Coalition of Student Leaders
RESOLUTION AY2019-06

To compel Governor Dunleavy to adequately research the impacts of the proposed budget and be more transparent about the consequences it would have on the University of Alaska and the State of Alaska.

Whereas, Alaska Governor Michael J. Dunleavy sent a letter to the University of Alaska Community via the University of Alaska President Jim Johnsen on March 4, 2019; and

Whereas, Governor Dunleavy stated his proposed budget is only cutting 17 percent of the University of Alaska’s budget from the previous year instead of the reported 41 percent; and

Whereas, The information provided in Governor Dunleavy’s letter regarding university budget cut percentages was relayed in a misleading way; and

Whereas, The language in Governor Dunleavy’s letter minimized the true fiscal impact of the proposed budget cut; and

Whereas, $134 million is 41 percent of the state appropriation; and

Whereas, $134 million is 17 percent of the University of Alaska’s total budget; and

Whereas, The University of Alaska Fairbanks receives $164 million in Unrestricted General Funds; and

Whereas, The University of Alaska Anchorage receives $120 million in Unrestricted General Funds; and

Whereas, The University of Alaska Southeast receives $25 million in Unrestricted General Funds; and

Whereas, All University of Alaska community campuses combined receive $38 million in Unrestricted General Funds; and

Whereas, With a budget cut of this magnitude, the University of Alaska would be forced to cut academic programs and lay off staff and faculty; and
Whereas, Students, staff, and faculty would leave the university due to the uncertainty of its future; and

Whereas, This proposed budget would result in a low-quality education system and would increase the state unemployment rate; and

Whereas, The University of Alaska provides employment for thousands of people; and

Whereas, Local businesses depend on students, staff, and faculty from the University; and

Whereas, The University of Alaska benefits the Alaskan economy; and

Whereas, Governor Dunleavy’s letter did not provide reassurance to the Alaskan community; and now therefore let it be:

Resolved, That the Coalition of Student Leaders compel Governor Dunleavy adequately to research the impacts of the proposed budget and be transparent about the consequences it would have on the University of Alaska and the State of Alaska; and

Be it Further Resolved, The Coalition of Student Leaders expresses its full support for President Johnsen’s response to Governor Dunleavy’s letter released on March 6, 2019; and

Be it Further Resolved, That the Coalition of Student Leaders objects to the misleading information in Governor Dunleavy’s letter; and

Be it Further Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution (Resolution AY19-06) be sent to Governor Dunleavy.

Statement of Purpose: To compel Governor Dunleavy to adequately research the impacts of the proposed budget and be transparent about the consequences it would have on the University of Alaska and the State of Alaska.

This resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0 on the 17th of March 2019.

Nick Bursell, Chair, Coalition of Student Leaders

March 23, 2019