

Board of Regents' Office
Phone: (907) 450-8010
Fax: (907) 450-8012
EMAIL: ua-bor@alaska.edu
www.alaska.edu/bor/



202 Butrovich Building
2025 Yukon Drive
P.O. Box 755300
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5300

MEMORANDUM

TO: Julie A. K. Maier, Ph. D., System Governance Council Chair

FROM: Sheri Buretta, Chair Board of Regents

DATE: March 4, 2022

RE: UA Faculty Alliance support of UA System Governance Council Resolution

The resolution request to postpone the appointment of the university president has been received and reviewed by the Board of Regents.

The Board of Regents appoints the president of the University of Alaska as provided in Article VII, Section 3 of the Alaska Constitution, Alaska Statute 14.40.170(a)(1), and in Regents' Policy 02.01.010.

In June 2020, with the resignation of President Johnsen, the board initiated a process to select an interim president. During the selection process, input was solicited from governance groups and other stakeholders. The board considered all input when it selected Pat Pitney.

The board adheres to the principles of shared governance and regularly engages with governance groups. At each board meeting, governance leaders use the opportunity to inform the board about the overall status of the university and the general performance of the president and her administrative team. Pat Pitney has been the Interim President for the past 18 months, and governance has provided substantial feedback in that time. The board has considered comments from governance over this time, as well as from other stakeholders, about the performance of Interim President Pitney in moving the university forward and are a factor in moving the motion and subsequent appointment forward.

On January 31, 2022, when the board confirmed the February 24-25, 2022 agenda topics, I sent a letter to the chairs of the Coalition of Student Leaders, Faculty Alliance, and Staff Alliance noting a motion to consider appointing Pat Pitney as the University President, effectively removing "Interim" from her title would appear on the agenda and requested feedback from each of the governance groups. Governance effectively had 25 days to provide written comments and input on the proposed board action. Moreover, the board provided two opportunities for governance to provide substantive input – at the Special Governance Committee meeting on February 18, 2022, and at the Full Board meeting on February 24-25, 2022.

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Through the resolutions from student, faculty, and staff governance groups and discussions at the Board of Regents' Governance Committee meeting on February 18, 2022, and at the Full Board meeting on February 25, the board heard feedback on the process. The board heard very little substantive input on the proposed appointment and considered the feedback that was received.

I acknowledge the process for selecting a permanent president changed from what I communicated over a year ago when the regents conducted the search process for and selected an interim president. Our global and statewide circumstances have changed dramatically since that time and led in the decision to make the recommendation for this appointment.

In the face of Alaska's unprecedented financial and educational challenges, I appreciate the work you and your colleagues are doing on behalf of the university.

I recognize that we will not agree on everything. There is a clear difference of opinion about what opportunities for input amount to meaningful input in the shared governance of the university. Because of the comments from governance about this process, I am tasking President Pitney to reach out to all of you to discuss the boundaries and expectations of shared governance so that we all may have clearer expectations.

Thank you for your commitment to the University of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Sheri Buretta, Chair
Board of Regents

cc: Board of Regents
Pat Pitney, President, University of Alaska