



## RESOLUTION AY2020-01

### To recommend that the Board of Regents Postpone Any Increase in Student Tuition Until Fiscal Year 2022

- Whereas,** University of Alaska (UA) President James Johnsen has developed a tuition proposal that, if adopted by the UA Board of Regents, will increase resident undergraduate tuition in both lower and upper-division rates by 5% in FY 2021 (\$23 per credit hour for lower, and \$27 per credit hour for upper); **and,**
- Whereas,** The proposal further outlines a continuation of a 20% surcharge per credit hour to tuition for lower, upper, and graduate division engineering courses and upper and graduate management courses as well as an assessment of a \$5 per credit Technology fee (up to \$60), \$6 per credit Facilities fee, and a 4% Network fee (applied on a course-by-course basis); **and,**
- Whereas,** The proposal justifies the tuition increase as a way in which to “enable the university to become more market-competitive in relation to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education(WICHE) average for 4-year public universities”; **and,**
- Whereas,** According to the WICHE [Insight report 2018-2019](#), Alaska has the third-largest year-to-year tuition increase of all WICHE states at 4.2%, way above the average increase of 1.6%; **and,**
- Whereas,** The WICHE Insight Report also showed an increased reliance upon tuition increases among colleges and universities in order to accommodate for declining state support; **and,**
- Whereas,** President Johnsen’s original goal was to increase tuition in historically competitive programs with high enrollment counts despite multiple STEM programs being at least 5% cheaper than the national average while recently unaccredited programs such as Early Childhood Education are 17% costlier; **and,**
- Whereas,** UA faculty and students have endured a deep reduction in academic and student affairs services and programs, despite the UA Board of Regents approving a 5% increase in tuition every academic year since 2015, resulting in a total increase in lower and upper-division rates of 25 %; **and,**

- Whereas,** Alaska is ranked last in the nation in low-income college participation with only 10%. Our closest competitor, Oklahoma, sends twice as many low-income students to college than Alaska does; **and,**
- Whereas,** In 2017-18, Alaska is ranked 49th in the country in college participation with 46.4%. Of the 7,796 high school seniors, only 3,617 went to college. 36.4% of the students that went to college chose to leave the state to pursue higher education; **and,**
- Whereas,** President Johnsen's proposal only applies to resident tuition despite [studies](#) indicating that the university's greatest competition is from Alaska students deciding not to pursue a higher education degree or certificate; **and,**
- Whereas,** The proposed budget cuts disproportionately affect those that rely on the lower cost of in-state tuition the most, and the increase in tuition may not offset revenue lost due to decreased enrollment, regardless; **and,**
- Whereas,** A vast majority of those with in-state tuition has also earned and relied on the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS), and have cited this as one of the reasons tuition and fees in Alaska as affordable; **and,**
- Whereas,** The APS was temporarily announced to be unavailable on July 11th, 2019, which caused many students to feel stress towards paying for college in the upcoming semester; **and,**
- Whereas,** This uncertain political climate demonstrated that students at the University of Alaska can no longer rely upon the APS, putting greater importance on the low tuition rates; **and,**
- Whereas,** An increase in tuition would further incentivize Alaska students to not obtain a post-secondary education degree or certificate or postpone plans to do so; **and,**
- Whereas,** The UA leadership has an obligation through NWCCU accreditation standards to involve student input in situations such as tuition increases, information and the reasoning on the proposed tuition increases has not been widely disseminated to the student population; **and,**
- Whereas,** There is little justification for an increase in tuition, especially as students have seen no obvious gain from previous increases, and are tired of bearing the burden of legislative and gubernatorial reductions in University funding; **and now, therefore, let it be,**
- Resolved,** That the UA Board of Regents to postpone any increase in student tuition until FY 2022 to better assess the financial situation of the University, and

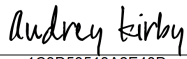
not create another reason for students to turn away from the University of Alaska system; **and,**

**Be it further resolved,** That the UA Board of Regents explores alternative revenue sources to minimize the financial impact of budget reductions on the University of Alaska System student body.

**Statement of Purpose:** To recommend that the Board of Regents postpone any increase in student tuition until FY 2022.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Passed unanimously by the Coalition of Student Leaders on the 7th day of November 2019.**

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Audrey Kirby, AY20 Coalition Chair