chancellor include the creation of the Earth System Science degrees, growing enrollment at UAF, increasing research revenues, launching initiatives such as North Star College, the Student Success Center, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and AlaskaX, which brings free UAF courses to a global audience; and

WHEREAS, Prakash's distinguished career as a globally respected scholar in remote sensing and geosciences, her decades of teaching and mentorship, and her research leadership – evident in over \$80 million in research funding and dozens of scholarly publications – underscore her academic contributions, and she leaves an intangible legacy as a mentor and advocate; and

WHEREAS, Prakash led the UAF Academic Leadership Institute, a program designed to help faculty and staff explore real-world issues in higher education and equipping participants with tools to contribute meaningfully to university decision-making; and under her leadership, grew the program both in scope and format, to support larger cohorts and become accessible to remote participants; and

WHEREAS, Prakash has led with dignity, honesty, and empathy during a tenure marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, budget constraints, and uncertainties, and a time of evolving regulations and compliance; and

WHEREAS, since 2019, Prakash has contributed 36 articles to the Friday Focus leadership column in the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Cornerstone newsletter, sharing her personal experiences related to contemporary issues and topics relevant to academia, and through these, provided moments of inspiration and reflection to readers; and

WHEREAS, Prakash is looking forward to spending more time with family in Fairbanks, Germany, and India;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska officially recognizes and thanks Anupma Prakash for her dedicated service to the University of Alaska, she will be truly missed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be appropriately engrossed and conveyed to Anupma Prakash with a copy incorporated into the official minutes of the May 21-22, 2025, meeting of the Board of Regents.

MOTION

"The Board of Regents approves the resolution of appreciation for Anupma Prakash. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Joey Crum, second by Karen Perdue.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

B. Approval of a Resolution of Appreciation for Andy Harrington (video timestamp 18:37)

WHEREAS, Andy Harrington is retiring from the University of Alaska after more than a decade of service as Associate General Counsel, concluding a legal career of more than 40 years focused on public service and access to justice in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Harrington began his legal career as a law clerk for Chief Justice Jay Rabinowitz of the Alaska Supreme Court, and went on to serve more than 25 years with the Alaska Legal Services Corporation, including as executive director, and later worked as a senior assistant attorney general in the Department of Law's Consumer Protection Section before joining the university in 2014; and

WHEREAS, while at the Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Harrington worked to empower Alaska's tribes and Indigenous peoples, including John v. Baker, a landmark case advancing tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, at the University of Alaska, Harrington supported a wide range of legal matters with steady judgment and broad legal experience, serving university leadership and advancing the university's mission, including service on the teams acquiring the HAARP facility in Gakona for UAF and the former Auke Bay Marine Station for UAS, and initiation of and advocacy for the federal legislation with the potential to remedy UA's long-standing land grant shortfall; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Harrington promoted and lived the principle that justice should not be a function of wealth, and his efforts and selflessness helped countless Alaskans across the state; and

WHEREAS, Harrington earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the University at Buffalo, a Juris Doctor (J.D.), cum laude, from Harvard Law School, and a Bachelor of Science in Physics from the University of Alaska Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, Harrington's public service was recognized with the 2009 Rabinowitz Public Service Award from the Alaska Bar Foundation and the 2020 Robert Hickerson Public Service Award from the Alaska Bar Association for his outstanding lifetime commitment to pro bono legal service and advocacy for low-income Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, Harrington was recommended several times by peers and the Alaska Judicial Council for appointment to the Alaska Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Harrington is known for his poor jokes, often observing that telling a joke badly is OK because no one ever remembers them, and that telling a joke well would likely be OK but no one remembers that he has actually succeeded in doing so;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska officially recognizes and thanks Andy Harrington for his service to the University of Alaska and the State of Alaska, and commends him for his contributions to the university and the legal profession; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be appropriately engrossed and conveyed to Andrew Harrington, with a copy incorporated into the official minutes of the May 21–22, 2025, meeting of the Board of Regents.

