



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

**Faculty Alliance
Resolution 2017-05
Support for Alaska Native Studies General Education Requirement**

Whereas, none of the three universities in the University of Alaska system currently has an Alaska Natives Studies general education requirement (GER), and

Whereas, Alaska Native cultures, history, languages, and knowledge are crucial to understanding Alaska, and

Whereas, all three universities have Alaska Native Studies faculty currently delivering courses on Alaska Native cultures, history, languages, and knowledge that serve as GERs, and

Whereas, students and faculty across the system have voiced their support for establishing an Alaska Native Studies GER, and

Whereas, the Faculty Alliance recognizes the faculty at each university have curricular authority of their respective GERs; thus, we expect that each faculty will determine how best to incorporate an Alaska Native Studies requirement into the GERs for their students, and

Whereas, the Board of Regents wishes for the GERs to be completely transferable and broadly aligned as made clear in BOR Policy [10.04.062](#) and in the April 3-4, 2014 BOR [Resolution](#) on 10.04.040 General Education Requirements (pp 16-17), and

Whereas, the Alaska Native Studies Council has identified student learning outcomes for an Alaska Native Studies GER component, and

Whereas, the proposal to add an Alaska Native Studies GER has been under consideration for over a year, and

Whereas, the Alaska Native Studies Council has worked broadly and collaboratively to develop this proposal, and

Whereas, the Faculty Alliance agrees that establishing an Alaska Native Studies component within the existing GERs should be a top priority, is long overdue, and will be a crucial part of enhancing the quality of the baccalaureate-level education provided by the three universities that make up the University of Alaska System.

Therefore be it resolved, the Faculty Alliance supports the adoption of an Alaska Native Studies component within the University of Alaska GERs at each university.

Be it further resolved, the Faculty Alliance urges the faculty of the AKNS Council to work with the GER Coordinating Task Force and the curricular review bodies at each university to propose an Alaska Native Studies GER component with the following principles in mind:

- the new requirement should be integrated with existing GER requirements and not add to the total number of GER credits required at each university;
- students should have options to complete this requirement;
- the requirement should be designed to avoid enrollment bottlenecks and to maximize existing resources.

The Faculty Alliance hopes the AKNS requirement within the GER could be implemented as early as Fall 2018.

Adopted unanimously by the Faculty Alliance the 20th day of January 2017.

DocuSigned by:

Tara Smith

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Tara Smith, Chair