

**Official Minutes
Board of Regents
Meeting of the Full Board
September 9-10, 2021
Zoom Conference**

1. Individuals Present

Regents Present:

Sheri Buretta, Chair (attended September 9, 2021)
Karen Perdue, Vice Chair
Lisa Parker, Treasurer
John Bania
John Davies
Darroll R. Hargraves
Mary K. Hughes
J. Scott Jepsen
Ralph Seekins
Kali Spencer

Regent Absent:

Dale Anderson, Secretary

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

Others Present:

Karen Carey, Chancellor, University of Alaska Southeast
Sean Parnell, 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
Roberta Graham, Associate Vice President of Public Affairs
John Boucher, Interim Chief Information Technology Officer
David Bishko, Acting Chief Human Resources Officer
Brandi Berg, Executive Officer, Board of Regents
Julie A.K. 'Jak' Maier, Faculty Alliance Chair
Juella Sparks, Staff Alliance Chair
Riley von Borstel, Coalition of Student Leaders Representative and Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks president

2. Opening Items

A. Call to Order

Chair Buretta called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 9, 2021.

B. Adoption of Agenda

PASSED AS AMENDED (amendment noted by *)

"The Board of Regents adopts the agenda as amended. This motion is effective September 9, 2021."

Motion by John Davies, second by Karen Perdue.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: John Bania, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, J Scott Jepsen, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Kali Spencer

C. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting of June 3-4, 2021

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the minutes of its regular meeting of June 3-4, 2021 as presented. This motion

is effective September 9, 2021.”

Motion by Mary K Hughes, second by J Scott Jepsen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: John Bania, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, J Scott Jepsen, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Kali Spencer

D. Approval of Minutes - Special Meeting of June 22, 2021

PASSED

“The Board of Regents approves the minutes of its special meeting of June 22, 2021 as presented. This motion is effective September 9, 2021.”

Motion by Ralph Seekins, second by Lisa M Parker.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: John Bania, Sheri Buretta, John Davies, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, J Scott Jepsen, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Kali Spencer

3. Reports

A. Governance Reports

Julie A.K. ‘Jak’ Maier, Faculty Alliance chair, reported on the following issues: the Faculty Initiative Fund, a resolution to mandate COVID vaccines at UA, the alliance’s involvement in the development of UA’s goals and measures; concerns about OIT’s loss of employees and the age of UA’s IT products, UA’s administrative review process and opposition to tuition and fee increases at UA. (video timestamp 07:35)

Juella Sparks, Staff Alliance chair, reported on the following issues: the importance of governance within UA, noting the value and necessity of faculty, students, and staff being vital to UA’s success, utilizing Regents’ Policy regarding shared governance, staff are struggling with increased workload and low morale, consideration for FY23 compensation increases and engaging with governance groups while developing UA’s goals and measures. (video timestamp 20:19)

Riley von Borstel, Coalition of Student Leaders Representative and Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (ASUAF) president, reported on the following issues: UAA’s student government doubled its membership, conducted legislative advocacy efforts for the Alaska Performance Scholarship, the Alaska Education Grant and the Alaska WWAMI program, and ASUAF’s selection of three senators and the establishment of a mental health fund for UAF’s students. (video timestamp 24:08)

B. Chancellors' Reports

Chancellor Carey provided an update on the following topics: partnerships with the Southeast communities regarding planning and executing measures during the pandemic, UAS reported no COVID-19 cases thus far, the success of new student orientation, the 6th Annual Authors' Celebration recognizing articles published by faculty during the 2020 calendar year, fall enrollment, planning for the Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration and recent hires, which include Arts and Sciences Dean Silkaitis, Director of Education Madden, and a new Title IX coordinator. (video timestamp 27:38)

Chancellor White provided an update on the following topics: strategic recommendations regarding COVID-19 protocol, fall enrollment, the Nanook Pledge, student orientation welcoming 500 first-year students, eCampus online programs, noting its 47 programs, 4000 students from 39 countries, the Alaska Advantage online program for high school students, the free edX online courses provided on a global platform, the North Star College and its partnership with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District offering dual enrollment to high school students, the Geophysical Institute’s 75th-anniversary celebration, completion of UAF’s 2025 strategic plan, and Professor Matthew Wooller’s woolly mammoth research appeared in the August 2021 edition of the journal *Science*. (video timestamp 32:41)

