

**Official Minutes
Board of Regents
Meeting of the Full Board
January 15, 2021
Zoom Conference**

1. Individuals Present

Regents Present:

Sheri Buretta, Chair
Karen Perdue, Vice Chair
Dale Anderson, Secretary
Lisa Parker, Treasurer
John Bania
John Davies
Darroll R. Hargraves
Mary K. Hughes
Gloria O'Neill
Andy Teuber

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

Others Present:

Karen Carey, Chancellor, University of Alaska Southeast
Bruce Schultz, Interim 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
Steve Patin, Chief Human Resources Officer
Brandi Berg, Executive Officer, Board of Regents
Heather Batchelder, Faculty Alliance Chair
Mathew Mund, Staff Alliance Chair
Brooke Hansen, Coalition of Student Leaders Representative and Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage President

2. Opening Items

A. Call to Order

Chair Buretta called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 15, 2021.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Note for the record: Regent Teuber said he previously submitted a disclosure form and is making a disclosure on the record that the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is partnering with the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) on a grant funded by the University of Alaska Fairbanks Idea Network on Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) program. Also, ANTHC has several agreements with the UAA College of Health for student placements in various components of ANTHC. He has not participated in any preparation or administration of the INBRE grant or in any negotiations of the placement agreements. Regent Teuber said none of these would come before the Board of Regents for any review or approval; however, he is making the disclosure in the interest of transparency.

Chair Buretta thanked Regent Teuber for the disclosure. She said since this is not going to come before the board, his status as regent is not a position from which he would be called upon to take or withhold official action for the University of Alaska on these matters, and so there is no reason for him to refrain from participating, voting, or deliberating on any matter that is before the board during this meeting. She said in the unlikely event that some aspect of any of these items come before the board on a future meeting agenda, she would ask him to renew his disclosure at that time, so if necessary, further determinations can be made.

PASSED

"The Board of Regents adopts the agenda as presented. This motion is effective January 15, 2021."

Motion by Mary K Hughes, second by Dale G Anderson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: John Bania

3. Reports

A. President's Report

President Pitney welcomed Brooke Hansen, Coalition of Student Leaders Representative and Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage President, noting Chair Buretta has asked Ms. Hansen to be the voice of students during the board meetings until the governor appoints a student regent; shared that UA has lost a dear person, a counterpart, and a colleague by the passing of Cyndee West, United Academics Contract manager; said the UAA chancellor search is progressing, noting the goal is to have an individual on campus by the end of May or early summer of 2021; stated over the winter break she met with UA's community campus directors to learn about the community partnerships, noting the ability of the campuses to provide outreach and extend the main campuses opportunities is remarkable; said the Education Summit continues to meet and a more robust look at progress would be provided during the February 2021 board meeting; stated UA anticipates receiving \$17M (\$4M for direct student need) in federal funding for COVID-19 related expenses; shared that she, Provost Prakash, and Governor Dunleavy met with the Consulate General of India regarding potential partnerships; said it is necessary to review UA's strategic goals and metrics that were put in place prior to the compact agreement with the intent that the board review and approve revisions in June 2021 and stated she continues to meet with statewide editorial boards to convey confidence, trust and stability.

B. Chancellors' Reports

Interim Chancellor Schultz provided an overview regarding the University of Alaska Anchorage's spring 2021 admissions and enrollment and reviewed its initiatives, which include transfer, some college no degree students, leveraging online learning, community partnerships, pathways, financial support, advising, and student support services.

Chancellor Carey provided an overview regarding the University of Alaska Southeast's spring 2021 admissions and enrollment and shared information on its effort with Hanover Research focusing on recruitment and retention and the student and market demands for UAS' bachelor's programs.

Chancellor White said a recent meeting with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities to discuss the University of Alaska Fairbanks' accreditation went well; shared that Vice Chancellor Peter transitioned to a faculty research position in the Center for Alaska Native Health Research to pursue suicide and mental health wellness interests in rural areas and thanked him for his service; mentioned Charlene Stern will serve as interim vice chancellor for rural, community and Native education; stated Nanook hockey and basketball will not compete this season, noting no-contact sports such as rifle and skiing will compete; said work continues regarding repurposing UAF's footprint, renovating and demolishing buildings, to lower deferred maintenance costs; noted its COVID-19 counts are low and less than two percent of isolation spaces are filled; shared students' interest for spring semester includes a focused effort on wellness activities; provided an overview regarding the UAF's spring 2021 admissions and enrollment and reviewed research efforts, including Director Cahill's work with unmanned aircraft, the R/V Sikuliaq, Girls on ICE Alaska and new a National Science Foundation project regarding indigenous knowledge and governing fisheries in Alaska.

