



MEMORANDUM: Suspended Enrollment of Programs and Teach Out Plans

To: The Board of Regents and President Johnsen

From: Faculty Alliance

Date: June 10, 2020

The University of Alaska System Faculty Alliance is concerned about two issues that may affect the accreditation of one or more of our three separately accredited universities: one is that admission into the programs that were selected for deletion by the Chancellors of UAA, UAF, and UAS were suspended on or about April 20, 2020, prior to the vote to delete these programs by the full UA Board of Regents (BOR) on June 5, 2020. The other issue of concern is the development of teachout practices by administrators rather than by the faculty that teach the courses, develop the programs, and advise the students in terms of the trajectory of their education and career.

The early suspension of admission into the programs selected for deletion by the Chancellors demonstrates an expectation by the executives of UAA, UAF, and UAS that the BOR would automatically accept the recommendations of the Chancellors without consideration of input from the Faculty Senates, the UA Faculty Alliance, community groups including advisory councils, and the public. In truth, that is what occurred. On June 5, 2020, the BOR voted to delete all of the programs put forward for deletion, with the exception of the MS and PhD in Atmospheric Sciences. This artifact may be due to the fact that the Department of Atmospheric Sciences was named a recipient of a NOAA grant that would bring \$10 Million/year to UAF for up to the next ten years and which has an expectation that UAF will train graduate students to become the next generation of NOAA scientists. The announcement of this new grant occurred after the UAF Chancellor selected the MS and PhD in Atmospheric Sciences for deletion. Even then, the MS and PhD in Atmospheric Sciences remained closed to admittance.

The second issue of concern is the pressure that program faculty and students are receiving from university administrators to have students complete their degree more quickly than is practical. Some administrators, for example, are proposing that students substitute unsuitable courses in place of program courses to more easily complete their program. Additionally, university administrators are selecting staff, rather than program faculty, to serve as lead advisors for programs in teach-out. Both of these practices are a disservice to students.

University administrators and the BOR made the decision to delete healthy-enrolled programs against the advice and consent of faculty governance groups. Nonetheless, there are standards that must be met for teachout plans according to the NWCCU.