Chancellor Parnell thanked his fellow chancellors for their collaboration with the onboarding process and provided an update on the following topics: student excitement about returning to in-person classes, student scholarship support, the hockey and gymnastics fundraising efforts, a review of last year’s philanthropic gifts, noting the largest living alumni donation of \$1M to establish the student investment fund in the College of Business and Public Policy, fall COVID-19 protocol, enrollment, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation granting accreditation to the School of Education’s post-baccalaureate and graduate programs, the Seawolf Start scholarship and UAA’s upcoming events. (video timestamp 43:40)

C. President's Report

President Pitney introduced Pearl Brower, Alaska Native Success, Institutional Diversity, and Student Engagement senior advisor; noted appreciation to the chancellors for mentioning the various student financial aid and private scholarships available at UA and at the federal level and provided an update on the following topics: the Alaska Native Success Initiative Steering Committee's work, the state releasing funds for the Alaska Performance Scholarship, the Alaska Education Grant and the Alaska WWAMI program, the FY23 compensation considerations and UA's public awareness campaign. (video timestamp 1:01:15)

4. Financial Briefing

A. Financial Briefing

Chief Finance Officer Dosch provided a financial briefing. (video timestamp 1:10:16)

5. Budget and Tuition Discussion and First Review of FY23 Operating and Capital Budget Requests

A. UA Budget and Tuition Discussion

Board members, Interim President Pitney, and administrative staff discussed the UA budget including academic year 2023 tuition. (video timestamp 1:25:18)

B. First Review of FY23 Operating and Capital Budget Requests and the 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan

POLICY CITATION

Regents' Policy 05.01.01.A. – Budget Policy, states, "The budget of the university represents an annual operating plan stated in fiscal terms. All budgetary requests shall be adopted by the board prior to submittal to the Office of the Governor or the legislature."

RATIONALE AND RECOMMENDATION

Interim President Pitney and Vice President Rizk led a discussion on UA's proposed FY23 Operating and Capital Budgets and the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan. The operating budget discussion provided the board with the status of UA's current operating budget and considerations for the proposed FY23 operating budget. The capital budget presents the top priority projects for FY23 and an objective look at the short-, mid-, and long-term capital investment goals of the university. (video timestamp 1:57:03)

6. Government Relations Report

A. Government Relations Report

State Relations Director Hutchison and Federal Relations Director Bryant provided an update on government relations issues affecting the University of Alaska. (video timestamp 3:32:55)

7. Committee Reports and New Business

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

In addition to the action items, the committee received an accreditation report, an update on the program review process, the Alaska College of Education Consortium, academic program teach-outs, heard an enrollment report, and received notice regarding actions on delegated academic programs and a reinstated program. (video timestamp 3:59:44)

B. Audit and Finance Committee

The committee heard comments from the external auditor, received a financial briefing, reviewed the UA System Office of Audit and Consulting Services fiscal year 2021 annual report, and held an executive session. (video timestamp 4:11:02)

C. Facilities and Land Management Committee

The committee received updates on IT, including broadband, the UAF Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center, monetizing capital assets, the land grant initiative, timber management, land disposal, heard reports regarding land

management, the status of UA properties currently for sale, capital project approvals – delegation of authority, UA facilities services scorecard - independent review by Sightlines/Gordian, received an update on the UAA health workforce expansion and diversity project, UAF Seward Marine Center research vessel operations infrastructure and heard construction in progress reports. (video timestamp 4:16:15)

8. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Consent Agenda

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the consent agenda items 8.B.1-3. as presented. This motion is effective September 9, 2021."

Motion by Mary K Hughes, second by John Davies.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: John Bania, Sheri Burette, John Davies, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, J Scott Jepsen, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Kali Spencer

B. Academic and Student Affairs Committee - Items from September 2, 2021

1. Approval of a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Admission to the program is contingent on approval by the State Board of Education to license graduates from that program. The University of Alaska Anchorage must also take the steps necessary to obtain the appropriate programmatic accreditation. This motion is effective September 9, 2021."

2. Approval of a Revision to Regents' Policy 10.02.040 - Academic Unit Establishment, Major Revision, and Elimination

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves a revision to Regents' Policy 10.02.040 - Academic Unit Establishment, Major Revision, and Elimination to restructure and rename the School of Management as the College of Business and Security Management at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. This motion is effective September 9, 2021."

