

**Official Minutes  
Board of Regents  
Special Meeting of the Full Board  
August 5, 2020  
Zoom Conference**

## **1. Individuals Present and Opening Items**

### Regents Present:

Sheri Buretta, Chair  
Karen Perdue, Vice Chair  
Dale Anderson, Secretary  
Lisa Parker, Treasurer  
John Davies  
Cachet Garrett  
Darroll R. Hargraves  
Mary K. Hughes  
Andy Teuber

### Regents Absent:

John Bania  
Gloria O'Neill

Pat Pitney, Interim Chief Executive Officer and President, University of Alaska

### Others Present:

Karen Carey, Interim Chancellor, University of Alaska Southeast  
Cathy Sandeen, Chancellor, University of Alaska Anchorage  
Daniel M. White, Chancellor, University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Matthew Cooper, General Counsel  
Myron Dosch, Chief Financial Officer  
Paul Layer, Vice President for Academics, Students and Research  
Michelle Rizk, Vice President for University Relations and Chief Strategy, Planning and Budget Officer  
Mark Kondrak, Chief Information Technology Officer  
Steve Patin, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Brandi Berg, Executive Officer, Board of Regents  
Heather Batchelder, Faculty Alliance Chair  
Mathew Mund, Staff Alliance Chair

## **A. Call to Order**

Chair Buretta called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 2020.

## **B. Adoption of Agenda**

**PASSED AS AMENDED** (amendment noted by \*)

**"The Board of Regents adopts the agenda as amended. This motion is effective August 5, 2020."**

Motion by John Davies, second by Lisa M Parker.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Cachet Garrett, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Andy Teuber

## **2. COVID-19 Update**

### **A. COVID-19 Update**

Interim President Pitney made a few opening comments and asked Vice President Rizk, as acting president the past few months, to provide an update regarding planning and management efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Interim Chancellor Carey, and Chancellors Sandeen and White provided an update regarding the universities' 2020 fall semester operation plans.

### **3. Review of the Conceptual Plan Involving the Merger of the University of Alaska Southeast and the University of Alaska Fairbanks**

#### **A. Review of the Conceptual Plan Involving the Merger of the University of Alaska Southeast and the University of Alaska Fairbanks**

The Board of Regents reviewed and discussed the aspects of the June 4, 2020, motion regarding the merger of the University of Alaska Southeast and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The approved motion is as follows:

##### **PASSED AS AMENDED**

Whereas, the University of Alaska's state funding has been reduced by \$76 million (20%) between FY2014 and FY2020, and an additional \$45 million (15%) through FY22;

Whereas, the University has reduced programs and services in response to the state funding cuts, including the loss of 1,727 employees since 2014;

Whereas, the university plans to reduce or discontinue academic programs which will be considered by the Board of Regents at its meeting on June 4-5, 2020;

Whereas, given enrollment declines since 2011, COVID pandemic related impacts, and planned state funding reductions, by FY21 the University's budget is expected to have a shortfall of \$24.8 million, to be covered by one-time funds, and by FY22 a shortfall of between \$11.3 million and \$36.3 million;

Whereas, while enrollment has declined by 28% across the University since 2010;

Whereas, a standard measure of cost effectiveness—student to faculty ratios—shows that all three universities are lower (i.e., more faculty, fewer students) than peer institutions, the ratio at UAS is the lowest in the UA system and is 39% below its peers;

Whereas, non-faculty staffing at UAS is also substantially above peer levels for the size of its enrollment;

Whereas, UAS accounts for 8% of the total student credit hours generated across the system and 50% of those credit hours are delivered via distance;

Whereas, the Board of Regents is committed to providing higher education opportunities to the people of Southeast Alaska through innovative and cost effective programs in areas of importance to Southeast communities such as fisheries and ocean science, mine training, health research and workforce development, public administration, management, and teacher education; and

Whereas, the institutions that comprise the University of Alaska are separately accredited by the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities, and the Board of Regents is committed to complying with all accreditation requirements.

Now therefore be it resolved that—in order to provide higher education programs and services to the people of Southeast Alaska during a time of unprecedented financial challenges, while ensuring the survival of the University of Alaska and long-term excellence—the Board of Regents, utilizing a transparent and inclusive process, intends to inquire and collect data, examine ideas and opportunities, explore potential efficiencies, study the pros and cons of a structural option involving a merger of the University of Alaska Southeast and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, all the while maintaining the unique identity and environment of each institution.

- Pursuant to the foregoing, the Board directs that a Conceptual Plan be prepared by a working group comprised of regents and other individuals selected by Chair Buretta to represent key stakeholders with interests in higher education in Southeast Alaska, and will include the Chairs of the Faculty Alliance, Staff Alliance, and Coalition of Student Leaders.
- The Conceptual Plan will identify actions required to comply with requirements of the U.S. Department of Education and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. This Conceptual Plan will be provided to the Board of Regents no later than October 15, 2020.

- The Conceptual Plan will assess the efficiencies and benefits that may result from the merger and include an assessment of cost savings, regional program demand, provisions for student program completion (teach out or transfer), compliance with accreditation standards, and opportunities for expansion in such areas as fisheries and ocean science, Alaska Native programs, environmental research, public administration, mine training, and teacher education.
- In addition, the Plan will include an assessment of opportunities for partnerships with regional communities and tribal organizations

This motion is effective June 4, 2020.

