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**MEMORANDUM**

Date: March 8, 2012

To: UA Board of Regents, Academic and Student Affairs Committee

From: Richard A. Caulfield, PhD, Provost, University of Alaska Southeast  
 John Blanchard, Interim Dean for the UAS School of Management (SOM) 

Cc: Chancellor John Pugh   
 Faculty Senate President Dan Monteith

Subject: Proposed Deletion of UAS Bachelor of Science in Information Systems (BSIS)

The University of Alaska Southeast, with approval from President Gamble, requests that the Board of Regents take action in its April 2012 meeting to delete the Bachelor of Science in Information Systems (BSIS) at UAS. We request this action in compliance with Board of Regents Policy 10.04.020, "Degree and Certificate Program Approval" which states that "all program additions, deletions, major revisions, or the offering of existing programs outside the State of Alaska, requires approval by the board."

During AY 2006-07, the UAS School of Management's Business and Public Administration Department completed a thorough Program Review of its BSIS degree program. The review was conducted in accordance with Regents' Policy P10.06.010 (Academic Program Review).

The Review showed that the BSIS degree had steadily declining enrollment. At the same time, students had a growing number of lower division course and program options, including those available online through other units of the UA system. The Review also revealed an enrollment trend in which students increasingly focused on attaining specific skills and/or certification desired by the industry/employers rather than on a degree program. Course demand was concentrated instead in lower-division technical skill-building which added value to the individual's portfolio. These data led to shift in focus from a baccalaureate program toward a skills-oriented array of computer training courses. These findings aligned with Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development data showing that while higher computer systems analysts and other more sophisticated computing occupations remain important to Alaska's economy, the demand for "computer operators" is expected to decline in coming years (Alaska *TRENDS*, September 2012: 15)

Further, the Review confirmed that many BSIS students were taking jobs before completing their degree, suggesting that industry needs employees with basic skills but not necessarily a degree. This reality, along with continuing demand for lower division courses in basic computer skills, did not support continuation of a BSIS degree.

In July 2007, the Dean of Business, Public Administration, and Information Systems recommended that admissions to the BSIS degree be suspended. UAS Provost Roberta Stell concurred, and requested Chancellor Pugh's approval to suspend BSIS program admissions, to "teach out" those students still enrolled (in compliance with Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities expectations), and to move toward eventual deletion of the program from the official UAS degree offerings. Chancellor Pugh approved Provost Stell's request based upon input from the dean and faculty, and community advisory bodies. Department faculty and staff completed a transition plan to develop individual advising plans for the eighteen students remaining in the program. Remaining students have now completed their degrees and no students are now enrolled in the BCIS.