

January 6, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

In light of our state's very serious fiscal challenges, and the Governor's request that all state-related entities restrict travel and hiring for the foreseeable future, I believe it is appropriate that all non-essential travel and hiring be suspended immediately.

I do not intend to constrain travel or hiring activity if allowed by the terms of a research grant or other restricted program. Nor do I want to curtail travel for fund raising, student recruitment, essential professional development, or gaining new opportunities for research grants and contracts. Opportunities for the professional development of our faculty and staff is critical for our university's quality; this reality was front and center in my mind when considering our approach for the university. As soon as practical, I will remove the restrictions so that travel and hiring can continue to be as strategic as possible.

Henceforth and until further notice, all travel in the U.S. by university faculty and staff at UAA, UAF, and UAS will require approval by the cognizant vice chancellor; all international travel will require the chancellor's approval. Similarly at Statewide, U.S. travel will require approval by a vice president; all international travel will require approval by the president.

Reservations for travel already approved but not completed are subject to this new requirement. Please seek reauthorization immediately; consideration will be based on whether the travel is essential and whether any savings from the cancellation would be realized.

As to hiring, all new hires at the university campuses require approval of the chancellor. At Statewide, approval of the president will be required. It is my intent that we fill only those positions that are essential for the effective operation of the university.

An FAQ is being prepared and will be broadly distributed shortly.

Jim Johnsen