CURRENT LANGUAGE WITH TRACK CHANGES FOR PROPOSED REVISION

P10.02.040. Academic Unit Establishment, Major Revision, and Elimination.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

College of Business and Security Management

College of Engineering and Mines

Mineral Industry Research Laboratory (AS 14.40.115)

College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center (AS 16.52.010-070)

Institute of Marine Science (AS 14.40.080)

Seward Marine Center

College of Liberal Arts

College of Natural Science and Mathematics

College of Rural and Community Development

Alaska Native Language Center (AS 14.40.117)

Bristol Bay Campus, Dillingham

Chukchi Campus, Kotzebue

Interior Alaska Campus, Fairbanks

Kuskowim Campus, Bethel

Northwest Campus, Nome

Community and Technical College

Geophysical Institute

Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration – Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (ACUASI-RDT & E)

Alaska Earthquake Information Center (AS 14.40.075)

Alaska Volcano Observatory (AS 14.40.075)

Poker Flat Research Range

Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Extension
Cooperative Extension Service (Federal mandate)

Institute of Arctic Biology

International Arctic Research Center

Rasmuson Library

School of Education

~~School of Management~~

3. Direction to the University President to Propose Revisions to Regents' Policy 10.02.070 - Accreditation

PASSED

"The Board of Regents directs the president to propose revisions to Regents' Policy 10.02.070 - Accreditation and develop policy and corresponding regulation to ensure reporting on institutional and specialized accreditation to the board, with a proposal due back to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee to consider at its November 4, 2021 meeting. This motion is effective September 9, 2021."

9. Approval of Academic Degree Recipients

A. Approval of Academic Degree Recipients

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the list of degree recipients for the summer and fall of 2020 and the spring of 2021. This motion is effective September 9, 2021."

Motion by John Davies, second by Lisa M Parker.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: John Bania, Sheri Burette, John Davies, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, J Scott Jepsen, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Kali Spencer

POLICY CITATION

Regents' Policy 10.03.010.B. states: "The official lists of degree and certificate recipients will be established by the chancellors immediately after the official closing date of each term. The combined lists for the spring and preceding fall and summer terms will be transmitted by the president to the board after the spring session. This official list of degree and certificate recipients will be presented to the board for its approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting." (video timestamp 4:23:53)

10. Update Regarding Revisions to Regents' Policy

A. Update Regarding Revisions to Regents' Policy

General Counsel Cooper provided an update regarding which Regents' Policies required revisions as directed by the board during its June 3-4, 2021 meeting, to replace "statewide" with "system" or "system office," to 1) bring the policies in line with the preference for "system office," and 2) ensure consistency in usage. (video timestamp 4:25:37)

11. Did You Know Presentation

A. Did You Know Presentation

In this Did You Know installment, the video presentation focused on critical minerals, which included rare earth elements, and the university's role in its development. These minerals are considered essential to the nation's economy and security

and are used in everyday items like computer hard drives, TV screens, and smartphones and in green technologies such as wind turbines. Critical minerals are just as crucial for military applications, including lasers, radar, missile guidance systems, satellites, and aircraft electronics. Currently, the world's supply of these elements comes from only a few countries. There is currently no domestic production. The public impact of University of Alaska research specific to these minerals is significant. This presentation outlined the research underway and the workforce training programs contributing to the development of a critical minerals industry in Alaska. (video timestamp 4:31:45)

Mining Workforce Report: Across the three universities, 44 instructional programs have been identified whose graduates play a key role in the state's mining, extraction, and mineral processing workforce. Over the past ten years, more than 2,300 people have graduated from UA programs important to the mining industry, and these graduates earn an average wage over \$104,000 within five years.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1q1HWW4vN4>

All "Did You Know" success stories can be found at <https://www.alaska.edu/news/did-you-know/>

12. UA Foundation Report

A. UA Foundation Report

UA Foundation President Burnett provided an update on university system development efforts and University of Alaska Foundation activities. (video timestamp 5:15:24)

13. Governance Committee

A. Discussion Regarding Board Governance

Regent Hughes stated the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) board meetings continue to be held virtually; noted AGB's National Conference on Trusteeship in April 2022 will also be held virtually and reminded the board that its Governance Committee would submit a slate of officers for consideration during the board's November 11-12, 2021 meeting. (video timestamp 5:36:07)

14. Title IX Update and Review of Title IX Compliance Briefs and Metrics

A. Title IX Update and Review of Title IX Compliance Briefs and Metrics

Chief Equity and Compliance Officer Gower provided a Title IX update. Chancellors Carey, Parnell, and White reviewed the Title IX Compliance Briefs and Metrics. (video timestamp 5:40:05)

***14.1. Acceptance of the FY22 Capital Budget Appropriation and Approval of Distribution Plan (added)**

PASSED

"The Board of Regents accepts the FY22 Capital Budget Appropriation as presented. This motion is effective September 10, 2021."