MOTION

"The Board of Regents approves the resolution of appreciation for Andy Harrington. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Karen Perdue, second by Joey Crum.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

C. Approval of a Resolution of Appreciation for Brandi Berg (video timestamp 30:46)

WHEREAS, Brandi Berg, after 23 years of dedicated and distinctive service to the University of Alaska, including serving as Board of Regents Executive Officer since 2012, departed the university in February 2025; and

WHEREAS, Brandi Berg began her career at the University of Alaska in 2002 as the administrative assistant at the UA Foundation and was promoted to Foundation Board coordinator/executive assistant later that year; in 2006, Brandi Berg became the account and award manager at the UA Foundation, administering grants, awards, and scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Brandi Berg joined the Board of Regents' Office in 2008, and became the Board Executive Officer in 2012; as the Board of Regents' executive officer, Berg served as a liaison between the board, the university president, senior leaders of the university as well as university staff, governmental entities, students and the general public, and acted as a key adviser to each board member, as well as to board leadership, and as an advocate for good governance practices; and

WHEREAS, Brandi Berg provided primary staff support to the 11-member board, including coordinating board planning and communications, overseeing Board of Regents' policy review, managing meeting logistics, day-to-day board operations, and maintaining official university records; and

WHEREAS, Brandi Berg's accomplishments over the years include creating the online searchable version of Regents' Policy and University Regulation; initiating the Board of Regents' Statement of Expectations and the board's Committee Charters; implementing BoardDocs, creating paperless board agendas; managing the systemwide staff training sessions for BoardDocs use; establishing statewide audio conference public testimony; adding live captioning / ADA-compliance to board meetings; and ensuring that meetings ran smoothly and orderly; and

WHEREAS, over these years, Brandi Berg worked with 45 regents and attended more than 370 board meetings; and

WHEREAS, Brandi Berg worked with five University presidents including Mark R. Hamilton, Patrick K. Gamble, James R. Johnsen, Michelle Rizk (interim), and Pat Pitney and eight board chairs including Cynthia Henry, Fuller A. Cowell, Patricia Jacobson, Jyotsna Heckman, Gloria O'Neill, John Davies, Sheri Buretta, and Ralph Seekins; and

WHEREAS, while working full time for the university, Brandi and her husband Gary, raised two children, Kayla and Wyatt, yet she still found time to volunteer in her community and in her profession, including being a workshop presenter at the Association of Governing Boards Board Professionals Conference and serving as an active member in her church, supporting local youth sports and volunteering for several non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, known for her signature purple email text and warm, approachable communication style, Brandi Berg brought a sense of fun, authenticity, and professionalism to her work, earning the respect and friendship of colleagues while demonstrating steadfast dedication to the university's mission and a high standard of excellence; and

WHEREAS, prior to working at the university, Brandi Berg spent 19 years in the travel industry, and has a certificate in travel industry management from the Institute of Certified Travel Consultants; and

WHEREAS, Brandi Berg earned a certified administrative professional certificate from the International Association of Administrative Professionals in 2013, and an associate's degree in applied business management from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2016;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska officially recognizes and thanks Brandi Berg for her distinguished service to the University of Alaska, she will be truly missed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be appropriately engrossed and conveyed to Brandi Berg with a copy incorporated into the official minutes of the May 21–22, 2025 meeting of the Board of Regents.

