

May 3, 2019

## Update to Summit Team

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### UAA Regional Accreditation Update – Susan Kalina and John Stalvey

#### 2025 CYCLE

January 2019:	NWCCU Reaffirmed UAA’s regional accreditation
Spring 2020:	Mission and Core Themes Report with an addendum to address Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Fall 2018 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Peer-Evaluation Report.
Fall 2021:	Mid-Cycle Evaluation and visit.
Fall 2025:	Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation and visit.

#### BUILDING ON COMMENDATIONS

1. Inclusive planning process:

Chancellor Sandeen charged an [Exploratory Group on Strategic Planning](#) to define potential processes by which UAA will conduct a broad based strategic planning process.

[UAA Guiding Principles for Budget Decisions](#) were developed and shared out in March 2019.

2. Culture of diversity and inclusivity:

UAA’s Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan implementation is underway with the reorganized [Diversity Action Council](#) tasked with overseeing the plan, and developing benchmarks and an accountability system for each objective.

Recruitment is under way for UAA’s first Chief Diversity Officer, an important position recommended in the Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.

3. Community engagement and the Public Square:

UAA is partnering with the Municipality of Anchorage on an internship program. A survey of municipality departments will identify needs and placement opportunities.

4. Extensive assessment efforts related to student learning:

This year’s GER assessment effort focuses on critical thinking and uses the AAC&U VALUE Rubric as a foundation for the assessment. GER Director Dr. Dan Kline will facilitate the cross-campus, cross-disciplinary assessment process at the annual GER Assessment Soiree in May.

## RESPONDING TO RECOMMENDATIONS

*Recommendation 1: Expand efforts around institutional planning of graduate programs to demonstrate their academic quality and role in mission fulfillment. (Standard 2.C.12)*

**Fall 2018:** Engaged the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) to consult on the development of graduate programs; separated the role of the Dean of Graduate Studies from the Vice Provost for Research.

**Spring 2019:** Hosted the CGS consultative site visit (March 4-6); working group will be established to act on the recommendations that emerge from the visit; final site visit report expected in April or May 2019.

*Recommendation 2: Continue the focus on collaborative Student Success efforts to raise low graduation and retention rates and support Mission Fulfillment. (Standard 5.B.1)*

### Fall 2019

Pilot- Teaching and Learning Assistants for key courses with low pass rates (Fall 2019)

**Interstate Passport:** UAA became the 30th institution across 12 states to join the Interstate Passport Network (IPN), a nationwide network of two- and four-year colleges and universities that allows students to transfer lower-division general education credits as a block to any member institution. (Fall 2019)

**NWCCU Academy for Retention, Completion, and Student Success:** UAA was selected as one of 20 institutions to participate in the NWCCU Academy for Retention, Completion, and Student Success. (Fall 2019)

### Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Alaska Native Student Success Task Force (Spring 2019)

#### Advising

- First year course maps (Fall 2019 implementation)
- Academic Advising Steering Committee (Spring 2019 implementation)
- First Year Student Advising and Success Office (Fall 2018 implementation)
- EAB Navigate Advising Platform (Fall 2018 implementation)
- Student facing mobile app *Seawolf Tracks* (Fall 2018 implementation)

#### Curriculum and Academic Policy

- Standardized catalog copy for all AAS degrees, removing hidden prerequisites
- Tied catalog year to year of admission as degree-seeking student
- Aligned General Education policy in catalog with revised UA Regulation

#### Financial Aid

- \$AVVY SEAWOLF
- Financial Aid Counseling
- Financial Aid Leveraging

## UAS Regional Accreditation Update – Rick Caulfield and Karen Carey

UAS leadership and members of our Strategic Planning and Budgeting Advisory Committee just concluded a very positive meeting with the team of nine NWCCU peer evaluators who've been on the Juneau Campus over the past three days. The team shared its preliminary assessment of UAS programs and services that it will be forwarding to the full Commission.

Importantly, the commendations and recommendations shared with us by the reviewers are only preliminary. It will be up to the full Commission, meeting in Utah in June, to consider the site visit report and vote on approval of continuing accreditation. The review team will be presenting a complete report to the Commission by the end of May.

The overall assessment of the site visit team was very positive. The chair expressed appreciation for the clarity and thoroughness of the UAS self-study document—reportedly one of the best he had seen. He expressed appreciation for the well-designed schedule for the team, seamless logistics, and for the impressive engagement of students, faculty, and staff. He commented about the fact that forums for these groups were all 'standing room only.'

The chair shared five commendations and three recommendations which the peer evaluators expect to include in their report to the Commission. In brief, the commendations focused on:

- Recognition and inclusion of Alaska Native languages, cultures, and arts in UAS programs as well as efforts to make our campuses places of cultural safety and equity.
- Appreciation for the robust participation of faculty, staff, students, and community partners in the site team's visit, and the positive message these participants shared about their experiences with UAS. The team commented that they were particularly impressed by the input they received from students.
- Productive work of the Student Success Committee and the value of our UAS Strategic Enrollment Plan, including the data analysis that supports this work.
- UAS success in optimizing online education opportunities across vast geographic areas that provide student access to strong programming, as well as providing meaningful experiential learning opportunities across all three campuses.
- Successful efforts to integrate our three UAS campuses into one regional university with shared vision and values. The team commented that this level of collaboration and consistent support was 'remarkable.'

The team's recommendations focused on three areas which the chair observed were already underway:

- Stabilize UAS' administrative team and structure, and ensure sufficient staffing of key personnel in order to fulfill our mission.
- Expand the use of data in analyzing enrollment trends and learning outcomes.
- Rework and refine objectives and indicators to better inform planning and decision making.

Next steps in the process include finalizing the review team's report to the Commission—expected by the end of May. UAS will have an opportunity to review a draft of that report and note any errors of fact. As noted above, the full Commission will receive a copy of the report for review and action at its June meeting. Formal notification of the Commission's actions will come within 60 days of the June meeting.

## **UAF Regional Accreditation Update – Anupma Prakash**

We now know from NWCCU that Dr. Nathan Lindsay, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, The University of Montana - Missoula, will Chair the Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability visit to University of Alaska Fairbanks on September 23-25, 2019. ALO, Alex Fitts, has been active visiting individual colleges to talk about accreditation and upcoming site visit. We have posters, flyers, and now short videos on accreditation core themes that have been launched.

We've updated the accreditation master spreadsheet (attached) for the UAF tab, with the addition of CTCs Early Childhood Education AAS program for which NAEYC is the accrediting body. This was an omission in our spreadsheet. A team of accreditors visited CTC on May 19, 2019 and had a very positive feedback.

There is still considerable confusion among community members (especially among the surrounding high schools) about accreditation. In light of UAA SoE accreditation issues, many still think that the university as a whole lost its accreditation. We request continued clear messaging from statewide, especially as we draw close to admission decision deadlines.