

Board of Regents
Meeting of the Full Board
November 7-8, 2024
Fairbanks, Alaska

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Full Board Actions

1. Approval to Grant the Title of Regent Emeritus

POSTPONED

“The Board of Regents approves granting the title of Regent Emeritus of the University of Alaska to regents ending their service on the board in recognition of steadfast and exemplary leadership and distinguished and long-standing service under the authority provided for and in compliance with Board of Regents Bylaw 18.A. The title is considered honorary and receives no specific benefits or duties. This motion is effective November 7, 2024.”

2. Approval of Tuition Rates for Academic Year 2026

PASSED

“The Board of Regents approves tuition rates for Academic Year 2026 as presented. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

3. Approval of the FY26 Operating Budget Request

PASSED AS AMENDED

“The Board of Regents approves the FY26 operating budget request in accordance with the plan as amended. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

4. Approval of the FY26 Capital Budget Request

PASSED AS AMENDED

“The Board of Regents approves the FY26 capital budget request in accordance with the plan as amended. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

5. Approval of the Supplemental FY25 Operating Budget Request

PASSED

“The Board of Regents approves the supplemental FY25 operating budget request in accordance with the plan as presented. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

6. Approval of the Supplemental FY25 Capital Budget Request

PASSED

“The Board of Regents approves the supplemental FY25 capital budget request in accordance with the plan as presented. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

7. Approval of the FY24 Operating Budget Ratification Request

PASSED

“The Board of Regents approves the FY24 operating budget ratification request in accordance with the plan as presented. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

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

PASSED

“The Board of Regents approves the revisions to Regents' Policy 10.02.040 - Academic Unit Establishment, Major Revision, and Elimination, removing the Interior Alaska Campus at the University of Alaska Fairbanks from Regents' Policy to create flexibility for the university's programs to better meet the region’s needs. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

9. Approval of the Alaska College of Education Biennial Senate Bill 241 Report

PASSED

“The Board of Regents authorizes the Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee to approve the final Alaska's University for Alaska's Schools (Senate Bill 241) report to the 34th Alaska State Legislature on teacher preparation, retention, and recruitment in accordance with AS 14.40.190(b), which will include the Academic and Student Affairs Committee's November 7, 2024 revisions. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

10. Adoption of the FY24 Audited UA Financial Statements

PASSED

“The Board of Regents adopts the audited financial statements of the University of Alaska for the year ended June 30, 2024, as presented. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

11. Adoption of the FY24 Audited Financial Statements for the Education Trust of Alaska

PASSED

“The Board of Regents adopts the audited financial statements of the Education Trust of Alaska for the year ended June 30, 2024, as presented. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

12. Approval of the University of Alaska Fairbanks 2024 Troth Yeddha' Campus Master Plan Amendment

PASSED

“The Board of Regents approves the University of Alaska Fairbanks 2024 Troth Yeddha' Campus Master Plan Amendments for housing, research, and student recruitment and engagement as presented. This amendment will be incorporated in the existing 2020 UAF Troth Yeddha' Campus Master Plan. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

13. Approval of a Resolution of Appreciation for Mary K. Hughes

PASSED AS AMENDED

“The Board of Regents approves the resolution of appreciation for Mary K. Hughes. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes has served with unprecedented dedication and distinction as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska since 2002; and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes was appointed to the Board of Regents by Governor Knowles in 2002 and affirmed by Governor Murkowski in 2003; she was re-appointed to an eight-year term by Governor Palin in 2009 and re-appointed to a second eight-year term by Governor Walker in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes has held numerous leadership positions on the board, including serving as its Chair from 2005 to 2008, as Vice Chair from 2002 to 2005, and as Chair of the Human Resources, Planning & Development Committee, and as Vice Chair of the Facilities and Land Management Committee; she was also as the first Chair of the Governance Committee, established by the board in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes frequently shared personal recollections from her time as a University of Alaska student and often reflected on friendships and connections with members of the broader university community during regent meetings and public testimony, demonstrating a remarkable closeness to the matters at hand; and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes has been a member of the University of Alaska Foundation Board of Directors since 1990, both as an elected member and an appointed regent; and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes' professional career spanned both the public and private sector, serving as a partner in the Alaskan law firm of Hughes, Thorsness, Gantz, Powell, and Brundin from 1974 to 1994, Municipal Attorney for the Municipality of Anchorage from 1995 to 2000; and Alaska State Director for U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski from 2005 to 2008; and

Summary of Actions
Meeting of the Full Board
November 7-8, 2024
Fairbanks, Alaska