MOTION

"The Board of Regents approves the resolution of appreciation for Brandi Berg. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Scott Jepsen, second by Joey Crum.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi
Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

D. Approval of a Resolution of Appreciation for Sean Parnell (video timestamp 41:10)

WHEREAS, Sean Parnell retired from state service as Chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage on May 16, 2025, after serving with distinction in this key leadership role since June 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Parnell's collaborative, strategic, and transformative leadership of the University of Alaska Anchorage and its campuses in Anchorage, Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak, Matanuska Susitna, and Prince William Sound, leaves UAA with a trend of growing enrollment, enhanced transparency in decision-making, a keen focus on the fiscal health of the institution, and as a trusted and respected community partner; and

WHEREAS, Parnell is regarded across the University of Alaska Anchorage community as a beloved and accessible leader known for leading with kindness, humility, and a deep respect for others, while embracing open, forward-facing communication that fosters trust and connection; and

WHEREAS, Parnell emphasized the University of Alaska Anchorage's role as a dual mission university, blending traditional four-year and graduate degree programs with career and technical education for Alaska's workforce, all while maintaining affordability and accessibility, and with a clear focus on continually providing opportunity for students; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the Ted Stevens Foundation, Parnell championed the establishment of, and philanthropic fundraising for the Alaska Leaders Archive to preserve, make accessible, and learn from the archives of Alaska's past leaders, including United States Senator Ted Stevens, Alaska Native leaders, elected officials, and business and community leaders who created the state we know today, as well as to engage, inform, and inspire future generations of Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, as governor, Parnell sponsored and implemented the legislation creating Alaska Performance Scholarships, which have provided merit-based scholarships to thousands of graduating Alaska high school students who meet the eligibility criteria, as well as needs-based grants to create state-wide higher education and job training opportunities in perpetuity, all of which benefits student throughout the UA system; and

WHEREAS, Parnell previously worked as an attorney in Alaska representing Alaskans and Alaska businesses for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Parnell has a long history of service to the state, including two terms in the Alaska House of Representatives, from 1993 until 1997, one term in the Alaska State Senate from 1997-2001; and in 2006 was elected Lieutenant Governor, and served as Governor of Alaska from 2009 to 2014; and

WHEREAS, in retirement, Parnell plans to spend more time with his wife Sandy, family, and friends, and to research, write, and continue coaching and teaching Alaska's emerging leaders;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska officially recognizes and thanks Sean Parnell for his dedicated service to the University of Alaska, he will be truly missed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be appropriately engrossed and conveyed to Sean Parnell with a copy incorporated into the official minutes of the May 21-22, 2025, meeting of the Board of Regents.

MOTION

"The Board of Regents approves the resolution of appreciation for Sean Parnell. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Joey Crum, second by Karen Perdue.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

E. Approval of a Resolution of Appreciation for Albiona Selimi (video timestamp 01:00:36)

WHEREAS, Albiona Selimi has served on the University of Alaska Board of Regents with dedication and excellence since 2023, when she was appointed as the Student Regent by Gov. Mike Dunleavy; and

WHEREAS, Selimi served as the voice for the collective student body and brought forward the perspectives of the students of the University of Alaska during Board discussions and votes; and

WHEREAS, Selimi distinguished herself through meaningful discussion and commentary during Board of Regents meetings, participation in the Union of Students at the University of Alaska Anchorage (USUAA), and the Coalition of Student Leaders; and

WHEREAS, Selimi was the 13th University of Alaska Anchorage student to be named a Truman Scholar, receiving a highly competitive, merit-based award that from Truman Foundation given to students who show prospect in leadership and a commitment to public service; Selimi used voting rights in minority communities, specifically language barrier challenges of Alaska Native voters, as the basis of her policy proposal for the Truman Scholar application; and

WHEREAS, Selimi interned with the Alaska Innocence Project, and will be attending law school following graduation from the

University of Alaska Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, Selimi is from Wasilla, Alaska, where she first started developing her student leadership talents; and

WHEREAS, Selimi, while serving on the Board of Regents, was a member of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and has sought to encourage other students to get involved on campus and participate in student government; and

WHEREAS, Selimi graduated summa cum laude from the University of Alaska Anchorage in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Arts in political science, and minors in justice and women's studies; and

WHEREAS, Selimi believes that anyone who wants an education deserves to get one, and has prioritized increasing accessibility and decreasing barriers to attaining higher education, as well as increasing student safety and security;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of Alaska Board of Regents officially recognizes and thanks Albiona Selimi for her distinguished service to Alaska and the University of Alaska, in particular the students across the UA System; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be appropriately engrossed and conveyed to Selimi, with a copy to be incorporated in the official minutes of the May 21-22, 2025, minutes of the UA Board of Regents.

