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President


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MEMORANDUM

Date: February 3, 2017

To: Tom Case, UAA Chancellor
Rick Caulfield, UAS Chancellor
Dana Thomas, UAF Interim Chancellor
Dan White, UA Vice President Academic Affairs & Research (VPAAR)

From: Jim Johnsen, UA President 

Re: Alaska College of Education

Pursuant to the Board of Regents' decision on December 14, 2016, that we will consolidate our three schools of education into one and that administrative leadership for teacher education be provided by UAS, please find here my direction for the first steps in planning how we will implement the Board's decision.

We intend the Alaska College of Education to play a major role in creating a culture of education in Alaska by providing 90 percent of the new teachers hired each year in Alaska, by conducting research to advance educational effectiveness, and by providing outreach and continuing professional development programs. Once established, the main features of the College will include:

- Leadership by UAS, in close collaboration with UAA, UAF, and Statewide;
- Programs (teaching, research, and service) of the highest quality delivered by faculty and staff to students at locations across the state;
- A dean of the College, to be appointed after an open and inclusive search, with a direct reporting line to UAS and an indirect line to the VPAAR;
- A College council, with representation from faculty, staff, and students in the programs across the system that comprise the College; and
- An external advisory council to advise the dean and the faculty of the College.

There are several milestones that I see ahead:

- The first is to establish the process we will work through to develop the implementation plan. This step is to be achieved this Spring 2017.

- The second will be development of an implementation plan, which will be done in consultation with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). Our target date for completion of that step is Summer, 2017.
- Pending approval of the NWCCU, our third goal is to begin phased implementation of the College no later than Fall, 2018.

LEADERSHIP

VPAAR White, as the university's chief academic officer, will provide statewide oversight of the planning and implementation process, to include:

- Coordinating with the Chancellors and Provosts to establish a process for developing the implementation plan and establishing the Steering Committee, a Stakeholder Advisory Group, and specific working teams as described below;
- Ensuring the planning work is within scope and on schedule;
- Identifying necessary resources for implementation planning and management;
- Coordinating with the Statewide Academic Council and the Summit Team; and
- Reporting on progress and seeking needed approvals from the University President and the Board of Regents.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee will be responsible for developing and implementing the Transition Plan, recommending the scope of existing programs to be included in the College, ensuring continuity of current programs through to implementation, engaging consultants and education experts (e.g., Marc Tucker, Linda Darling-Hammond), as needed, consulting with the Stakeholder Group, creating and staffing the Working Groups, coordinating with appropriate governance and accreditation processes, communicating progress, and reporting to VPAAR White.

Members of the Steering Committee are:

- Rick Caulfield, Chancellor, UAS (Chair)
- Sam Gingerich, Provost, UAA
- Susan Henrichs, Provost, UAF
- Steve Atwater, Interim Dean, Education, UAF
- Two education faculty members from each school of education elected by the faculty of each school

EXTERNAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The External Advisory Council will be convened periodically by VPAAR White. It will include representatives of key external stakeholder groups. Its responsibility will be to provide input,

review progress, and offer advice to the Steering Committee, and communicate progress to the stakeholder groups they represent. The members will be selected from key stakeholder groups, such as the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, the State of Alaska Board of Education, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, the Alaska Council of School Administrators, and the Alaska Federation of Natives.

WORKING GROUPS

Working groups will be comprised primarily of faculty members currently in the schools of education at UAA, UAF, and UAS. The working groups, to be established by the Steering Committee, will develop specific plans for the many aspects of the overall implementation plan. It is my expectation that the work of these groups will be phased. The Steering Committee, in its process development, should evaluate the appropriate phasing strategy.

Examples of working groups include the following: student transition (e.g., teach out), college administrative and faculty governance structure, budget and fiscal planning, tenure and human resources, accreditation (CAEP and NWCCU), research, policy, and programs.

NEXT STEPS

- Joint communication to Education faculty/staff: President, Chancellors (February)
- Joint communication to Education students: President, Chancellors (February)
- Schedule first meeting of the Steering Committee: White (February)
- Identification/hiring of project manager: Caulfield (February)
- Communication with NWCCU and CAEP representatives: Provosts (February)
- Face-to-face listening sessions with Education faculty/staff: White, Caulfield with respective Chancellors: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau (February/March)
- Setting tentative date/location: Initial External Advisory Council meeting (March, Anchorage)
- Outreach to confirm External Advisory Council participation (February)
- Develop position description for Dean recruitment: White, Caulfield (February)
- Media updates: White and Caulfield (as needed, first in February)
- Ongoing consultation with governance groups: Steering Committee (throughout)
- Update to BOR: White and Caulfield (March)