

The UAF Faculty Senate took the following action at Special Meeting #223 on April 24, 2017:

**MOTION:**

**Discontinuation of the AAS in Dental Hygiene**

The UAF Faculty Senate observes:

- The Dental Hygiene program reliably graduated one cohort of 5 students at the end of each 2-year cycle. Admission to the program was suspended in summer 2016.
- Alaska health care, including dental hygiene, is in acute need of qualified professionals. All graduates of the Dental Hygiene AAS were employed immediately after graduation.
- The Alaska Department of Labor projected \* a 21.6% growth rate in the demand for Dental Hygienists through 2024, the highest listed growth rate.
- There is a similar program at UAA that admits a cohort of 14 students each year.
- This is a high cost and low enrollment program for structural reasons, including a need to have dedicated dental office equipment for the students.
- Faculty and Administrator reviews of the program voted to discontinue it primarily for cost reasons and not on its service to Alaska workforce needs.

Faculty Senate recommends:

- Consider merging with the UAA program.

Therefore, the UAF Faculty Senate does not agree with the discontinuation of the AAS in Dental Hygiene.

Rationale: This is an expensive but important program for interior Alaska health care workforce development. The program should continue in its suspended state.

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 \_\_\_\_\_ 2017-04-25  
 President, UAF Faculty Senate

The Chancellor    \_\_\_ Approves                    X Disapproves

  
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 Chancellor

Date: 5/4/2017

\* Link to <http://labor.alaska.gov/trends/oct16.pdf>