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UA System Governance Council

Resolution #2022-01

Governance Groups' Input in UA Presidential Appointment

WHEREAS: Pursuant to the Board of Regents Policy P03.01.010. Section A: “The opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to participate in the governance of the university is important to its effective operation. The board intends that faculty, staff and student participation in university governance be an integral part of the university community's culture”; and,

WHEREAS: Pursuant to the Board of Regents Policy P03.01.010. Section D, Clauses 1 & 2: “Governance organizations shall carry out their functions subject to the authority of the board and the president and chancellors. The organizations' purposes are to: 1. provide an effective opportunity for university faculty, staff, and students to play a meaningful role in matters affecting their welfare; 2. represent the viewpoints of university faculty, staff and students on regents' policy, university regulation, and other matters affecting the interests of the university”; and,

WHEREAS: Pursuant to Article 1 of the System Governance Council Constitution: “[It] is the intent of the University of Alaska Board of Regents: 1) that the faculty, staff and students shall share in the governance of the university, 2) that shared governance is an integral part of the business of the university, and 3) that participators in shared governance are empowered by the UA Board of Regents to carry out their governance responsibilities to the best of their abilities without interference or fear of reprisal”; and,

WHEREAS: On June 22, 2020, the Board of Regents announced, through email, that, “[the] Board will appoint an interim president after consulting with the chancellors, governance leaders and other UA stakeholders. The board expects that appointment to occur no later than July 15, and will commence a formal search for UA's next president later this year”; and,

WHEREAS: On July 14, 2020, the Board of Regents announced, through email, that after consulting with Chancellors, Governance Leaders, and UA Stakeholders, that they unanimously selected Pat Pitney to serve on an interim basis and that, “Pat will serve as interim president for a minimum of one year but has agreed to continue on for up to 18 months or until the Board of Regents appoints the next university president, whichever comes first”; and,

WHEREAS: On January 20, 2021, the Board of Regents announced, through email, that the Board at its January 15th meeting decided to, “[postpone] the search for the next president until spring 2022 and extend President Pat Pitney's contract until the next president is named”; and,

WHEREAS: On January 31st, 2022, the Board of Regents announced, through email, their

intention to appoint Interim President Pat Pitney to serve as the permanent president for the University of Alaska, without consultation with the Governance Groups in the UA System; and,

WHEREAS: Through the email communications that the Board of Regents has provided to the UA Community, it is clear that the intention of the Board was to conduct a presidential search in Spring of 2022 and that this was the understanding of Governance Groups and members of the UA Community; and,

WHEREAS: Historically, the Board of Regents has embraced the participation of Governance Groups and UA Stakeholders when making decisions concerning the UA President and leadership within the UA System; and,

WHEREAS: Input from Governance Groups should be included in this decision-making process and the University of Alaska System should adhere to the same standards and processes when evaluating and hiring individuals in any position, but more importantly in senior leadership positions; and,

WHEREAS: The System Governance Council believes that the inclusion of Governance Groups, UA stakeholders, and other members of the UA Community is fundamental for a prosperous University System and is vital for healthy relationships among all parties of the UA System.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

The System Governance Council calls upon the Board of Regents to honor their commitment to shared governance.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED:

The System Governance Council requests that the Board of Regents stop the direct appointment of the interim president to the permanent UA president position.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED:

The System Governance Council calls upon the Board of Regents to engage with staff, faculty, students, and alumni to determine the next steps in identifying the next permanent UA president.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED:

The System Governance Council shall send a copy of this resolution to the Chair Sheri Buretta, the Board of Regents, President Pat Pitney, Chancellor Sean Parnell, Chancellor Dan White, Chancellor Karen Carey, members of the respective Chancellors' Cabinets, the Coalition of Student Leaders, the Staff Alliance, and the Faculty Alliance.

Adopted by the System Governance Council this ELEVENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.

By a vote of: Aye 7, Nay 0, Abstain 0.



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