

Dear UA Community –

The Board of Regents will meet in Anchorage November 9-10 to take up a range of topics including two major financial discussions – the FY19 university budget and proposed tuition changes for academic years (AY) 2019 and 2020. The budget discussion will establish the framework for our advocacy efforts this legislative session.

The proposed FY19 budget focuses on five strategic university goals:

- Economic development, workforce training, competitive research, educational attainment and cost effectiveness, and the numerous strategies and resources needed to pursue the goals;
- The budget also includes a state unrestricted general fund (UGF) appropriation request of \$341 million and authority to raise an additional \$577 million through tuition, fees, federal grants/contracts, and state pass-through funds; and,
- A \$50 million capital appropriation request to fund deferred maintenance/renewal and repurposing of the university's facilities. UA currently has a maintenance backlog in excess of \$1 billion.

The university's state UGF appropriation has been cut \$61 million, or 16 percent, over the past four years despite fixed cost increases and deferred maintenance needs. The cumulative reduction over that period is \$145 million. Reductions have resulted in significant impacts – UA has 1,183 fewer employees and 50 fewer degree and certificate programs. The largest reductions have occurred within the Statewide administrative units and within administrative and academic leadership positions on each campus.

Tuition:

To continue providing a top-quality education to our students, the board also will consider an increase to tuition. I met with students at all three universities to discuss tuition increases. More than 240 students either attended one of the listening sessions or provided feedback through an online form, and 2,564 people viewed the forums on the university's Facebook page. The tuition rate increase includes:

- A 5 percent per year increase in AY2019 and AY2020;
- A 10 percent tuition increase at Kodiak College and Prince William Sound College in AY2019 and 9.5 percent in AY2020 in order to reach parity with UA's other campuses; and,
- A 25 percent tuition discount for those seeking occupational certificates and endorsements to step up their skills quickly in order to get a job or a promotion.

Tuition directly supports instructional learning. At UAA and UAS, 80 percent of tuition revenue is retained by the college generating the revenue, and 20 percent goes to cover campus-wide needs, such as academic tuition waivers and system computing services. At UAF the percentage split is 60/40. Community and rural campuses across the UA system retain 100 percent of revenue generated by tuition.

In other action, the regents also will hear governance, committee, and government relations reports, updates on Strategic Pathways Phase 3 and Title IX compliance progress. The board also will consider approving FY18 presidential performance compensation criteria and an extension to the president's employment contract.

The meeting will take place in room 107, Lee Gorsuch Commons on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus beginning at 9 a.m both days. The Board of Regents meeting agendas are available online at <http://www.alaska.edu/bor/agendas/> and the meeting will be streamed online during open session at <http://www.alaska.edu/bor/live/>. ***If you are in Anchorage, please join the regents at a public gathering on Thursday, Nov. 9 beginning at 5 p.m. in room 106, Lee Gorsuch Commons.***

Thank you for all that you do for the University of Alaska.

Sincerely,
Jim Johnsen