C. Governance Reports

Mathew Mund, Staff Alliance chair, wished the board Happy New Year, noting a new year brings hope, opportunities, and positivity; thanked the board for its hard work and getting UA through 2020; stated he will use the analogy of running a marathon to describe UA's current situation, noting for staff this marathon started a few years ago; said there are a few people in the marathon, those on the sidelines cheering and those providing water throughout the race; mentioned this time last year staff felt like they were at mile 13 in the marathon, halfway through, focusing on projecting positively, noting there was hope from staff that UA had made structural changes to fund staff positions; said staff continued to do what was necessary to meet UA's goals, which brings us to today, the difficult mile 23; stated many employees are exhausted and need the water and cheering; said there is need to address change, employees are leaving, the position are not being filled, attrition is also a contributing factor, top candidates are not applying and remaining staff are pushed to its limits to maintain the course without changes to compensation; specified to maintain a positive focus and to make an impact, UA must recognize staff's fatigue and look at ways to boost staff morale, noting the best way is to include staff governance in all decision-making processes that affect staff to ensure trust and buy-in; provided other morale boosting options, which include opportunities for high-quality professional development, affinity groups, staff mentorships, more recognition and award events to celebrate accomplishments, leave and benefits changes and stated staff needs leadership to prioritize morale-building activities, noting staff are pushing hard to finish the marathon, to support

whatever direction the board takes, and needs administration to be the cheerleaders, to earn staff trust and staff promises to do the same.

Brooke Hansen, Coalition of Student Leaders representative and Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage president, stated the coalition is having difficulty organizing during the pandemic, noting without a quorum, meetings cannot occur; mentioned the reorganization of the UA System Governance Office and said a more substantial report would be provided during the February 2021 meeting.

Heather Batchelder, Faculty Alliance chair, thanked the faculty, staff, and administration for assisting the students during the pandemic learning environment; stated concern for the reduce opportunity for public testimony, noting the time for public input has been reduce during the board meetings; thanked Cachet Garrett for her service as student regent; mentioned appreciation to the board for seeking a student representative, noting the representative does not have voting authority similar to the student regent; stated the UA system review needs to be an objective process, provide cost savings, an opportunity to create shared services, a supportive statewide environment and to send a positive message to students and the Legislature; said faculty are concerned about the programs that were discontinued and those currently under review, indicating a cost analysis is necessary before more programs are discontinued; stated appreciation for the Alaska Native and Indigenous student, faculty, and staff success initiative to review equity at UA; noted faculty are meeting with the Alaska Native Studies Council to review student dropout rates, loss of Native faculty, creating leadership roles for the underserved group and reducing systemic racism; said cultural safety is necessary for Alaska Native students to succeed at UA and stated the alliance stands in solidarity to honor the Indigenous cultures and is committed not only to honor the people and the lands but to respect authority.

4. Governance Committee

A. Discussion Regarding Board Governance

Regent Hughes provided an overview of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) work regarding justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion, noting the AGB statement will help inform the Board of Regents' discussion regarding the Alaska Native and Indigenous student, faculty, and staff success initiative and said she would present the AGB statement during the Board of Regents' June 2021 meeting.

5. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

PASSED AS AMENDED

"The Board of Regents goes into executive session to discuss personnel matters that by law or Regents' Policy are required to be confidential, and to receive legal advice related to the president's employment contract and the University of Alaska presidential search. This motion is effective January 15, 2021."

Motion by John Davies, second by Mary K Hughes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: John Bania

The Board of Regents went into executive session at 11:08 a.m. and concluded an executive session at 12:02 p.m. Alaska Time in accordance with AS 44.62.310 to discuss personnel matters that by law or Regents' Policy are required to be confidential, and to receive legal advice related to the president's employment contract and the University of Alaska presidential search. The session included members of the Board of Regents, Interim President Pitney, and General Counsel Cooper and lasted 54 minutes.

Note for the record: Chair Buretta said given the uncertainty of the effects of the implementation of the compact and its financial impact, and COVID-19, and to ensure stability, the Board of Regents is in mutual agreement with the interim president to extend the timeline of the interim president contract until the permanent position is filled. The search for a permanent president will begin spring of 2022.

6. Advocacy Discussion

A. Advocacy Discussion

Interim President Pitney, Vice President Rizk, and State Relations Director Hutchison reviewed and discussed university advocacy.

7. UA System Office: Structure, Roles, and Budget

A. UA System Office: Structure, Roles, and Budget

Interim President Pitney and Chief Finance Officer Dosch provided information regarding the UA System's structure, roles, and budget.

8. Alaska Native and Indigenous Students, Faculty, and Staff Success Initiative Update

A. Alaska Native and Indigenous Students, Faculty, and Staff Success Initiative Update

Interim President Pitney provided an update on the Alaska Native and Indigenous students, faculty, and staff success initiative.

