MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 14, 2014

TO: Board of Regents
Coalition of Student Leaders
System Governance Council

FROM: Pat Gamble, President

RE: Annual Scheduled Tuition Adjustment Notice AY2016-2017

The state’s budget shortfall has clearly impacted the University of Alaska (UA) and we are having to carefully consider and prioritize each budget line item. UAA’s Program Prioritization, UAF’s Budget Options Group, UAS’s Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Committee, and the System Office are all heavily engaged in working toward a lean, balanced university budget. The operating appropriation we ultimately receive from the state and our stewardship of those dollars become the two most significant factors influencing tuition setting at UA. The decision on tuition rates, a key final component of the UA budget request, comes from the Board of Regents (BOR).

The whole budget process is highly transparent by design, is informed by broad university community input, and is usually set as far in advance as practicable. Throughout the year I receive advice and recommendations on tuition considerations from students, faculty and staff. For example, the Advisory Task Force on Tuition, comprised of community campus directors, budget and finance staff, and students, all influenced UA’s decision to keep a differential between lower level and upper level tuition for AY2015. These recommendations are important inputs into the formula of tuition building.

To summarize our intentions for AY2015-2016 and AY2016-2017:

AY2015-2016: After the legislative session ends, the chancellors and I will meet to conclude a recommendation for UA’s AY2015-2016 tuition rates. At this point in time, however, the overall process has incomplete data and we are not yet ready
to declare a tuition number. Upon BOR approval, a proposed tuition rate will be announced, but not later than September 2014. If, however, the budget and economic outlook is sufficiently clear to allow an earlier approval, the tuition announcement will be made sooner.

AY2016-2017: I propose to present a rate of tuition for BOR consideration no later than September 2015.

Warm regards,

PKG

cc: Tom Case, UAA Chancellor
    John Pugh, UAS Chancellor
    Brian Rogers, UAF Chancellor
    UA System Governance Office