MOTION

"The Board of Regents approves the resolution of appreciation for Albiona Selimi. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Seth Church, second by Karen Perdue.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

12. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Consent Agenda (video timestamp 01:19:27)

MOTION #1

"The Board of Regents approves the consent agenda items 12.B, 12.C, 12.D.1 and 12.E-F as presented. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Joey Crum, second by Scott Jepsen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

MOTION #2*

"The Board of Regents approves consent agenda item 12.D.2 as presented. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

Motion by Joey Crum, second by Scott Jepsen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Abstain: Karen Perdue

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

* This item was removed from the primary motion due to a declared conflict of interest by Regent Perdue; she abstained from voting on this item.

B. Academic & Student Affairs Committee - Items from May 21, 2025

PASSED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

"The Board of Regents Board of Regents approve the BS in Project Management at the University of Alaska Anchorage. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

(video timestamp 01:14:46)

C. Audit and Finance Committee - Items from May 21, 2025

PASSED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

"The Board of Regents approves revisions to Regents' policies 05.01. Budget Development and Maintenance; 05.02. Accounting and Fiscal Reporting; and 05.15 Auxiliary Service Enterprises, Recharge Centers, and Self-Funded Activities as presented. This motion is effective May 21, 2025."

These revisions add language regarding the use of fund balance, adds a new section regarding BOR approval of the use of fund balance, and renames to unrestricted fund balance.

(video timestamp 01:16:18)

D. Facilities and Land Management Committee - Items from May 21, 2025

PASSED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Revisions to Regents' Policy 02.07

"The Board of Regents approves revisions to Regents' Policy 02.07. Information and Technology Resources as presented. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

These revisions update the chapter title and text throughout to "Information and Technology Resources" (previously "Information Resources"), updates definitions, revises/consolidates subclauses, adds language regarding user conduct standards and adds a subclause regarding consequences of violating user conduct standards.

PASSED VIA CONSENT AGENDA MOTION #2

2. Approval of UAF University Park Childcare Facility SDA and Construction

"The Board of Regents approves the schematic design approval request for the University of Alaska Fairbanks University Park Childcare Facility 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 \$10,000,000. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

(video timestamp 01:17:29)

E. Approval of Minutes - February 20-21, 2025 Regular Meeting

PASSED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

"The Board of Regents approves the minutes of its February 20-21 regular meeting as presented. This motion is effective May 22, 2025."

F. Approval of Minutes - March 21, 2025 Special Meeting

PASSED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

The Board of Regents approves the minutes of its March 21 special meeting as presented. This motion is effective May 22, 2025.

13. Committee Reports and New Business

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

PASSED

"The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Regents approve the BS in Project Management at the University of Alaska Anchorage. This motion is effective May 21, 2025."

OTHER DISCUSSION

The committee also received updates on APS rollout (with ACPE), the federal accreditation environment (with NWCCU), efforts related to the Student Attainment Framework and reviewed the proposed revisions to Regents' Policy P02.05.500 - Community Campus Directors Council.

B. Ad Hoc Committee for Recruitment, Retention, and Graduation

The Ad Hoc Committee had no updates; their action items were incorporated into the budget approvals.

C. Audit and Finance Committee

PASSED

"The Audit and Finance Committee approves the annual audit and compliance plan for FY26 as presented. This motion is effective May 21, 2025."

"The Audit and Finance Committee recommends that Board of Regents approves revisions to Regents' policies 05.01. Budget Development and Maintenance; 05.02. Accounting and Fiscal Reporting; and 05.15 Auxiliary Service Enterprises, Recharge Centers, and Self-Funded Activities as presented. This motion is effective May 21, 2025."

