

January 20, 2017

Dear UA Community –

This week, the university's leadership heard from the eight review teams working on options in Phase II of the Strategic Pathways process. The eight teams presented a total of 37 well thought out options for four academic areas – Community Campuses, e-Learning, Allied Health and Fisheries – and four administrative areas – Institutional Research, University Relations, Student Services and Human Resources.

Team reports and options with pros/cons are available at <http://www.alaska.edu/pathways/phase-2/>. Feedback forms also are available, and I encourage you to share your thoughts.

This has been and will continue to be a dynamic process, and we're learning and improving as we go. One of the things we've learned over the past few months is to pursue a more focused approach to reviewing options and soliciting input from the affected programs as well as from university governance and community leaders.

Next steps in the Phase II timeline include the chancellors, provosts and vice chancellors joining me in meetings with those whose programs/departments could be affected by proposed options. We want to have a thorough discussion about the options as well as the pros and cons of each. In addition to those unit meetings, the consultative process will include:

- The Board of Regents' quarterly public testimony call-in session from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Feb. 21. This call-in will present a good opportunity for direct discussion with the board.
- A general discussion on options that I will have at the Board of Regents meeting on March 2-3 including an informal public gathering to talk directly with the regents;
- In March and April, I'll hold campus forums and external community meetings;
- The May Board of Regents public testimony call-in will be held on May 21 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and,
- Final decisions will be taken up in June when the Board of Regents meet.

I also wanted to share some numbers with you that illustrate the dynamic involvement of faculty, students, staff, alumni and community members who have contributed to the review process so far. Since last June when the process began, 179 people have served on review teams. Of that number:

- 90 were faculty, deans, staff and students
- 29 were community members including alumni
- 60 were administrators

I am pleased that these groups have put forward some really innovative ideas to realign university resources. I thank each of the team members for their time, work and energy, and look forward to gathering more feedback from our university community.

By the end of this month, Strategic Pathways teams will have reviewed 15 of the 23 major academic and administrative areas of the university. As part of the review process, 1,938 comments offered by email or feedback form have been received and reviewed. The decisions made in Phase I alone have increased UA accountability and streamlined UA bureaucracy by 30 percent.

For a review of some of the data relating to Phase I and II download this [Strategic Pathways infographic](#).

While we've worked hard to strengthen strategic areas and operate more efficiently in the wake of budget reductions, this effort isn't just about reduced expenses – it's also about creating the best possible University of Alaska. Not every decision will generate savings, and I'll add that we've had some challenges but we've also had some significant successes. Most notable are the increased cooperation among our campuses, increased efficiency and accountability through assignment of lead responsibility to a single campus in several areas, and unified support for reallocation to meet high priority state needs.

As we continue with the Phase II consultative process, Phase III of Strategic Pathways reviews begin work on Jan. 30, 2017. In this final phase, seven additional programs will be under review, details of which can be found on the Strategic Pathways website along with the names of the 89 review team members.

I'll close with the response I gave to a state senator recently when I was asked how the university is doing. Given just one minute to answer I said, "We are strong. We face challenges. We will succeed."

Thank you for all that you do for the University of Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Jim Johnsen