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*Many Traditions One Alaska*

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 4, 2012

TO: Board of Regents  
Coalition of Student Leaders  
System Governance Council

FROM: Pat Gamble, President

RE: Scheduled Tuition Adjustment Notice AY2015

A year ago, in light of vary shaky economic indicators, I offered an investment analogy in which risk adverse investors shorten their forecasting period so as to minimize the probability of error. As with last year, the economic uncertainties in Alaska and the nation give rise to a desire to likewise proceed with caution when locking in large financial commitments like tuition rates. Thus, I am proposing a repeat of our FY14 strategy for AY2015.

The Advisory Task Force on Tuition has been meeting for over a year--wrestling with contradictory articles, financial and economic data, and widely diverse perspectives given to them regarding tuition at UA. For example, from the community campus perspective a differential in which lower division tuition is raised at a lower rate than upper division tuition is strongly supported. On the other hand, some on the task force are concerned that higher increases to the upper division rate could be a factor in why some students do not complete their degrees. Others have voiced support for setting the rate well in advance to provide students, families and the university budget office with a more "locked in" figure that can be used for planning, even if the rate turns out to be materially off the mark later and has to be adjusted up or down.

I applaud the efforts of the Advisory Task Force. This is a vexing problem of the first order and I continue to look forward to their counsel on this and other cost related topics.

From my own perspective, I am trying to derive alternative ways that we might cover our growing costs. How might we generate greater revenues? Where might we reallocate resources? Are there significant operating cost reductions we might affect? In an effort

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to lessen our dependence on raising tuition we are overwhelmingly offset in the calculus annually by most pay wages/benefit obligations and a flat or even diminishing state contribution to the same.

Allow me to recap our intentions for both AY14 and AY15:

For AY14 (fall 2013, spring 2014) I will announce a proposed tuition rate no later than September 2012. If by late spring the budget and economic outlook is sufficiently clear this announcement can be moved up to June 2012. Tuition proposals will come before the Board of Regents for approval.

Similarly, for AY15 (fall 2014, spring 2015) I propose to present a rate of tuition for board consideration no later than September 2013.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Case', with a large, sweeping flourish above the letters.

PKG

cc: Tom Case, UAA Chancellor  
John Pugh, UAS Chancellor  
Brian Rogers, UAF Chancellor  
System Governance Office