OTHER DISCUSSION

The committee heard the three-year financial outlook, received an update from the external auditor and reviewed the audit and compliance status report. A recommendation on FY26 use of fund balance and presentations on the operating pool and asset spending study and on student financial aid were postponed to future meetings due to time constraints.

D. Facilities and Land Management Committee

PASSED

"The Facilities and Land Management Committee recommends that the Board of Regents approve revisions to Regents' Policy 02.07. Information and Technology Resources as presented. This motion is effective May 21, 2025."

"The Facilities and Land Management Committee recommends that the Board of Regents approves the schematic design approval request for the University of Alaska Fairbanks University Park Childcare Facility 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 \$10,000,000. This motion is effective May 21, 2025."

TABLED

"The Facilities and Land Management Committee recommends that the Board of Regents grant authorization to the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) to sign and execute the MOU, as presented, between UAA and the Seawolf Hockey Alliance (SHA) to facilitate the development of formal agreements between the parties to pursue construction of a Division 1 competitive community ice complex on the Anchorage Campus (the "project"). This motion does not grant approval for a ground lease of land or overall project approval – any such actions will be subject to future Board approval. This motion is effective May 21, 2025."

OTHER DISCUSSION

The committee received updates on land acquisitions and potential disbursements.

E. Approval of Appointments to the Sydney Chapman Chair in Physical Sciences

POLICY CITATION

Regents' Policy 10.09.01.E states, "Appointments to this chair will be approved in advance by the board following nomination and screening procedures by the faculty of physical sciences."

MOTION

"The Board of Regents approves the appointments to fill the Sydney Chapman Chair in Physical Sciences as presented for a three-year term, with approval to renew the term without further Board of Regents' approval and authorizes UAF leadership to announce the selections at a time of their choosing. This motion is effective May 21, 2025."

Motion by Joey Crum, second by Scott Jepsen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Seth Church, Stephen Colligan, Joey Crum, Paula Harrison, Scott Jepsen, Dennis L Michel, Karen Perdue, Christine Resler, Ralph Seekins, Albiona Selimi

Not Present at Vote: Dale G Anderson

(video timestamp 01:18:41)

14. Future Discussion & Closing Comments

A. Future Agenda Items

No items were suggested for future meetings.

B. Regents' Closing Comments

Regents provided closing comments thanking participants for the engaging presentations and conversations, increased awareness of the financial landscape, and celebrating momentum on the Student Attainment Framework. To close her last meeting, Regent Selimi asked the board to work to rebuild trust that was shaken by the process around the February DEI motion and thanked regents for supporting her in her work as student regent.

Faculty Alliance Chair Cason provided remarks on behalf of student governance lead Tina Hamlin (who had to leave early for her flight to Kenai). Hamlin encouraged more opportunities for open forum and engagement between students and the board. Staff Alliance Chair Cranford enjoyed the time to visit with regents at the showcase. (video timestamp 01:23:18)

15. Adjourn

Chair Seekins adjourned the meeting on Thursday, May 22 at 4:25 p.m.

