



Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage

Resolution #20-05: Vote of No Confidence in UA President Johnsen

SPONSORED BY: Student and Academic Affairs Committee

WRITTEN BY: Rose Kruger, *Sergeant at Arms*
Alex Jorgensen, *Speaker of the Assembly*

ENDORSED BY: Jamie Bagley, *Vice President*

DATE: October 25th, 2019

WHEREAS: On September 24th, 2019 the University of Alaska (UA) community became aware of a series of coercive and intimidating [letters](#) that UA President Jim Johnsen sent to the chancellors of UAA, UAF, and UAS as well as other documented examples of the president excluding the chancellors from other important decision making moments that as chief executive officers they should be involved in; and,

WHEREAS: The oppression of regional leadership in combination with outcries from students, faculty, and staff caused the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) to send a [letter](#) to the UA Board of Regents noting lack of compliance with [Accreditation Standards 2.A.1 and 2.A.2](#); and,

WHEREAS: President Johnsen's leadership has consistently been called into question during his entire tenure as president; receiving a vote of no confidence from the [UAA](#) and [UAF](#) Faculty Senates and a letter of concern from the [UAS](#) Faculty Senate in 2017 over the deeply flawed Strategic Pathways process followed by a reconfirmation of vote of no confidence by the [UAA](#) Faculty Senate and a vote of no confidence by the KPC Faculty Senate; and,

WHEREAS: President Johnsen advocated against regional leadership during the strategic pathways process to consolidate the teacher education programs and was ineffective at leading university leaders forward once the decision had been made, the exact same process occurred in 2019 when the UAA School of Education lost its CAEP accreditation. He was unable to lead the university system forward after the Board of Regents voted 6-5 to not reapply for programmatic accreditation, demonstrating his continued inability to unify stakeholders in the wake of unpopular decisions; and,

WHEREAS: All of these decisions show a general trend of disregard for the wants and needs of the individual campuses in favor of President Johnsen's plans and display the

President's lack of willingness to participate in open dialogue with students, staff, faculty, and shared governance groups; and,

WHEREAS: President Johnsen has long touted his dedication to including students, staff, and faculty in decision making processes (as observed in the following messages sent to the UA community, [One](#), [Two](#), [Three](#), [Four](#), [Five](#), [Six](#), [Seven](#), [Eight](#), [Nine](#),) And yet he has actively ignored and failed to respond to the following outreaches from governance leaders during the strategic pathways process:

- UAF:
 - 4/2016
- UAA:
 - [2/2016](#)
 - [11/2016](#)
 - [11/2016](#)
 - [1/2017](#)
- UAS:
 - [3/2016](#)
 - [9/2016](#)
 - [11/2016](#)
 - [12/2016](#)
- Faculty Alliance
 - [Memo 9/2016](#)
 - [Resolution 2017-02](#)
 - [Resolution 2017-03](#); and,

WHEREAS: President Johnsen has continued to not respond to official memos and resolutions from shared governance groups during the current restructuring process, noting the shared letter from [Student Governance](#) groups requesting the data from the UA Board of Regents Stakeholder Survey, the [ASUAF Request for Answers to Questions From Students](#) and multiple formal communications from Faculty Alliance; and,

WHEREAS: Leadership from President Johnsen and the pursuit of Strategic Pathways and single accreditation have left UAA students, faculty, and staff feeling that narrow interests and short-term political considerations are above the needs of UAA as an institution; and,

WHEREAS: President Johnsen has lost credibility and confidence with students, faculty, and staff, evident in multiple internal stakeholder surveys, compromising his effectiveness as the leader of our university system;

- 88 percent of [UAA Faculty Respondents](#), 74 percent of [UAA Staff Respondents](#) and 58 percent of [UAA Student Respondents](#) had “little” to “none at all” confidence in the Leadership of President Johnsen; and,

WHEREAS: Apologizing for being in “[crisis mode](#)” does not resolve the harm President Johnsen's leadership has cast on our university system; and,

WHEREAS: The events outlined above has tarnished the reputation of the University of Alaska system of being a premier institution of higher education for all Alaskans; and,

WHEREAS: The lack of leadership from President Johnsen has fostered an environment of uncertainty amongst UAA Faculty, resulting in low morale and teacher retention rates, ultimately affecting the quality of education across all universities; and,

WHEREAS: In the trying times that lie ahead, the University of Alaska requires a leader that has the support of institutional stakeholders and one that is able to lead the university using principles of shared governance, even during times of crisis.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED

That the Union of Students at the University of Alaska Anchorage has no confidence in President Jim Johnsen’s leadership and firmly believe his vision for the university system is not in the best interest of the student body we were duly elected to represent and protect; and,


THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That the Union of Students at the University of Alaska Anchorage urges the Board of Regents to remove Jim Johnsen from his role as President of the University of Alaska System; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That the Union of Students at the University of Alaska Anchorage calls upon the UA Board of Regents to seek a leader who commands the confidence of regional stakeholders and can lead our university system to a prosperous future.

PASSED BY A 10-0-0 VOTE OF THE USUAA ASSEMBLY



Clare Baldwin, *Student Body President*

Approved Vetoed

October 30, 2019

Date