Motion by Lisa M Parker, second by Darroll R Hargraves.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: John Davies, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, J Scott Jepsen, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Kali Spencer

Not Present at Vote: John Bania, Sheri Buretta

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the FY22 Capital Budget Distribution Plan as presented. This motion is effective September 10, 2021."

Motion by Lisa M Parker, second by Darroll R Hargraves.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: John Davies, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, J Scott Jepsen, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Kali Spencer

Not Present at Vote: John Bania, Sheri Buretta

POLICY CITATION

Regents' Policy 05.01.040 – Acceptance of State Appropriations states, "The board must accept state appropriations to the university before any expenditure may be made against the appropriation."

RATIONALE AND RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Regents' FY22 capital budget requested \$50 million for deferred maintenance/renewal and repurposing projects. UA was notified on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 that the Governor's Office would allocate \$5 million of discretionary statewide deferred maintenance funding to UA. Based on the time sensitivity of putting this critical funding to work, the board was asked to accept the capital appropriation and approve the distribution at this meeting. The distribution by university main and community campus was provided for reference and is based on a historic formulaic model using the age and value of facilities.

Project budgets and descriptions will be provided at the November 11-12, 2021 board meeting for reference. As the exact project scope and costs are known, project approval will be obtained from the appropriate authority in accordance with Regents' Policy. If a subsequent transfer of funding between projects or to a new project is requested, the chief strategy, planning, and budget officer shall determine the level of approval required, based on the size and nature of the transfer.

Vice President Rizk presented a summary of the FY22 capital budget appropriation and discussed capital funding distribution implications. (video timestamp 5:59:18)

15. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

PASSED

"The Board of Regents goes into executive session to discuss matters which could affect the reputation or character of a person or persons related to honorary degrees and meritorious service awards and to receive legal advice. This motion is effective September 10, 2021."

Motion by Ralph Seekins, second by Mary K Hughes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: John Davies, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, J Scott Jepsen, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Kali Spencer

Not Present at Vote: John Bania, Sheri Buretta

The Board of Regents went into executive session at 9:44 a.m. and concluded an executive session at 11:35 a.m. Alaska Time in accordance with AS 44.62.310 to discuss matters which could affect the reputation or character of a person or persons related to honorary degrees and meritorious service awards and to receive legal advice. The session included members of the Board of Regents, Interim President Pitney, General Counsel Cooper, and such other university staff members as the president designated and lasted 1 hour and 51 minutes.

16. Approval of Honorary Degrees and Meritorious Service Awards

A. Approval of Honorary Degrees and Meritorious Service Awards for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the list of nominees for honorary doctoral degrees as proposed for commencement exercises in the fall 2021 and spring of 2022, and authorizes Chancellor Carey, Parnell, and White to invite the approved nominees and announce their acceptance. This motion is effective September 10, 2021."

Motion by John Davies, second by Mary K Hughes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: John Bania, John Davies, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, J Scott Jepsen, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Kali Spencer

Not Present at Vote: Sheri Buretta

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the list of nominees for meritorious service awards as proposed. This motion is effective September 10, 2021."

Motion by Mary K Hughes, second by John Davies.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: John Bania, John Davies, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, J Scott Jepsen, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Kali Spencer

Not Present at Vote: Sheri Buretta

POLICY CITATION

Regents' Policy 10.03.020.A.

Honorary degrees may be conferred upon approval of the Board of Regents.

A. Criteria

The criterion for individuals to receive an honorary degree from the University of Alaska is evidence of a significant and lasting contribution to the university, to the State of Alaska, or to the individual's discipline or profession.

Regents' Policy 10.03.030.A.

Meritorious service awards may be conferred upon approval of the Board of Regents.

A. Criteria

The criterion for individuals to receive a meritorious service award from an MAU is evidence of significant public, academic, volunteer or philanthropic service to the MAU or one of its community campuses, or to an Alaska community.

RATIONALE AND RECOMMENDATION

Recommendations submitted by the University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and University of Alaska Southeast for recipients of honorary degrees and meritorious service awards were sent under separate cover for Board of Regents' review prior to the September 9-10, 2021 board meeting.

17. Corporate Resolution

A. Approval of Revisions to the Industrial Security Resolution

PASSED

"The Board of Regents approves the Industrial Security Resolution as revised, to reflect the changes to the University of Alaska Facility Security Officer and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Assistant Facility Security Officer and authorizes the chair and secretary of the board to sign the resolution. This motion is effective September 10, 2021."

