

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at its Meeting #76 on December 8, 1997:

MOTION PASSED
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The UAF Faculty Senate moves to refer the motion to approve the Certificate program in Microcomputer Support Specialist to the Curricular Affairs Committee for review.

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

Signed: John D. Craven, President, UAF Faculty Senate Date: 12/15/97

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The UAF Faculty Senate moves to refer the motion to approve the AAS in Microcomputer Support Specialist to the Curricular Affairs Committee for review.

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The UAF Faculty Senate encourages individual departments to design their own criteria where appropriate to evaluate the work done towards developing distance education, including the creation of materials for such instruction.

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

RATIONALE: The University of Alaska Fairbanks
 Regulations for the Evaluation of Faculty, Section III.C.1f

(Effectiveness in Teaching) specifically states that "Effective teachers . . . regularly develop new courses, workshops and seminars and use a variety of methods of instructional delivery and instructional design." This implicitly states that periodic evaluation of faculty includes distance delivery-based courses as part of teaching evaluation. It is appropriate to develop such criteria at the department level.

Signed: John D. Craven, President, UAF Faculty Senate

Date: 12/15/97

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at its Meeting #76 on December 8, 1997:

RESOLUTION PASSED AS AMENDED

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WHEREAS, The University of Alaska Faculty Senate has discussed in depth the consequences of the 1996-97 academic year Retirement Incentive Program; and

WHEREAS, Positions vacated in that RIP were not refilled on a one-to-one basis by the administration; and

WHEREAS, The loss of faculty members to retirement in certain departments caused undue hardship to certain academic programs; and

WHEREAS, College deans were given the power to decide in which way faculty members in their units would have input into the decisions as to which positions were more important to departments than others; and

WHEREAS, Recommendations from the dean's level in colleges were not always followed in replacing faculty positions once these recommendations reached the Provost and Chancellor levels; and

WHEREAS, The RIP program unduly impacts departments with a majority of senior faculty; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That a faculty member be selected from and by each of the departments affected by faculty who have exercised the RIP option, to serve as an advisory board to the Provost and Chancellor in making final decisions regarding RIP replacements.

Signed: John D. Craven, President, UAF Faculty Senate

Date: 12/15/97

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The UAF Faculty Senate's Curricular Affairs Committee has spent many hours on this review and has concluded there are too many issues involved for a simple markup of the draft. The UAF Faculty Senate offers to meet with the drafting committee to make clear the areas of concern and to aid in the creation of regulations that will truly aid as opposed to hinder students.

Signed: John D. Craven, President, UAF Faculty Senate

Date: 12/15/97

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at its Meeting #76 on December 8, 1997:

MOTION PASSED

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The UAF Faculty Senate moves to send the following letter to the Governor on behalf of the Senate after editing and inclusion of a statement that it was passed by a unanimous vote.

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

Signed: John D. Craven, President, UAF Faculty Senate

Date: 12/17/97

December 15, 1997

The Honorable Tony Knowles
Governor, State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Knowles,

The University of Alaska plays a vital role in the future of our very young, promising state, as it is one of the keys to Alaska's economic, intellectual, cultural, and political development. Alaska is unique in many ways, and it requires an outstanding institution of higher learning inside its borders to help craft solutions to its numerous challenges. However, in the face of repeated budget constraints in funding at the state level, the quality of higher education available in the state is being severely compromised. Such constraints can not continue without extensive damage to the University and its ability to fulfill its stated mission and goals. Alaska does not need its University so crippled that it is merely a shadow of what a strong university should be. Instead, the University of Alaska must provide an environment in which students are stimulated, challenged, and encouraged to reach their full potential, while knowing that they are receiving a superior education from a healthy, outstanding institution.

We appreciate the fact that you also hold many of these views

about the University of Alaska and have stated so publicly. We have been gratified to hear you recognize the budget trimming efforts and sacrifices many have made and that through several assessment procedures the faculty, staff, and administration have actively sought to increase efficiency and lower costs. Since you are aware of our efforts, you must know that the Board of Regents' budget request of 174 million dollars for the coming fiscal year is not only reasonable, but reflects an anticipated 10 million dollar reduction to the administrative branch of the University while merely sustaining the rest of the system at minimal levels. Your proposed budget of 167.8 million dollars, which you described as "a modest increase," is an increase that means further reductions will occur, continuing the process of irreparable harm to the University of Alaska System.

By unanimous vote the UAF Faculty Senate, through its elected representatives, has moved the adoption of this letter and, as faculty members of the University of Alaska, stand ready to provide any information and assistance you may seek in a quest to more clearly understand the predicament of the University of Alaska. We can provide such assistance through perspectives gained as we carry out our obligations to teaching, research, and public service. It is the faculty and the students that are engaged in learning, not the administration. While they represent us to you, their task is greatly complicated by the additional obligations to the physical institution and support functions, further removed from the central obligation of a university, which is to higher education. We can provide that focused perspective.

Respectfully submitted for the
University of Alaska Fairbanks Faculty Senate,

John D. Craven, President

Madeline F. Schatz, President-Elect