

The following was passed at Faculty Senate Meeting #220, February 6, 2017 (as amended):

RESOLUTION on the School of Education Decision:

Whereas the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska (hereafter referred to as (“the Board”)) has constitutional authority and responsibility to govern the University of Alaska per the Constitution of the State of Alaska, Article VII Section 3; and the board appointed the president of the university, Dr. Jim Johnsen, by a majority vote on July 28, 2015; and

Whereas during the public regular board meeting on November 10, 2016 (hereafter referred to as (“November Board meeting”)), President Johnsen cited “national best practices in the field” to recommend that the three colleges of education at the University of Alaska be consolidated to the research university, the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), in order to improve academic outcomes; and

Whereas President Johnsen stated during the public special board meeting on December 14, 2016 (hereafter referred to as “December Special Board meeting”) that he had received significant feedback from individual faculty at all three universities, people in the community, alumni, and community leaders (timestamp 17:43 in [the audio recording](#)) and that opposition to locating the administration of the single college of education at UAF was "overwhelmingly greater" than those in favor of locating the administration at the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) (timestamp 17:58 in the audio recording); and

Whereas two Regents, UAS Chancellor Caulfield, and President Johnsen acknowledged during the December Special Board meeting that the majority of feedback the Board had received was from the Southeast, including the Southeast legislative delegation, local mayors, and the Juneau Assembly (Johnsen 18:16; Anderson 26:56; Davies 37:05; and Caulfield 58:09); and

Whereas President Johnsen emphasized during the December Special Board meeting that the feedback he received was not about any inadequacies at UAF but about how teacher education was a “halo program” at UAS (timestamp 17:58 in the audio recording); and

Whereas President Johnsen noted during the December Special Board meeting that there were "very strong concerns" about the economic impact of moving teacher education leadership out of Juneau (timestamp 18:14 in the audio recording); and

Whereas the City and Borough of Juneau offered to endow UAS with a \$1 million contribution if the new College of Education was chosen to be located at UAS (timestamp 21:09 in the audio recording); and

Whereas after approximately 31 minutes of discussion that was open for the public to listen to (timestamp 22:34 to 53:08 in the audio recording), during which no opposition to the amended motion to locate the College of Education at UAS was expressed by the Regents, the Board voted unanimously in favor of a motion to locate the administration of the UA College of Education at the University of Alaska Southeast; and

Whereas the ability of university faculty to participate in making the decision to locate the new College of Education at UAS was non-existent, in spite of the resolutions passed by the Faculty Senates of UAA, UAS, and UAF and the Faculty Alliance calling for the Board and President Johnsen to increase meaningful opportunities for participation by faculty including through governance organizations; and

Whereas the board of regents failed to consider the quality of the programs under consideration, as evidenced by the UAF Elementary Education program's recent [rating in the 99th percentile by the National Council on Teacher Quality](#); and

Whereas effective decisions regarding reorganization of UA, by the Strategic Pathways process or otherwise, require careful consideration of education outcomes by faculty responsible for delivering the UA mission of teaching, research and service; and


Whereas according to the audio recording of the December Special Board meeting the decision seems to have been based not on national best practices, a careful analysis of expected education outcomes, or an inclusive and comprehensive discussion that included university faculty through governance processes, but resulted instead from pressure by politicians, the public, and the lure of a \$1 million gift from the City and Borough of Juneau; now

Therefore be it resolved that the University of Alaska Fairbanks Faculty Senate declares it has no confidence in the process by which the University of Alaska Board of Regents came to its decision to locate a single statewide College of Education at the University of Alaska Southeast; and

Be it further resolved that the UAF Faculty Senate asks the Board and the President to set aside the decision to locate the single College of Education at the University of Alaska Southeast until after a comprehensive analysis of expected education outcomes is conducted and until University of Alaska faculty are provided meaningful opportunities to participate in the decision-making through governance organizations; and

Be it further resolved that the UAF Faculty Senate urges the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska to:

- Direct President Jim Johnsen to prepare detailed impact analysis of every proposal from Strategic Pathways presented to the Board, the Summit Team and the Faculty Senates at least two weeks in advance of such a proposal being voted on by the Board,
- Use appropriate shared governance processes in preparing recommendations, including meaningful opportunities for faculty to participate in the decision-making,
- Utilize careful and comprehensive analysis of actual data before making recommendations and decisions that affect academic access and outcomes for Alaskans,
- Acknowledge, formally, the flawed Phase I Strategic Pathways process, annul the Board decision in December, and readdress the Schools/College of Education decision using the new and improved Strategic Pathways process (a process that includes a timeline when faculty are not off contract in the summer months),
- Direct President Jim Johnsen to assist the Board in making rational decisions through processes that are not unduly influenced by political pressures.



President, UAF Faculty Senate

Web links contained in the Resolution:

1. The link in the third paragraph to “the audio recording” prompts an MP3 download for an audio recording. This audio recording is posted online on the UAF Faculty Senate Meetings page in the February 6, 2017 section.

<http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty-senate/meetings/2016-17-fs-meetings/#220>

2. The link in the tenth paragraph to “rating in the 99th percentile by the National Council on Teacher Quality” goes to the following web page:

<http://www.nctq.org/teacherPrep/2016/findings/programRanking.do?universityId=152&programId=1>