

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2016

STATEMENT FROM UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA PRESIDENT JIM JOHNSEN REGARDING NCAA WAIVER

Last month, the university requested a waiver from the NCAA that would have allowed the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks to reduce team rosters to below the NCAA's 10-team requirement.

On November 9, the NCAA responded, saying that it was neither approving nor denying the university's request. Rather it declined to take any action at all. The NCAA's response indicated that it would consider a waiver request only after the university reduced the number of teams below the 10-team minimum. We know that such a step would risk a wide variety of financial and programmatic NCAA sanctions.

As a result of this nonresponse from the NCAA, I will recommend to the Board of Regents that we not reduce teams at this time. Similarly, given the complexity associated with the consortium option as discussed with the Regents, I will recommend against pursuing that option at this time as well.

Instead of those options, I will suggest we tap into the large outpouring of support from our student athletes, our communities and our alumni. It is clear that the ski community strongly supports the programs at UAA and UAF. Of course, much depends on our future budget. But given the volume of voices of support for athletics and the passion of their arguments, we will recommend instead to engage with these supporters to invite and encourage their financial support for the athletic programs they value so much.

I look forward to a full conversation about this approach with the Board of Regents today, and I am confident we will find an appropriate way forward.

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Live Stream Online using wireless devices or a computer during open session at:

<http://www.alaska.edu/bor/live/>

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