

Pat Pitney  
UA President

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RE: UAF Chancellor Search Process Update: Committee, Timeline, and Position Opening

September 4, 2025

Dear UAF Community,

I'm writing to share an update on the transition planning underway for UAF's next chancellor.

### **Search for Permanent Chancellor**

First, the search committee for UAF's next permanent chancellor has been formed, with members representing a broad array of stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, community campuses, and key community partners. The search committee will be co-chaired by **UAF Faculty Senate President Dr. Leah Berman** and **UAF Board of Advisors and UA Foundation Board of Directors member Jason Gootee**. The committee is charged with publicizing the search, vetting potential candidates, and making recommendations on finalists to me. In addition to the co-chairs, the committee includes:

- **Derek Bastille** - UAF Staff Council President and UAF Staff Member
- **Jackson Nelson** - ASUAF President and UAF Student
- **Dr. Jessica Black** - UAF Associate Vice Chancellor, Rural Community and Native Education
- **Dr. Taryn Lopez** - UAF Research Faculty, Geophysical Institute
- **Dr. Brock Anundson** - Athletics Director, UAF Nanooks
- **Dr. Mark Hermann** - Associate Dean, College of Business and Security Management
- **Haley Hanson** - Director, Kuskokwim Campus, UAF Community Campus
- **Frank Paskvan** - UAF INE Affiliate Professor
- **Togi Letuligasenoa** - President, ORCS Business Unit, Calista Brice
- Two additional committee members will be added in the coming weeks.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Berman, Mr. Gootee, and the entire search committee for stepping up to help us find the next permanent chancellor for Alaska's Arctic University.

### **Search Timeline**

Second, an estimated timeline has been developed below outlining our target dates for key processes throughout this search.

Search Timeline:

- Week of September 1, 2025: Recruitment Launch
- October 20, 2025: Committee Begins Rolling Review to Identify Semi-finalists
- November 2025: Virtual Interviews with Semi-finalists
- December 2025: Finalists Recommended to President Pitney

- January 2026: Finalists Visit Campus for In-Person Meetings
- March 2026: Chancellor Announcement

Look for future updates from the Search Committee Co-Chairs throughout the search process in future editions of *Cornerstone*.

### **Position Formally Opened**

Finally, as of today, the national recruitment process to find UAF's next chancellor is open. The [position profile is available online](#), and qualified applicants may submit their applications at [careers.alaska.edu](https://careers.alaska.edu). A full position profile and description are available online. We are committed to transparency throughout this journey and encourage all members of our community to stay engaged.

Applicants should submit a CV, cover letter, letter of interest, and contact information of three (3) professional references. The Search Committee will begin reviewing applications on a rolling basis on October 20, 2025.

To stay informed about the search process, including finalist information and campus visit schedules, please visit: [alaska.edu/pres/uaf-chancellor](https://alaska.edu/pres/uaf-chancellor).

Thank you for all you do for our university, system, and state.

Sincerely,



Pat Pitney  
President, University of Alaska