9. SB241 Report on Teacher Preparation

A. SB241 Report on Teacher Preparation

Vice President Layer and Alaska College of Education Executive Dean Atwater reviewed the University of Alaska's biennial SB241 Report on Teacher Preparation.

10. Approval of Resolution of Support for the University of Alaska Land Grant Conveyance

A. Approval of Resolution of Support for the University of Alaska Land Grant Conveyance

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the resolution of support for the University of Alaska Land Grant Conveyance. This motion is effective January 15, 2021."

Motion by Darroll R Hargraves, second by John Davies.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Gloria R O'Neill, Andy Teuber

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska plays a vital role in educating students from the state and around the world and conducts invaluable research; and

WHEREAS, efforts to provide land grants for higher education in Alaska have reached back over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska, although a land-grant institution, is a land-poor land grant institution, due to historical anomalies that prevented it from receiving the full benefit of those land reservations and land grants which Congress and the Alaska Territorial Legislature intended for it, and due to Congressional assumptions in the Statehood Act that the remaining unfulfilled land grant expectations of the University could be fulfilled by converting prior land reservations to land grants and/or by allowing then new State of Alaska a large general selection of public lands; and

WHEREAS, the land selection rights embodied in the Alaska Statehood Act reflected in part congressional recognition that the state would need the land to support its government and programs, and the Congress assumed that the State of Alaska would in turn devote some of the land or the income from it for the use and benefit of the University of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the 21st and 24th Alaska State Legislatures attempted to implement this Congressional expectation in 2000 and 2005 with the enactment of legislation to remedy the University's land grant gap; and

WHEREAS, contrary to the expectations of Congress in the Statehood Act, the Alaska Supreme Court in 2009 held that the State of Alaska could not, acting unilaterally, devote land or the income from it for the use and benefit of the University; and

WHEREAS, the result of this ruling was that the University had to reconvey lands to the Alaska Department of Natural

Resources, leaving the University in essentially the same land-poor status as before; and

WHEREAS, despite Alaska's status as the geographically largest state, all but one (Delaware) of those 49 states that received federal land grants for their universities received more land than the University (noting that the University of Hawaii, while not receiving land, did receive \$6 million in 1960 in lieu of Morrill Act lands, an amount roughly equivalent to \$53,000,000 in current dollars); and

WHEREAS, an academically strong and financially secure state university system is a cornerstone to the long-term development of a stable population and to a healthy, diverse economy in the state; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the state and the University of Alaska that the university take ownership of a significant and substantial portfolio of income producing land in order to provide in come for the support of public higher education in the state; and

WHEREAS, fulfilling the intent of these past Congresses and Alaska Legislatures to complete a permanent land endowment for the University of Alaska consistent with the Alaska Constitution will require a joint effort by the federal and state governments to establish a land grant that is "required by the federal government for state participation in federal programs," as specified under art. IX, sec. 7, Constitution of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Congressional delegation in September 2020 introduced, with the support of Governor Dunleavy, S 4696/ HR 8398, the "University of Alaska Fiscal Foundation Act," to establish a federal program under which lands selected by, but not yet conveyed to, the State of Alaska could be conveyed from the federal government to the Board of Regents in trust for the University of Alaska, subject to a federally imposed trust obligation.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents expresses its deep appreciation to the Alaska delegation for taking this step and to Governor Dunleavy, and urges all relevant agencies in the legislative and executive branches of both the state and federal governments to cooperate in bringing about an ultimate resolution to this long-standing issue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be incorporated into the official minutes of the January 15, 2021, meeting of the University of Alaska Board of Regents, and engrossed and conveyed to the Congressional Delegation, the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Co-Chairs of the House and Senate Finance Committees, the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources and the Chairs of the House and Senate Resource Committees.

11. Approval to Reinstate Men's and Women's Alpine (downhill) Skiing at the University of Alaska Anchorage

A. Approval to Reinstate Men's and Women's Alpine (downhill) Skiing at the University of Alaska Anchorage

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves reinstatement of men's and women's alpine (downhill) skiing at the University of Alaska Anchorage. This motion is effective January 15, 2021."

Motion by Dale G Anderson, second by Mary K Hughes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Not Present at Vote: Gloria R O'Neill, Andy Teuber

Interim President Pitney and Interim Chancellor Schultz led a discussion on UAA's request to reinstate men's and women's alpine skiing at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The UA Foundation has confirmed that alpine skiing supporters have raised two years of operating expenses, which meets the Board of Regents' target for considering reinstatement. The total dollars raised to date is \$628,000, comprising \$455,803 in cash gifts and \$172,197 in pledged gifts.

Interim Chancellor Schultz reviewed the status of the UAA Hockey and Seawolf Gymnastics supporters' fundraising progress.

12. Adjourn

A. Adjourn

Chair Buretta adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m. on Friday, January 15, 2021.