



Commonwealth North presented its comprehensive report on the University of Alaska to the university's Board of Regents when it met Dec. 5-6 in Fairbanks.

Jonathan Kumin and Steven Rieger, co-chairs of the study group that met weekly for 26 weeks to prepare the report, and Duane Heyman, executive director of Commonwealth North, presented their findings to the regents.

Key findings of the report Include:

- The underlying role of the University of Alaska is to improve the quality of life for Alaskans by offering educational opportunities for self-fulfillment.

- Learning is the primary purpose of the University of Alaska, supported by research and engaged service. The university system as a whole, and each major campus, must maintain and offer a quality core curriculum in the arts and sciences (frequently called the "liberal arts") that equip a person to think, function and grow into a contributing member of society.

- The University of Alaska needs adequate resources to fulfill its mission. As a minimum it must maintain its level of state support and at the same time generate additional funding from other sources. U of A's level of state general fund appropriations is generally in line with peer institutions. The university must maintain purchasing power through appropriate annual state funding increases while these other sources are developed.

- Each major campus, UAF, UAA and UAS, needs to develop centers of excellence based on its own natural advantages. Each must include research and advanced degrees. Centers of excellence bring vitality, community pride and support, and attract faculty, students and non-state General Fund money.

- The changes recommended in this report should not be left solely to the UA executive administration to implement. The Board of Regents must be actively involved, including establishing and maintaining a results-oriented planning process.

Fairbanks Regent Brian Rogers was elected chair of the board to succeed Chancy Croft. Juneau Regent Elsa Demeksa was reelected as vice chair, and Anchorage Regent Fran Rose was reelected as secretary. Regent Joe Usibelli, Jr., of Healy was elected treasurer.

A Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics Degree program at UAF was approved by the regents. The program is for students wishing to teach Alaska Native languages, world languages or English as a second language.

The regents approved women's swimming and diving as a new intercollegiate sport at UAF; approved women's indoor/outdoor track and field as a new intercollegiate sport at UAA; and approved the change in NCAA level of competition from Division II to Division I for women's gymnastics at UAA.

With an eye to expanding the Kachemak Bay Branch of the Kenai Peninsula College, the regents approved the acquisition of 2.3 acres of land adjacent to the branch campus in Homer. The land, valued at \$485,000, is now occupied by a trailer park for 22 trailers, and the owner of the park has committed to as-

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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.)

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sist the current tenants in moving to new locations. Once the sale is completed, the seller will have 200 days to clear the property. The university is acquiring the property in order to expand the Kachemak Bay Branch and to provide for adequate parking.

UAF's Tanana Valley Campus Space Renovation Project was approved at a cost of \$2 million. The project will enable Tanana Valley Campus to renovate the Old Fairbanks Courthouse and move its programs into it by sometime next summer. Funds for the project are coming from the state as part of the general obligation bond issue that was approved by voters in November. The university acquired the courthouse from the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation last month.

Regents authorized the purchase of an additional 36,000 square feet of space in the University Center in Anchorage primarily for the Community and Technical College at UAA, which purchased 90,000 square feet in the facility this year. The university will purchase the property using assets from the UA Land Grant Trust Fund for the loan. UAA would then have to purchase the property, which is to be utilized for classrooms and to provide space for business partners. If UAA doesn't get the money to purchase the property from a federal grant or from legislative funds

by the end of the 2004 legislative session, the property will be sold.

The pay grid for university student employees was revised because the minimum wage officially increases from \$5.75 to \$7.15 per hour on Jan. 1, 2003. The change to the grid will cost the university about \$32,000 for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Regents honored Fairbanks Regent Joe J. Thomas Thursday night, Dec. 5, at a reception hosted by University President and Mrs. Mark R. Hamilton. Thomas was named to the board along with Croft in 1995 and their terms expire in January. Regent Croft will be honored at a reception to be held in January in Anchorage. Resolutions of appreciation were adopted for both Croft and Thomas.

A highlight of the reception was the presentation of \$3,876,500 to the University of Alaska Foundation by ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc., and BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. It was the third annual contribution to the Foundation under the terms of the companies' charter agreement with the state.

Foundation Trustee Jeff Cook accepted the checks from Kevin Meyers, president of ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc., and Chris Phillips, vice president, Operations In-

tegrity, for BP in Alaska. ConocoPhillips contributed \$2,250,000 and BP contributed \$1,626,500. The latest contributions bring to \$10,444,228 the amount contributed to the UA Foundation over the last three years by the two companies.

Bernice Joseph, executive dean of UAF's College of Rural Alaska, presented her annual report on the college's activities and programs. She was accompanied by members of her college's advisory council and directors of the rural campuses.

Mission Statement:

"The University of Alaska inspires learning, and advances and disseminates knowledge through teaching, research, and public service, emphasizing the North and its diverse peoples."

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