



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA

Many Traditions One Alaska

Regents' Recap

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UA BOARD OF REGENTS' MEETING June 2006

Construction, biology and engineering programs approved

The University of Alaska Board of Regents recently gathered at Kodiak College for a regular board meeting June 7 & 8, 2006, and approved several new academic programs aimed at meeting state workforce needs. It had been 10 years since the board has met in Kodiak.

The busy agenda included approval of an associate's degree in construction management in Fairbanks, a bachelor of arts in biology in Juneau, and a graduate certificate in port and coastal engineering in Anchorage.

In addition to official business, regents met with members of the college's advisory board during a luncheon. Community

Getting Acquainted with Kodiak



*Connie Dooley, director of Kodiak College, right, discusses the college's mission and programs with members of the UA Board of Regents during its meeting June 7-8, 2006. Left of Dooley is student Debra Corso.
Photo by Kate Ripley©
2006 University of Alaska.*

members--as well as former regents Margaret Hall of Kodiak (1975-1983); Ed Rasmuson of Anchorage (1975 - 1989) and Roy Madsen of Kodiak (1973-74)--also turned out in healthy numbers for an evening reception at the Comfort Inn.

The associate's degree in construction management in Fairbanks, through the Tanana Valley Campus, mirrors a successful program already in operation at UAA. The state has a great need for qualified construction managers, with the construction sector

growing at a rate of 5.5 percent annually. Representatives from the community and industry have been very supportive of a construction management program in Fairbanks, TVC Director Rick Caulfield told the regents.

The bachelor of arts in biology at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau will expand options for biology majors who may not need a bachelor of science degree, but still desire an emphasis in biology for teaching, communications or public sector careers, said UAS Chancellor John Pugh. UAS has nearly 200 biology students and already offers a bachelor of science degree in the program. Offering the BA option will

help retain some students and requires no additional resources, Pugh said.

The graduate certificate in port and coastal engineering at UAA will allow the university to offer a specific credential in a highly specialized area of engineering practice. Courses in this program have been offered on the Anchorage campus for eight years as elective components of a master's in civil or arctic engineering, but this added credential will carry the weight of a formal endorsement, said Mike Driscoll, the new

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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.)

Former Regent Roy Madsen, left, and Regent Jacob Gondek, right.



UAA provost who was just five days into his new job.

The board also approved a certificate in automotive technology at UAF, and a graduate certificate in special education at UAA.

Regent Carl Marrs, left, with former Regent Ed Rasmuson.



statement for UAF: "The University of Alaska Fairbanks, the nation's northernmost Land, Sea and Space Grant university and international research center, advances and disseminates knowledge through teaching, research and

public service with an emphasis on Alaska, the circumpolar North and their diverse peoples. UAF – America's Arctic University – promotes academic excellence, student success and life-long learning." The old mission statement, approved in April 2000, said this: "The University of Alaska Fairbanks, as the nation's northernmost Land, Sea, and Space Grant university and international research center, advances and disseminates knowledge through creative teaching, research, and public service with an emphasis on Alaska, the North, and their diverse peoples."

Former regent Margaret Hall, right, with Evelyn Davidson, basic skills coordinator at Kodiak College.



Positive Momentum

The programs are good examples of the positive direction the university is headed, said Board Chair Mary K. Hughes, of Anchorage. "The university system is working diligently to meet student demands and workforce needs of the state," Hughes said. "Our budget this year, for example, reflects the priority we've placed on preparing Alaskans for new jobs."

UA President Mark Hamilton said the university fared relatively well in the recently concluded legislative session. Most of the budget increase went to cover fixed costs, like retirement and negotiated salaries. Only \$5 million of the increase went to priority programs. He called on members of the board, in particular, to keep the momentum going and the pressure on.

"The next thousand days are a critical time period for the University of Alaska," Hamilton said. "The state is in the process of setting its course for the next 30 years, with the expected gas line. The university must equip Alaskans to take the long-term jobs—the legacy jobs—that will exist far beyond construction."

Integrated Sciences Building

In addition to the academic programs, the regents also approved a new schematic design and total project cost for the Integrated Sciences Building for UAA, at an estimated \$87 million. The project recently received its final chunk of state funding, \$55 million, from the

Legislature.

Cyndi Spear, UAA's associate vice chancellor for facilities and campus services, said plans for the building have gone from a smaller, phased approach to the current proposal to complete the 120,000-square-foot building in a single phase. Spear said parking is included in the current plan, but UAA also is investigating two issues: a reduction of full parking requirements or construction of a nearby parking garage in the future. Board members viewed drawings and a model of the proposed building during Spear's presentation.

Construction on the building is anticipated to start next spring and be finished in time for the fall 2009 semester. The facility will be located northwest of the existing administrative/humanities and fine arts buildings. It will have two dozen labs, two lecture halls, office space, and an atrium for group gatherings. The facility is currently the largest single construction project within the UA system, and is sorely needed.

In other business, the board:

- Approved schematic design and total project cost (\$6 million) for code corrections at UAF's physical plant;
- Approved the following mission

- Approved gift and endowment fees as part of a reorganization of the non-profit University of Alaska Foundation, a separate organization that solicits, manages and raises funds on behalf of UA. The fees are aimed at making the foundation more self-sufficient, following a major structural reorganization that the Board of Trustees, which oversees the foundation, took on this past year. Regents want to review the fees again in December 2006.

- Approved the FY07 operating (\$282 million state general fund) and capital budget (\$109 million state GF) distributions amongst the campuses for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2006.

Future Board Meetings

August 8, 2006
Summer briefing
audioconference

September 21-22, 2006
Anchorage