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes served as Chief Administrative Officer for Lisa Murkowski for the U.S. Senate from 2003 to 2013 and Alaska State Co-Chair with Byron Mallot for the Senator's historic write-in campaign in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes also is a former chair and director of the Alaska Humanities Forum and an ex-officio director and former chair of the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, has served in leadership positions with the Alaska Bar Association, Alaska Bar Foundation, and she served on the community advisory board of Alaska Airlines, the Export Council of Alaska, TOTE Community Advisory Board, Alaska Repertory Theatre, Soroptimist International of Cook Inlet, Providence Alaska Foundation and many others; and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes' commitment to higher education is further demonstrated by her selection as the first Alaskan to serve on the Board of Directors of the Association of Governing Board of Universities and Colleges (2013-2022) and her service on Willamette University's Board of Trustees since 1997 on which she currently serves as a Life Trustee Emeritus member (she was Chair and Vice Chair, as well as a 19-year member, of its Law Committee and served on the College of Law Board of Visitors); and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes was invited to be the Alaska representative on the University of Washington Medicine's Medical Outreach and Advocacy Committee in 2018 to support the WWAMI participation in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Mary K. Hughes was inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame for her achievements in philanthropy, public service, education and law; and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes' family's continued philanthropic support of the University of Alaska is evidenced through the establishment of the endowed Patricia Ann Hughes Eastaugh Memorial Teaching Scholarship, memorializing her sister and supporting students who attend the university studying to become certified teachers; and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes leads The John C. Hughes Foundation established to support organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life for Alaskans, and as Alaska and Alaskans benefited from her parents' generosity during their lives, the foundation extends their charity to endless future generations; and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes is a lifelong Alaskan, born on Kodiak Island and raised in Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, Hughes, knew at an early age she was to follow in her father's footsteps and become an Alaskan lawyer; and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes graduated cum laude from the University of Alaska in 1971 with a Bachelor of Business Administration – Management on which occasion she received the Marion Frances Boswell Memorial Award (an award presented to the most outstanding graduating senior female student at the university); continued her postgraduate studies in labor economics at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1971, and earned her Juris Doctorate at Willamette University College of Law in 1974; and

WHEREAS, her legal education, a precursor to a life as an Alaskan lawyer, truly established her commitment to others through Willamette University’s motto of “Non nobis solum nati sumus — Not unto ourselves alone are we born”; and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes, in recognition of her exceptional legal and public service career and her decades of service focused on Willamette Law and its importance to Alaska and Alaskans, was awarded the Lestle J. Sparks Medallion in 2023. She endowed the Alaska Law Scholars Fund, which helps make legal education possible and affordable for students from Alaska each year and personally mentors and advises those students; and

WHEREAS, Mary K. Hughes and her spouse, Andrew Eker, continue to be active community members in Alaska and in the lives of their three children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, demonstrating philanthropic spirit, faith, and love.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Alaska Board of Regents officially recognizes Mary K. Hughes’ exceptional public service to Alaska and the University of Alaska and expresses profound thanks on behalf of the students, staff, and faculty of the university for her contributions to the development and enhancement of higher education in Alaska, acknowledges she will be sincerely missed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be appropriately engrossed and conveyed to Mary K. Hughes with a copy incorporated into the official minutes of the November 7-8, 2024, meeting of the Board of Regents.

14. Approval of a Resolution of Appreciation for Paul Layer

PASSED

“The Board of Regents approves the resolution of appreciation for Paul Layer. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

WHEREAS, after 35 years of dedicated and distinctive service to the University of Alaska, including serving as Vice President for Academics, Students, and Research since 2018, Paul Layer will be retiring, leaving an enduring legacy of academic leadership, research, and teaching excellence; and

Meeting of the Full Board

November 7-8, 2024

Fairbanks, Alaska

WHEREAS, Paul Layer began his university career as an assistant professor of geophysics at the Geophysical Institute and the Department of Geology and Geophysics in 1989, working his way up through academic ranks to associate and then full-tenured professor of geophysics, to chair of the Department of Geology and Geophysics, and served as Associate Dean and then Dean of the College of Natural Science and Mathematics before joining the System Office administration; and

WHEREAS, Paul Layer served as a faculty senator and president-elect and president of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Faculty Senate from 2004-2006; and

WHEREAS, as Chief Academic and Student Affairs Officer for the University of Alaska System, Paul Layer worked with campus provosts and other vice chancellors to develop and articulate the system's academic mission; coordinate systemwide planning for instruction, research, public service, enrollment, and student services; coordinate academic program development and program review, and communicate those to the Board of Regents; and communicate the University of Alaska's educational outcomes to the state legislature and work with Alaska's federal delegation on the university's research priorities; and

