

**FACULTY SENATE DISCUSSION**  
*The Status of UAF Community & Technical College*  
April 2, 2012

**Historical Context**

**1974:** Tanana Valley Community College (TVCC) was founded as part of UAF, administered by President Mike Metty.

**1987:** As part of a major reorganization of the university, TVCC became the School of Career and Continuing Education (SCCE), administered by Dean Pat Book.

**1989:** In another restructuring, SCCE became part of the College of Rural Alaska (CRA) and was named the Tanana Valley Campus (TVC). It was administered by Director Ruth Lister who reported to CRA Executive Dean Ralph Gabrieli.

**2004:** In yet another reorganization, the College of Rural Alaska became the College of Rural and Community Development (CRCD). Bernice Joseph, the head of CRCD, became a Vice Chancellor. TVC was administered by Directors Jake Poole (2000-2003) and Rick Caulfield (2003 - 2010).

**Current Status**

In **January 2009**, the TVC faculty, staff, and Community Advisory Council forwarded to the Chancellor a proposal requesting:

1. That the Tanana Valley Campus become a separate college led by a Dean who serves as a member of the Chancellor's Cabinet.

2. That a name change be considered, due to the confusion with the words "Tanana" and "Campus."

Justification was based on the persistent difficulty in melding together two of UAF's three functions, a major world-class university, a community college serving the Fairbanks area, and five rural campuses serving the needs of Alaska Natives and rural Alaskans.<sup>1</sup> This concept is well-stated by the preamble to the 2010 UAF Strategic Plan:

The University of Alaska Fairbanks operates in three clearly distinguishable areas: The Land, Sea and Space Grant institution, a Carnegie-classified, research-intensive university, comprised of colleges, schools and major research institutes based in Fairbanks; the Tanana Valley Campus, a community college that principally serves the Fairbanks North Star Borough; and five community campus located throughout the state, which focus on serving the lifelong educational needs of rural Alaskans.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For example, TVC followed the same schedule of courses as UAF. The five rural campuses had their own schedule. TVC student services were totally aligned with the main UAF campus, while the rural campuses were in several ways different. Several TVC programs were nationally accredited and their courses could be taught only through TVC.

<sup>2</sup> Bristol Bay Campus (Dillingam), Kuskokwim Campus (Bethel), Northwest Campus (Nome), Chukchi Campus (Kotzebue), and Interior Aleutians Campus (administered out of Fairbanks, but including a Nenana Center, a Tok Center, a McGrath Center, and other facilities in several Aleutian-Pribilof Communities, Yukon Flats Communities, and Yukon-Koyukuk Communities).

The strategic plan concludes, "No other single university in the country is as multi-dimensional as UAF."

Even though TVC was, and still is, the UA system's largest community campus, and still enrolls almost 40% of UAF's student headcount, and provides roughly 28% of its student credit hours, the problems of assimilating two of the three diverse functions described in the strategic plan are further corroborated in the opening paragraph on the CRCD website:

The College of Rural & Community Development provides academic and vocational education that promotes workforce preparation, economic development, life-long learning, and community development **with an emphasis on Alaska Natives and underserved communities.** (My emphasis).

**February 2009.** Chancellor Rogers made it clear in a meeting with the TVC Dean's Council that he would not consider making TVC a totally separate college within the UAF system. In addition, no one was asserting that TVC should become an independent community college, the same as Prince William Sound Community College.

**March - November, 2009.** Various committees and faculty groups worked together to formulate a CRCD Realignment Plan, which focused on organizing the various programs into departments, similar to the structure of departments on the main campus. In mid-October, a proposal was drafted by CRCD Associate Vice Chancellor Pete Pinney which was objectionable to the TVC faculty since, while agreeing that TVC could be renamed as a "college," the proposal removed responsibility for all programs from any particular campus and placed them all directly under the Vice Chancellor.

**January - July, 2010.** Through further meetings and discussion, a final organizational chart was completed. CRCD was divided into 14 departments, six of which included programs taught exclusively at TVC and, thus, were placed under the jurisdiction of the TVC Academic Council.<sup>3</sup> TVC was recognized as a separate college headed by a Dean. The other eight new departments, which taught courses in two or more CRCD locations, reported to the CRCD Academic Council.

**August - October, 2010.** Through focus groups and community input, a new name was decided for TVC, "UAF Community & Technical College," or simply CTC.

**January 2011.** Courses were first offered by CTC. A workable relationship developed between CRCD and CTC. The CTC faculty and Academic Council developed and achieved approval of a new AAS in drafting, a new AAS in paramedicine, and a reorganization of the culinary arts program which included a new certificate in baking. Cooperation between CTC and the rural campuses thrived in such major vocational areas as allied health and computer technology.

**March 2012.** Without discussion with any faculty, staff or administrator at CTC, CRCD instructed the registrar to eliminate all reference to CTC in the upcoming 2012-2013 UAF catalog, listing all program as being taught by departments within CRCD.

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<sup>3</sup> The TVC programs were: Applied Business and Paralegal; Aviation; Construction Management and Drafting; Culinary and Hospitality; Emergency Services and Public Safety; Automotive, Diesel, and Welding; and Process Technology.