Motion by Lisa M Parker, second by John Davies.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Voting in favor: John Bania, John Davies, Darroll R Hargraves, Mary K Hughes, J Scott Jepsen, Lisa M Parker, Karen Perdue, Ralph Seekins, Kali Spencer

Not Present at Vote: Sheri Buretta

RATIONALE/RECOMMENDATION

The president and selected members of the university administration are routinely designated by the Board of Regents to handle any duties and responsibilities relating to classified information in connection with contracts with the Department of Defense and other federal agencies. These individuals are given an extensive security screening and are the only members of the university administration to have access to classified information.

The university has received similar security clearances since the mid-1950s. Execution of the resolution means that regents and other members of the administration will not have access to the classified information and are not in a position to affect the handling of classified information, thus do not need to be processed through security clearance procedures. The resolution is identical to resolutions previously passed except for changes to the University of Alaska Facility Security Officer and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Assistant Facility Security Officer.

18. Adjourn

A. Adjourn

Vice Chair Perdue adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m. on Friday, September 10, 2021.

19. Public Testimony from August 30, 2021

Allison Warden, Fairbanks resident and KUAC radio announcer, shared her experience at UA as a student and an employee; asked the board to consider not mandating the COVID-19 vaccination and encouraged the board to find a way to keep employees and students safe without requiring the vaccine.

Kendra Daniels, Anchorage resident and UAA gymnastic coach, thanked President Pitney and Chancellor Parnell for supporting UAA athletics; noted the athletic teams are once again on campus and are out in full force; provided an update on the gymnastic fundraising events and expressed support for UAA hockey.

Maire-Sophie Boggasch, UAA gymnastics head coach, said UAA athletes are back in the Alaska Airlines Center; invited the board to attend sporting events; said the teams have been resilient in its effort to support UAA athletics; reviewed the gymnastics team dynamics and its excellent GPAs and stated support for UAA hockey.

Corinne James, Juneau resident, shared her experience as a dual enrollment student utilizing programs at UAF and is thankful for the opportunity to earn college credit while attending high school.

Marcela Bonifasi, UAA gymnastics team member, said the UAA community is centered around student success; shared the team's community service events and volunteer efforts and stated support for UAA hockey.

Jennifer Delamere, Fairbanks resident and UAF Geographic Information Network of Alaska (GINA) director, shared the exciting research and data collections taking place at GINA and the opportunities at GINA to study Alaska's Arctic environment.

Tamija Woods, Anchorage resident, shared the importance of UA's One Health program and her experience and involvement with the program.

Carin Silkaitis, Juneau resident and UAS Arts and Sciences dean, said she is moved by the faculty and staff at UAS, noting excitement for the campus engagement among students, faculty, and staff; said the number of grants obtained by the faculty is impressive; is thrilled to be working at UAS and thanked the board for its support of UAS.

Laurie Meythaler-Mullins, Fairbanks resident and 2021 One Health master's program graduate, shared her experience with the program and the opportunities the program provides to the community and the state.

Ginny Shank, Kodiak resident and Kodiak College Advisory Council member, spoke in support of reinstating UAA's early childhood development program and the program's importance.

Skaydu Jules, UAS student, stated why she chose UAS, noting its strong Tlingit ties and shared her experience with the campus and its cultural programs.

Brianna Pauling, Fairbanks resident and UAF Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI) program manager, shared information about the RAHI program; provided an update on the 2021 summer program and thanked the board for supporting the program.

Jennifer Tilbury, Fairbanks resident and UAF Community and Technical College faculty member, shared information regarding the North Star Middle College and its partnership between UAF and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District and stated the impact the middle college has on high school students.

Thomas Farrugia, Anchorage resident and UAF Alumni Association treasurer, shared the association's recent events and student support opportunities and said the association hosted an event for parents during UAF's new student orientation.

Abbe Hensley, Anchorage resident, spoke about mobilizing people and resources for children's educational success and stated support for UAA's BA in early childhood development.

Cristina Bieber, Kodiak resident, said there is a shortage of early childhood educators in Alaska and stated support for UAA's BA in early childhood development.

Don Gray, Fairbanks resident, is an advocate for funding UA, said it is vital that the Legislature fund UA and encouraged the board to work together with the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development.

Kim Saunders, Kodiak resident, spoke in support of UAA's BA in early childhood development.

Stefanie Berglund, Anchorage resident and Thread Alaska CEO, shared information regarding Thread's work within Alaska and spoke in support of UAA's BA in early childhood development.

Dawn Humenik, UAA Staff Council co-president, said staff are excited for the academic year to begin; mentioned faculty and staff are back on campus in a mixed capacity; stated support for telework opportunities during the pandemic; noted staff is tired, facing burnout and have low morale; said there is excitement on campus regarding the hiring of a new chancellor and stated staff is looking forward to a positive work year.