



For the third year in a row, Governor Tony Knowles is asking the Legislature to fund a \$17 million increase to the University of Alaska's operating budget request for FY03.

"No institution in Alaska is more important in advancing economic development, which ensures Alaskans can prosper and work in good jobs, than the University of Alaska," Knowles said. "A \$17 million investment in the coming year will allow UA to finance new initiatives which continue vitalizing the university. I didn't say 're-vitalize' because our state university is already a vibrant place. There's a buzz about the 'U' and it's a good one."

The proposed increases would move the state's general fund investment in the university from \$203 million to \$221 million. The university would generate more than \$400 million from other sources for a total operating budget statewide of \$621.6 million. From the proposed \$17 million increase, the university estimates it could raise another \$50 million in grants and other funding over FY02.

"The entire university community thanks Gov. Knowles for his commitment to Alaska's university and for his leadership in helping convince the Legislature to invest in this job-creating institution," said University President Mark R. Hamilton.

Chancy Croft, a former state legislator who was named to the Board of Regents in 1995 by Gov. Knowles, has been elected chair of the board. He succeeds Michael Burns who served as chair for three one-year terms.

Elsa Froehlich Demeksa was re-elected as vice-chair, and Fran Rose and Brian Rogers were re-elected as secretary and treasurer respectively.

The December meeting of the board got off to a good start when BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc., and Phillips Petroleum Co., presented the University of Alaska Foundation with checks totaling \$4,030,728, the second contribution under the terms of the companies' charter agreement with the State of Alaska.

Kevin Meyers, president of Phillips Alaska, Inc., and Chris Phillips, vice president, Operations Integrity for BP in Alaska, made the presentation to Arliss Sturgulewski, Trustee Emeritus of the Foundation.

At the insistence of Gov. Knowles, the charter agreement specifies that 30 percent of the money BP and Phillips set aside each year for community giving will go to the University of Alaska Foundation for use by the university.

Regents gave their unanimous approval to the establishment of the university's first fully funded endowed chair, the Rasmuson Chair of Economics at UAA. The chair is named for Elmer Rasmuson, an Alaska banker and philanthropist who died last year leaving the university a \$5 million bequest to establish the chair. It is the university's first fully endowed chair funded entirely by a private contribution.

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The University of Alaska Board of Regents is the governing body responsible for the university policy and management through the president. Regents are appointed by the governor for eight-year terms, subject to legislative confirmation. A student regent is appointed for two years from candidates nominated on each campus. (Regents' term of office shown in parentheses.)

Future Board Meetings

March 6-8, 2002

Juneau

June 6-7, 2002

Fairbanks

Purpose of the chair is to bring to UAA distinction and leadership in the study of economics and its relevance to Alaska's future. The goals of the chair are to advance teaching of economics in Alaska, to advance economic research on topics of importance to Alaska, and to advance public policy in Alaska through service to the state.

Applicants for the chair will be solicited by an international search, and a search committee selected by UAA Chancellor Lee Gorsuch will review the applications. The term of the endowed chair will be for not less than one year or more than five years.

The regents approved new academic programs at UAA and UAF.

The programs:

- Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in Heavy Duty Transportation at UAA.
- Associate of Applied Science in Logistics Operations at UAA.
- Master of Science in Computational Physics at UAF.
- Ph.D. in Engineering at UAF.

The regents approved establishment of the Center for Nanosensor Technology at UAF. The Defense Microelectronics Activity (DMEA) is currently funded by the federal Department of Defense in the amount of \$1.4 million, which was received in FY01 by the College of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics at UAF. The funding anticipated in federal and private industry funding for the new center is in excess of \$6 million in FY02 and a total of \$25-30 million over the next four years.

Regents also approved the project and schematic design for the UAA Building K Renovation Phase II and III, the UAS/Alaska Army National Guard Joint-Use Recreation Facility, and they approved the expenditure of funds to accelerate planning of the UAF Biological and Computational Science Facility and related West Ridge infrastructure. Capital projects were also approved for the UAF Yukon Flats Training Center expansion,

the UAF Bristol Bay campus addition, the UAF Wood Center Renewal Project Phase I, the UAF Fine Arts Renewal Project Phase I and the UAF/Fairbanks North Star Borough Hutchison Career Center Renovation and Addition Project.

In other action, regents approved a resolution in memory of the late Nancy Gross of Anchorage who started the Adult Literacy Lab at the former Anchorage Community College in the 1960s...Agreed to offer for sale over the counter the Jack Bay property near Valdez. This 942-acre parcel of undeveloped land includes four miles of pristine coastline on the south shore of Jack Bay in Prince William Sound. The property, to be offered at \$1,250,000, is located adjacent to the Chugach National Forest 12 miles southwest of Valdez.

Published after each Board of Regents' meeting by the Office of Public Affairs, 206 Butrovich Building, P.O. Box 755340, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5340. (907) 474-7272, sysserve@alaska.edu. Written by Director of Public Affairs Bob Miller, layout by Adela Batin.

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