

James R. Johnsen, Ed.D.

President

Butrovich Bldg, Ste. 202, 2025 Yukon Drive
P.O. Box 755000, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5000
Phone: (907) 450-8000; Fax: (907) 450-8012
Email: ua.president@alaska.edu
www.alaska.edu



UNIVERSITY
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Many Traditions One Alaska

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Dear UA Community

The Governor's office has told me that we will know the state unrestricted general fund (UGF) budget for the university by the end of this week, including any veto amounts. In making that announcement the governor will have decided whether the state will continue its investment in the university—allowing Alaskans of all ages to continue, uninterrupted in their higher education pursuit—or veto a large portion of the University of Alaska budget.

The UA leadership team has been discussing contingency budgets, and on Friday, June 28, the Board of Regents will meet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to discuss the governor's budget. I urge all of you to listen in to learn about next steps and what we face going forward www.alaska.edu/bor/live.

Make no mistake, the university cannot take an additional, substantial reduction in state general funds without abruptly eliminating programs and services, shutting down campuses, making major administrative reductions, and eliminating many community outreach activities. An additional reduction of even \$10 million—on top of the \$51 million in cuts we've already taken—will mean the discontinuation of programs and services, and that will have ripple effects across Alaska. Our students will feel the effect of the Governor's veto through potential increased tuition and fees in addition to disruption of their educational programs.

Your hard work and advocacy resulted in a reasonable budget from the Legislature. In addition, I have had numerous meetings with the governor and his team, and have demonstrated how the university has focused its mission, reduced costs, increased private fundraising, developed strategic plans with measurable goals, created a task force on the university's structure, and developed a compelling vision for how the university enables Alaskans to create a strong and sustainable future for our state. Despite this, I anticipate a veto to our budget. Our only recourse will be to seek a legislative override of that veto. While that is a heavy lift, requiring a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of all legislators, if successful UA's state funding amount would return to \$322 million, the budget passed by the legislature. The educational investments and opportunities for thousands of Alaskans will depend on it.

If a veto of a substantial amount occurs, I will need your help. Contact your legislator and advocate for a veto override. Please convey the message that a substantial veto will disrupt students' training and education, and ask that legislators act to preserve the university as a highly accessible and affordable path to an excellent education that offers opportunities that only education can provide to the workforce.

Thank you for your support and for all that you do on behalf of the University of Alaska.

#UAStrong
Jim Johnsen