#### **4. Modification of the Approval to Prepare a Conceptual Plan to Review a Structural Option Involving a Merger of the University of Alaska Southeast and the University of Alaska Fairbanks**

##### **A. Modification of the Approval to Prepare a Conceptual Plan to Review a Structural Option Involving a Merger of the University of Alaska Southeast and the University of Alaska Fairbanks**

###### **MAIN MOTION**

Moved by Dale G Anderson seconded by Lisa M Parker

"The Board of Regents modifies the Approval to Prepare a Conceptual Plan to Review a Structural Option Involving a Merger of the University of Alaska Southeast and the University of Alaska Fairbanks adopted by the Board on June 4, 2020 by deleting the text of the Approval following "Now therefore be it resolved" in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

In order to provide higher education programs and services vital to the State of Alaska during unprecedented financial times while ensuring a solid and high-quality foundation, the board, using a transparent and inclusive process asks the president to work with the chancellors and the governance groups to:

1. As the university works to resize to a smaller solid foundation, develop clarity and standards for administrative and instructional costs relative to student enrollment;
2. Analyze opportunities and costs associated with a greater presence of fisheries and ocean science programs on the Juneau campus;
3. Redouble efforts on collaboration across the system, program sharing, and partnerships with industry, communities, and tribal organizations; and,
4. Assure the Alaska College of Education has clear roles and responsibilities for program delivery that address the priority of teacher education that are transparent and well-integrated across the system.

The board will regularly receive updates and review progress at upcoming board meetings. This motion is effective August 5, 2020."

###### **MOTION TO AMEND PASSED**

Motion by John Davis, second by Dale G Anderson to amend the June 4, 2020 motion by deleting Whereas 6-9.

Final Resolution: Motion to Amend Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue

Voting in opposition: Cachet Garrett, Andy Teuber

###### **MOTION TO AMEND MAIN MOTION**

Motion by Dale G Anderson, second by John Davis to add 'and review structural options' to #1 of the main motion.

The board's discussion continued and it was favorably noted that rescinding the June 4, 2020 motion and providing new direction was preferred.

###### **MAIN MOTION TABLED**

Motion by Cachet Garrett, second by Dale G Anderson to table the main motion.

Final Resolution: Motion to Table Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Cachet Garrett, Mary K Hughes, Lisa M Parker, Andy Teuber

Voting in opposition: Darroll R Hargraves, Karen Perdue

#### NEW MAIN MOTION PROVIDING DIRECTION TO THE PRESIDENT

Moved by Dale G Anderson, second by Lisa M Parker

"The Board or Regents directs the president to work with the chancellors and governance groups to:

1. As the university works to resize to a smaller solid foundation, develop clarity and standards for administrative and instructional costs relative to student enrollment and review structural options;
2. Analyze opportunities and costs associated with a greater presence of fisheries and ocean science programs on the Juneau campus;
3. Redouble efforts on collaboration across the system, program sharing, and partnerships with industry, communities, and tribal organizations; and,
4. Assure the Alaska College of Education has clear roles and responsibilities for program delivery that address the priority of teacher education that are transparent and well-integrated across the system.

The board will regularly receive updates and review progress at upcoming board meetings. This motion is effective August 5, 2020."

#### MOTION TO AMEND THE NEW MAIN PASSED

Motion by John Davies, second by Karen Perdue to add Whereas 1-5, and 10 from the June 4, 2020 motion.

Final Resolution: Motion to Amend Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Mary K Hughes, Karen Perdue, Andy Teuber

Voting in opposition: Cachet Garrett, Darroll R Hargraves, Lisa M Parker

#### NEW MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED

**"Whereas, the University of Alaska's state funding has been reduced by \$76 million (20%) between FY2014 and FY2020, and an additional \$45 million (15%) through FY22;**

**Whereas, the University has reduced programs and services in response to the state funding cuts, including the loss of 1,727 employees since 2014;**

**Whereas, the university plans to reduce or discontinue academic programs which will be considered by the Board of Regents at its meeting on June 4-5, 2020;**

**Whereas, given enrollment declines since 2011, COVID pandemic related impacts, and planned state funding reductions, by FY21 the University's budget is expected to have a shortfall of \$24.8 million, to be covered by one-time funds, and by FY22 a shortfall of between \$11.3 million and \$36.3 million;**

**Whereas, while enrollment has declined by 28% across the University since 2010; and**

**Whereas, the institutions that comprise the University of Alaska are separately accredited by the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities, and the Board of Regents is committed to complying with all accreditation requirements.**

The Board of Regents directs the president to work with the chancellors and governance groups to:

- 1. As the university works to resize to a smaller solid foundation, develop clarity and standards for administrative and instructional costs relative to student enrollment and review structural options;**
- 2. Analyze opportunities and costs associated with a greater presence of fisheries and ocean science programs on the Juneau campus;**
- 3. Redouble efforts on collaboration across the system, program sharing, and partnerships with industry, communities, and tribal organizations; and,**

**4. Assure the Alaska College of Education has clear roles and responsibilities for program delivery that address the priority of teacher education that are transparent and well-integrated across the system.**

**The board will regularly receive updates and review progress at upcoming board meetings. This motion is effective August 5, 2020."**

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Mary K Hughes, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Andy Teuber

Voting in opposition: Cachet Garrett, Darroll R Hargraves

**\*4.1. Approval to Rescind the Approval to Prepare a Conceptual Plan to Review a Structural Option Involving a Merger of the University of Alaska Southeast and the University of Alaska Fairbanks** (added)

**PASSED**

**"The Board of Regents rescinds the Approval to Prepare a Conceptual Plan to Review a Structural Option Involving a Merger of the University of Alaska Southeast and the University of Alaska Fairbanks adopted by the board on June 4, 2020. This motion is effective August 5, 2020."**

Motion by Darroll R Hargraves, second by Cachet Garrett

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: Dale G Anderson, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Cachet Garrett, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Andy Teuber

**5. Adjourn**

A. Adjourn

Chair Buretta adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 2020.