WHEREAS, Paul Layer also oversaw the offices of Workforce Development, Student and Enrollment Strategy, Governance, Institutional Research, and the Data Warehouse; served as chair of the Statewide Academic Council and Statewide Student Services Council; and

WHEREAS, Paul Layer served as co-chair of the Alaska State Committee for Research, where he was the lead author of the 2022 Alaska Science and Technology Plan; oversaw the nomination process and selection of the annual Alaska Innovators Hall of Fame induction; and worked with principal investigators to secure system matching funds for the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health proposals; and

WHEREAS, among Paul Layer's significant accomplishments, he coordinated the report that oversaw the establishment of the Alaska College of Education Consortium in 2021, which defined roles for each of the university's Schools of Education; led working groups for revisions to Regents' Policy and University Regulations on tuition and accreditation and served as the lead author and editor of the revisions; established and supervised the UA Data Warehouse for archiving and distributing student, faculty and staff data; and

WHEREAS, Paul Layer engaged with Staff Governance leaders at the System Office as its cognisant chancellor, helping to address employee concerns and improve morale among the system staff; and

WHEREAS, Paul Layer received his BS in geology from Michigan State University and his MS and Ph.D. degrees in geophysics from Stanford University and spent three years as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto, Department of Physics; and

Meeting of the Full Board

November 7-8, 2024

Fairbanks, Alaska

WHEREAS, Paul Layer established the Geophysical Institute 40-Argon/39-Argon geochronology laboratory in 1989 and has authored or co-authored over 180 peer-reviewed and refereed publications between 1986 and 2024 in his research areas of radiometric geochronology, paleomagnetism, volcanology, and tectonics, and built strong national and international collaborations in support of his research with numerous presentations at scientific conferences; and

WHEREAS, Paul Layer served as chair for three Master of Science theses and four doctoral dissertations and was the member of 22 Masters of Science and 10 doctoral thesis committees; and

WHEREAS, Paul Layer led an annual field trip to the Brooks Range for incoming geoscience students and, with other members of the Geology and Geophysics Department, engaged with students with Friday night gatherings at the University of Alaska Fairbanks pub during the school year and the Golden Eagle in the summer months, building and strengthening relationships with up-and-coming researchers; and

WHEREAS, Paul Layer's calm, steady demeanor and inclusive leadership style were appreciated and respected across the University of Alaska System and will truly be missed;

WHEREAS, in retirement, Paul and his wife, Karen, will enjoy time with their three children and three grandchildren and continue to enjoy the Interior of Alaska, geologic treasures, hockey, golf, summer rides in their Miata convertible, and new adventures around every bend.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska officially recognizes and thanks Paul Layer for his dedicated service to the University of Alaska, its employees, students, and partners and commend him for his efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be appropriately engrossed and conveyed to Paul Layer with a copy incorporated into the official minutes of the November 7-8, 2024, meeting of the Board of Regents.

15. Approval of the Board of Regents' 2026 Meeting Schedule

PASSED AS AMENDED

“The Board of Regents approves its 2026 meeting schedule as amended. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

16. Election of Board of Regents' Officers

PASSED

“The Board of Regents elects Ralph Seekins as chair of the Board of Regents. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

PASSED

“The Board of Regents elects Scott Jepsen as vice chair of the Board of Regents. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

PASSED

“The Board of Regents elects Joey Crum as secretary of the Board of Regents. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

PASSED

“The Board of Regents elects Karen Perdue as treasurer of the Board of Regents. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

17. Approval of Revisions to the Corporate Authority Resolution

PASSED

“The Board of Regents approves the Corporate Authority Resolution as revised, to reflect changes in the officers of the board resulting from the Board of Regents' elections, and authorizes the chair and secretary of the board to sign the resolution. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

18. Approval of Revisions to the Industrial Security Resolution

PASSED

“The Board of Regents approves the Industrial Security Resolution as revised, to reflect changes to the officers of the board resulting from the Board of Regents' elections, and the change to university general counsel, and authorizes the chair and secretary of the board to sign the resolution. This motion is effective November 8, 2024.”

Committee Action

19. Formal Project and Schematic Design Approval for the University of Alaska Anchorage Residential Campus Roof Repairs

PASSED

“The Facilities and Land Management Committee approves the combined formal project approval and schematic design approval request for the University of Alaska Anchorage Residential Campus Roof Repairs presented in compliance with the campus master plan, and authorizes the university administration to complete construction bid documents to bid and award a contract within the approved budget, and to proceed to completion of project construction not to exceed a total project cost of \$3,138,300. This motion is effective November 7, 2024.”