18. Public Testimony from May 19, 2025

1. Emily Cohen, Anchorage - UAA grad student, calling attention to administrative fees for AGWA and the high percentage of their dues going to admin fees.
2. Garret Savory, Fairbanks - UAF grad student, also calling attention to fees
3. Celine Smith - AGWA member, also calling attention to fees
4. Rachel Rombardo, Fairbanks - AGWA member, also calling attention to fees
5. Lily Norwood, Fairbanks - AGWA member, also calling attention to fees
6. Elizabeth Whitney, Fairbanks - UAF graduate student, also calling about fees
7. Nawal O'Keese, Fairbanks - AGWA member, also calling about fees, unusually high fees appear unique to grad students
8. Amanda McPherson, Fairbanks - AGWA member, wonders why AGWA doesn't have same fees as other unions at UA; expressed disappointment on response to DEI executive order, wonders how university will respond to other EOs that aren't law, and how the university will support populations like trans students and veterans
9. Amelia McCarthy, Fairbanks - AGWA member, also calling about fees, hard for students to feel heard and respected when the administrative fees are so much higher than other unions; concerns about DEI and protecting vulnerable populations
[President Pitney noted that the issue is working through the grievance process with AGWA]
10. Nora McIntyre, Fairbanks - UAF graduate student, expressing concern about DEI motion, feels contrary to the UAF 'you are welcome here' signage; concerned about cut in hours for UAF CLA TA-ships (20 hours down to 15 hours) due to budget cuts; many of the CLA TAs teach mandatory courses (for example, writing courses)
11. Kathie Bethard, Anchorage - current president of Seawolf Hockey alliance, wants to express support for SHA-UAA MOU for a new hockey arena, vital to both UAA programs and for community events, vision for premier campus facility for ice sports, they are ready to get to work

12. Tim Hinterberger, Anchorage - WWAMI professor, concern about DEI motion and impacts on academic freedom. It's not possible to educate doctors to today's standards without talking about diversity; DEI is a key learning outcome for students understanding that unconscious bias exists and needs to be addressed in treatments of health/disease
13. Chris King, Anchorage - member of the Seawolf Hockey Alliance, strong support for the MOU/partnership for a new ice arena to move the project forward
14. Abel Bult-Ito, Fairbanks - professor of neurobiology, 20+ years at UAF, calling to oppose DEI motion, concerned about the white privilege in the motion from a board of primarily white men, also disappointed in the women that voted for the motion
15. Claudia Ihl, Nome - professor of biology, concerned about the willingness to comply with the federal DEI EO, it impacts all the programs at the Nome campus; faculty and students are feeling threatened by this administration, UA needs to stand up as Harvard did
16. Linnell Bush, Anchorage - works with Yupik students from rural Alaska, they serve students from Aleknagik, Emmonak, Grayling, Kotlik and others; wants to get NSS reinstated, some of the students they work with have never left their home villages, NSS is key to helping them acclimate

[President Pitney noted that met with ANCSA CEOs last week with an update, goal of the reorganization was to make it more accessible to more rural and indigenous students, program remains to provide that place of welcoming for Alaska Native students]

17. Rachel Blume, Fairbanks - worked in finance and petrochemicals, has her first masters from UAF, asking to protect CLA. Can't have successful scientists/engineers without foundational teaching housed in CLA. Referenced alumni who have received awards and are published in national outlets. Cited gutting of departments nationally. Need full-time faculty if we want to grow PhDs in humanities for R1. Cited costs of living increasing while salaries are decreasing, concerned about UAF retaining competitiveness in market
18. Jenny Poon, Anchorage - assistant professor, 2 years at UAA, concerned about BOR DEI motion. One example of impact on her work: had grant from NIMH on indigenous suicide that was due to be funded in January, canceled due to DEI EO. Funding would have supported her salary for five years and funding for students. Just because the study is focused on a specific population does not make it inherently discriminatory. She's working for free since the grant included her summer salary.
19. Kas Nicely, Fairbanks - UAF postdoc, UAF PhD; asking regents to resign for their compliance in advance with the DEI EO, motion shows true colors for UA leadership, makes it hard for student recruitment; student health insurance and low pay already makes it hard to reach R1
20. Melanie Arthur, Fairbanks - former UAF faculty member (sociology), parent of co-enrolled HS student, UNAC CBA administrator; AGWA has language on fees that UNAC contract doesn't have, AGWA deducts 1.44% of salary, UA takes .3%. AGWA did not receive back dues b/c they didn't want that impact on the members' take home, believes that President Pitney's summary was inaccurate
21. Walter Almon, Texas - UAA alum, formerly of Anchorage, calling in support of BS project management at UAA, sees value in the training in industry in Alaska