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Many Traditions One Alaska

Date: March 21, 2018

To: Paul Layer
                VPASA, University of Alaska

From: Lisa Hoferkamp
                Chair, University of Alaska Faculty Alliance

RE: outsourcing of academic programs

Dear VPASA Layer,

In an email communication dated March 7, 2018 from you to the UA E-Learning Subgroup, each campus was asked to identify one program that might be a candidate for outsourcing and discuss the pros and cons of pursuing this track. The Faculty Alliance (FA) was informed of this directive and reminded that the majority of UA faculty do not support outsourcing of *any* academic programs. In a subsequent email communication from you to me (March 19, 2018), a distinction between academic and other "programs" thus I am writing this letter to reiterate the majority opinion of the UA faculty through a statement from the FA.

The Faculty Alliance is strongly opposed to outsourcing of any academic program to any entity not under the control of the faculty of the University of Alaska, regardless of the manner in which that program is delivered to students.

Your March 19 email indicates that the directive to identify a program for review is driven by the charge of the Strategic Pathways Phase II E-Learning group (http://alaska.edu/pathways/phase-2/e-learning/). In reviewing the results of the SP PhII E-Learning group (http://alaska.edu/files/pathways/1.2-eLearning-Report.pdf) it would appear that this task has already been accomplished and the results clearly skewed against outsourcing of programs. If cost-savings are a factor in driving the continued consideration of this unpopular direction, then I would cite UA administrators stating during public meetings that outsourcing is *always* more expensive. Furthermore, the charge to the SP PhII E-Learning group included instructions to develop and review other options. Those options, including the development of an E-learning inter-university consortium, centralization of E-learning at UA Statewide and cooperative decentralization, are all published at the address cited above and all assessed more favorably than outsourcing.

The E-Learning Subgroup will follow-through to the best of their capability with your directive, however, the FA in addition to reiterating our opposition to outsourcing of any academic

programs at the University of Alaska, would like to point out the redundant nature of President Johnsen's insistence on a review of program outsourcing (provided those programs are academic in nature) and caution against the continued consideration of a wildly unpopular initiative fraught with shortcomings that have been clearly described in the SP PhII E-Learning group's final report.

Respectfully,

Lisa Hoferkamp

Lisa Hoferkamp
UA Faculty Alliance Chair