

The following resolution passed at Faculty Senate meeting #232 on May 7, 2018

RESOLUTION:

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to adopt a resolution to advise Chancellor Dan White to not take action regarding the School of Natural Resources and Extension at this time, and to instead, provide opportunities for meaningful faculty input in honor of the spirit of shared governance.

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

BACKGROUND: In February, 2018, Provost Susan Henrichs announced that she planned to recommend to Chancellor Dan White that the School of Natural Resources and Extension (SNRE) be eliminated; that the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (AFES) be split from the Natural Resource Management (NRM) academic program; and that the NRM academic faculty be moved into a department within the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (CNSM). The Resolution asks the Chancellor to take no action on the Provost's recommendation for a number of reasons including lack of shared governance in the decision-making process, and proposes an alternative action.

**Resolution Requesting UAF Chancellor Daniel White To Not Take Action
Regarding the School of Natural Resources and Extension Without Faculty
Input and Shared Governance**

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska faces severe fiscal constraints that require cost savings and innovative approaches to maintain academic quality and breadth, increase enrollment, and build constituent support; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska Board of Regents Policy states "...that faculty, staff and student participation in university governance be an integral part of the university community's culture (P03.01.010)"; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska Regulations states "...that shared governance is an integral part of the business of the university (03.01A)"; and

WHEREAS, faculty have unique expertise in the University of Alaska system in curriculum development, academic program delivery, identification of academic and research priorities, and research development and success; and

WHEREAS, prior reorganizations and mergers of SNRE that failed to provide for meaningful faculty involvement have had disappointing results; and

WHEREAS, the SNRE Land Grant based mission to promote the responsible development, conservation, and preservation of Alaska's natural resources for the benefit of all Alaskans is unique in the University of Alaska system; and

WHEREAS, the faculty of SNRE were excluded from the process in which school elimination was decided; and

WHEREAS, no analysis has been presented that demonstrates the costs and benefits of the decision to eliminate SNRE and no significant cost savings have been identified; and

WHEREAS, there may be negative impacts to the SNRE academic, research and service programs, undergraduate and graduate students, and other constituents and clientele; and

WHEREAS, elimination of SNRE sends a negative message to faculty, students, clientele, and the public that the school's academic programs are in peril and further reinforces public perception that UAF is in decline; and

WHEREAS, SNRE has long been closely interlinked with the UAF Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (AFES), and the effects of the proposed administrative split on SNRE/AFES mission attainment are unclear; and

WHEREAS, elimination of the SNRE may jeopardize the school's ongoing efforts to expand enrollment in its academic programs; and

WHEREAS, realignment at UAF should occur in a thoughtful, thorough, and inclusive process that makes the most efficient use of university resources in delivering quality teaching, research and service programs; and

WHEREAS, the current provost is retiring June 30, 2018 and we recommend that the new provost should be involved in the decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, meaningful faculty involvement will strengthen decision making, result in better decisions, and ensure UAF's future success;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the UAF Faculty Senate requests that UAF Chancellor Daniel White take no action on the elimination of SNRE until meaningful faculty input has been obtained in the spirit of true shared governance.



Chris Fallen, UAF Faculty Senate President