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Date November 15, 2022

To Gokhan Karahan, Chair, Faculty Alliance

From Pat Pitney, President 

CC Sean Parnell, UAA Chancellor
Daniel White, UAF Chancellor
Karen Carey, UAS Chancellor
Paul Layer, Vice President for Academics, Students and Research
Michelle Rizk, Vice President for University Relations

Re Faculty Alliance RFI re Analysis of Program Eliminations

Thank you for the Faculty Alliance memo dated August 26 regarding the analysis of program eliminations for AY18-22. The request had three components:

1. A breakdown of the race and gender of students affected by the 2020 program eliminations.

Those breakdowns are attached for UAA and UAF; UAS did not have any students impacted by program eliminations.

2. A calculation of the savings from those program cuts.

Potential savings were included in the Board's analysis at the time the decision was made to eliminate the programs. In addition, the savings have not been fully realized yet as some programs are still in teach-out. The analysis that was conducted before the program eliminations serves as a reasonable proxy for the overall impact.

3. An accounting for losses related to the program eliminations, including tuition revenue, decreases in enrollment and the loss of public confidence.

These program elimination decisions followed exhaustive process with faculty input and factored in considerable analysis, including enrollment projections for those programs, related tuition revenues and the programs' long-term sustainability. The administration and the board both appreciate the impact that program eliminations have on students, on faculty and on overall morale, as well as on public perception of the university. However, an attempt to quantify the less tangible losses after the program eliminations would be labor intensive and this analysis would not change the outcome. The analysis that was conducted before the board decision on program eliminations again serves as a reasonable proxy.

I would also note that any potential revenue losses due to program elimination have been compounded by the 2019 compact, uncertainty created by the potential of the "one UA" consolidation, ongoing enrollment declines at each university since 2012 and national trends of a decreasing participation in higher education.