

Faculty Alliance
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UNIVERSITY
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July 12, 2019

Board of Regents
University of Alaska
PO Box 755000
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5000

Dear UA Board of Regents:

Faculty Alliance had an emergency meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2019, to discuss the concern the faculty have about declaring financial exigency before the current special legislative session is over and we know the UA budget.

We understand that you are scheduled to discuss financial exigency on Monday, July 15, and we urge you to consider delaying authorization to declare financial exigency. We are concerned that declaring financial exigency before the end of the special legislative session will do more harm than good. A declaration of financial exigency too early would send further shockwaves to our students, staff and faculty and the great community who have come out in support of our universities.

- A number of Alaska State legislators have made clear that the budget process is still ongoing and very fluid, and that a final determination of the UA budget is far from clear.
- A declaration of financial exigency without knowing our budget will have a detrimental impact on the reputation of the university and potentially undermine the future of the entire UA system via loss of accreditation for the three separately accredited universities. This was made clear in the letter to the members of the Alaska Legislature from NWCCU President Sonny Ramaswamy.
- The UA system has tremendous support from all of our communities and we believe there is a chance the legislature will restore lost funding, and if financial exigency is declared we will likely lose that support.

Additional time is needed to contact members of the Alaska Legislature and to work with UA Strong and our community constituent groups. Once financial exigency is declared, it sends a message that we have given up on getting a reasonable budget. This is not wise. The faculty have not given up.

UA Faculty Alliance urges the UA Board of Regents not to declare Financial Exigency until the State of Alaska Legislative special session is over and the University of Alaska budget is clear. UA Faculty Alliance also urges the UA Board of Regents to honor the AAUP Policy on consulting with Faculty governance on making the determination of Financial Exigency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Williams".

Maria Williams, Faculty Alliance Chair
Sine Anahita, UAF Faculty Senate President
Heather Batchelder, UAS Faculty Senate President
Syndonia Bret-Harte, UAF Faculty Senate Past-President
Scott Downing, UAA Faculty Senate President
Robin Gilcrist, UAS Faculty Senate Past-President
Jak Maier, UAF Faculty Senate President-Elect
Kelly Smith, UAA Faculty Senate President-Elect