

UAF merger plan catches more flak

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Emotional appeals against the proposed merger of Tanana Valley Community College and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks dominated a public hearing at the Noel Wien Public Library Thursday night on the UA restructuring plan.

In three-minute statements, speakers also aired worries over such questions as the transferability of credits and whether courses were being eliminated to save administration jobs.

One of the most frequently voiced concerns was over the ambiguity of the proposal and the difficulty of responding to it without further details.

"We appreciate the fact that great detail is impossible, nevertheless we must have sufficient details to make an accurate assessment of the impact on our constituents in the community," said Charles Lundfelt, TVCC council chairman.

"The people in the university community I have talked to, especially students, are afraid, upset and anxious and I think it is in large part because of the ambiguity that exists," said Thomas Gruenig, an instructor at TVCC.

UA President Donald O'Dowd said the plan was a "conceptual proposal." Once approved by the UA Board of Regents, task forces at individual campuses would implement details of the plan, he said.

The proposal was critized by the AFL-CIO in a letter read by Lennie Arsenault, Alaska AFL-CIO vice-president, as being "excessively vague and inadequate," and, "flawed in its narrow development of conclusions."

The letter, written by Alaska AFL-CIO executive president Mano Frey, rejected in total the proposed restructuring of the university as "not in the best interest of Alaska."

The letter said community colleges should be separate from the university and called for development of "a responsive, cost efficient, comprehensive, statewide community college system."

The university's budget has been reduced over the past two years from a fiscal 1985 authorized budget of \$169.8 million to an adjusted budget of \$143.5 million for fiscal 1987.

O'Dowd announced a restructuring plan in late October that would reduce the university's five major administrative units to three and substitute three accredited institutions for the 14 currently main-

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