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Office of the Chancellor

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 4, 2014

To: Deb Jones, Associate Professor, SNRE
John Monahan, Director, Upward Bound, GS
Allan Morotti, Dean, SOE
Saichi Oba, Associate Vice President, UA
Kris Racina, Associate Vice Chancellor, USA
Marsha Sousa, Director, Honors Program
Victor Zinger, Professor, CRCDC

From: Brian Rogers, Chancellor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Rogers', is written over the printed name.

Re: **K-12 Outreach/Bridging Programs Special Program Review**

Background

UAF offers a variety of programming for Kindergarten-12th Grade (K-12) students spanning intellectual, creative and athletic pursuits: faculty and staff put on lectures and other activities geared to this age group; departments and schools sponsor competitions such as the annual robotics week; formal college preparation programs are offered; dual credit courses are offered in conjunction with some school districts; and several summer camps on different topics are offered.

UAF's K-12 programs have a variety of objectives. Some are designed to engage students in prosocial activities, some are designed to engage both students and their communities in larger social issues, and some are designed to engage students in exploring more challenging academic subjects or advanced education.

UAF's K-12 programs are funded from a variety of sources. Some are funded via federal formula grants, some rely at least partially on philanthropic donations, some rely at least partially on program fees, and some rely at least partially on university general funds.

A few of UAF's larger K-12 programs are:

- Alaska Summer Research Academy (ASRA) – The aim of the programs offered under ASRA is to engage students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Some programming is offered throughout the regular school year, as the program travels to several sites across the state offering Community Science Nights. ASRA is better known however for its summer camp programs for middle and high school students in which students study one subject (module), work in small teams, and participate in project based learning in a college-like environment.

Naturally Inspiring.

- Department of Recreation, Adventure, and Wellness Camps - *Recreation camps* serve children/youth aged 5 years and older in day camp programs that offer both active indoor and outdoor pursuits. The *climbing program* provides instruction for youth 8-18 and introduces them to rock climbing skills, techniques, and movement. The *Nanook Adventure Camp* serves children aged 7-9 with week-long camps on the Fairbanks campus that give each camper experience in climbing, hiking, and canoeing. The *Nanook Expedition Camp* serves youth aged 10-14 with daily expeditions out into natural surroundings in the Fairbanks area.
- Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI) - RAHI provides rural and Alaska Native students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the college experience for six weeks in the summer. High school junior and senior students live in the dorms and take college level courses. They earn 8-10 credits and learn firsthand what it takes to succeed in college. In addition to the rigorous academic program, students learn study and time management skills. The program serves about 50 students annually and is in its 32nd year of operation.
- Upward Bound - program reaches out to students who will be the first in their family to attend college during the school year and through summer programs. The goal is to improve the graduation rates of high school students and increasing the number who enter colleges and universities. This program offers a school year program that works with 10 high schools in Alaska, called “target schools,” and also offers a six-week summer residential program held on the UAF campus. Upward Bound serves 143 low-income potentially first generation college students who demonstrate potential for academic success and whose parents have not earned college degrees; 50 of these students are served through the summer residential program.

Other UAF K-12 outreach/bridging programs include:

- Academic Decathlon Speech Coaching
- Alaska BioPREP
- Alaska Operation Military Kids
- Alaska Statewide High School Science Symposium
- Arctic Innovation Cub Program
- Art in the Public Schools
- COSEE
- Dual credit courses at Lathrop High School and at Effie Kokrine Charter School
- Engineering Week Open House
- FIRST Robotics
- 4-H
- Future Farmers of America
- Girls on Ice
- History Day
- Jazz Fest
- Jovenes Aventureros
- MapTEACH
- Math tutorials
- Oceans Sciences Bowl
- OneTree
- School permafrost monitoring sites
- Science Education Outreach Network (SEON)
- Science Potpourri
- Summer Leadership Institute
- Tech Prep
- UAF New Music Festival
- UAF Summer Music Academy
- UNITE US
- Visual Arts Academy
- We the People

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Many of UAF's K-12 programs were begun years ago, and programs may have been launched independently by one part of UAF without coordination with other parts of the university. UAF does not have an overarching strategy for its K-12 programming nor a consistent method for evaluating outcomes. UAF does not, in fact, even have a centralized inventory of its K-12 programs. As budgets become tighter, funds should be prioritized for the most needed or effective services. For these reasons, I believe a Special Program Review of K-12 Bridging Programs would be helpful for future planning purposes.

Special Program Review Scope

Analysis

- What specific K-12 outreach/bridging activities has UAF supported in recent years (2008-2014)? (You may have to survey UAF's units to identify a current listing programs.) Some components to consider:
 - How many elementary school, middle school and high school students have been served by the various activities?
 - How are the effectiveness of these programs evaluated?
 - Demographically, do students enrolled in UAF sponsored K-12 activities appear to have different characteristics than the UAF student body as a whole?
 - Are we reaching disadvantaged students who need additional exposure to college in order to be likely to apply?
 - Are these programs effective in recruiting academically well-prepared students to UAF?
 - How many program participants eventually matriculate at UAF?
 - Of the students served through UAF K-12 programs who matriculate at UAF, how do their graduation rates compare to students with similar demographics not served through UAF K-12 programs?
 - Do all schools and colleges engage equally with K-12 outreach/bridging activities? How successful are the different schools in their efforts?
 - Are some K-12 programs better utilized than others?
- Consider costs associated with offering K-12 outreach/bridging activities.
 - What are the fees charged and the costs associated with various K-12 activities?
 - Are there ways to streamline the costs of the activities?
 - If programs generate excess revenue, can they be expanded? Does UAF have the capacity in staff and facilities to expand? Is there additional demand for these activities?
 - Are some K-12 outreach/bridging activities undercharging?
 - Are there opportunities for partnering with other entities to support these programs?

Recommendations

- Please identify ways in which K-12 activities may be most likely to increase revenue and decrease costs.
- Please make recommendations regarding adjustments to activities that would result in increased revenue, decrease costs, or both.
- Please address which K-12 programs seem most strategically important to retain.
- Please address whether/how UAF should organize to most effectively manage strategy and investments in this area.
- The K-12 activities review should offer recommendations on other issues you deem important.

Review Committee

I am appointing the following individuals to serve as members of the K-12 Outreach/Bridging Special Program Review Committee:

- Kris Racina, Chair
- Deb Jones
- John Monahan
- Allan Morotti
- Saichi Oba
- Marsha Sousa
- Victor Zinger

Process

The goal of this Special Review is to make recommendations regarding changes that could be implemented with the new fiscal year. Because K-12 outreach/bridging programs may need lead time to plan for implementation of changes, recommendations are due from the Special Review Committee to me and Core Cabinet by January 9, 2015.

The Office of Management and Budget and Planning, Analysis and Institutional Research will assist the Committee in identifying sources of data that might be useful in its work. Sylvan Robb, (474-6199, ssrobb@alaska.edu) will serve as an OMB/PAIR point of contact for the K-12 Outreach/Bridging Special Program Review committee. Kari Burrell, UAF's Executive Officer, (474-7489, kari.burrell@alaska.edu) is also available to the Committee as a resource in thinking about goals and approach.

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the K-12 Outreach/Bridging Special Program Review Committee. Your work on this Committee will assist UAF leadership in setting near term priorities for K-12 Outreach/Bridging in this dynamic environment.

Cc: Kari Burrell, Executive Officer
Susan Henrichs, Provost
Mark Myers, Vice Chancellor for Research
Evon Peter, Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community and Native Education
Sylvan Robb, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Management and Budget
Mike Sfraga, Vice Chancellor for University and Student Advancement