



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA

Many Traditions One Alaska

Regents' Recap

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UA BOARD OF REGENTS' MEETING December 2007

Regents approve Bachelor of Arts in Yup'ik language, culture

Starting in January 2008, students at the University of Alaska will be able to begin earning credits toward a four-year degree in Yup'ik language and culture at the Kuskokwim campus in Bethel.

"In Yup'ik, the program is called Yupiit Nakmiin Qaneryaraat Piciryaraat-Ilu," Oscar Alexie, assistant professor of Yup'ik at the Bethel campus, said Dec. 6, 2007 at the UA Board of Regents' meeting in Anchorage. "That means 'the very own language and culture of the Yup'ik people'."

The board, which met for two days on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus, approved the four-year program. The program will build upon existing certificate and two-year programs in Yup'ik language proficiency and Native language education in Bethel.

The new program is expected to attract up to 15 students initially. It was designed to meet specific local needs expressed by Bethel region schools, communities and students. University officials believe, however, that the program will serve as a model for additional indigenous language programs throughout the state.

Kuskokwim Campus, under the umbrella of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, worked closely with UAF's Alaska Native Language Center to develop the program.

"Part of the focus of the program is improving Yup'ik language instruction in the K-12 school system—that holds strong potential for increasing interest in this baccalaureate degree," said Susan Henrichs, UAF provost.

The new degree program is not expected to cost additional money because

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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.)



In favor - UAF linguistics Professor Patrick Marlow, left, and UAF Provost Susan Henrichs, right, listen as Assistant Professor Oscar Alexie of Kuskokwim Campus, center, explains the benefits of the BA in Yup'ik language and culture. **Photo by UA Staff ©2007 University of Alaska.**



Prime time parking - President Hamilton points to a to-scale model of the UAA parking garage, Integrated Sciences Building and Fine Arts Building while discussing the benefits of the parking garage and loop road with members of the board. Photo by UA Staff ©2007 University of Alaska.

New parking garage

Fine Arts building

Administration building

Integrated Sciences building

Kuskokwim Campus already has two Yup'ik language faculty members who actively teach. However, the classes haven't been packaged into a four-year program in the past. Doing so will allow students who have already completed the certificate or two-year program the option to continue on with their studies.

Alexie and Henrichs spoke in favor of the program, as did Patrick Marlow, an assistant professor of linguistics at UAF's Alaska Native Language Center and the School of Education.



The Fairbanks campus offers four-year degrees in Inupiaq and Yup'ik, but those programs are more focused on grammar, translation and literacy rather than the full immersion program Bethel will offer, which emphasizes speaking the language as well as learning the culture. UAF also offers certificate and two-year degree programs on Native language education with an emphasis in Inupiaq, Athabascan or Central Yup'ik.



The University of Alaska Southeast, headquartered in Juneau, offers courses in Tlingit and Haida language as part of a minor in Alaska Native studies, but does not offer a specific degree in the language itself. UAS also works with local high schools to provide Tlingit language instruction with the hope that students will pursue Tlingit courses later in college.

At the University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Native language courses offer students instruction in Central and Siberian Yup'ik, Tlingit, Inupiaq, and Haida-Eyak. Students may take these courses as part of a minor in Alaska Native studies, to meet general education requirements or for their personal interest, but a bachelor's degree is not available.



The board also tackled numerous other items of business, including:

- Design and cost approval of a new \$17 million parking garage at UAA,

needed for the Integrated Sciences building currently under construction. The project already has \$3.5 million in hand; the additional \$13.5 million would be financed through a revenue bond sale with debt service paid by parking fees. A loop road would be constructed as part of the project, improving traffic flow.

- Payment authorization for an additional \$630,000 required for UAF's Wood Center food court renovation, due to increased costs related to construction.
- Approval of a \$25.8 million bond sale, which would include the UAA parking garage and loop road as well as numerous other projects previously approved and reported.

Cooperative Extension review update

The board also heard an update on the status of an external review of UAF's Cooperative Extension Service. A plan for further action is expected to come to the board in February, after the report is finalized. For more information about the report, go to <http://www.alaska.edu/uaf/ces/csrees/UAFDebriefFINAL.pdf>.

In other business, board members heard a positive report from KPMG, the firm that audits the university's financial statements and records each year. Board members also attended a luncheon with UA alumni from across the system and a reception hosted by UAA Chancellor Fran Ulmer.

Board officers selected

Board members also elected to carry over existing board officers for the coming year. Board Chair Mary K. Hughes of Anchorage will continue for another term; Cynthia Henry of Fairbanks will continue as vice chair; Michael Snowden of Sitka will continue as secretary; and Carl Marrs of Anchorage will continue as treasurer.

Future Board Meetings

February 6-7, 2008
Juneau

April 17-18, 2008
Ketchikan