



## Statewide Administration Assembly

### Resolution 2021-01 Shared Governance in Decision-Making at the University of Alaska

- WHEREAS, The University of Alaska is currently undergoing a significant reduction in state funding; and
- WHEREAS, Last year, Staff Alliance passed [a resolution](#)<sup>(1)</sup> asking that any future major administrative changes include staff involvement, in accordance with shared governance principles; and
- WHEREAS, SAA would like to emphasize the desire and importance for staff governance to be included in all aspects of major decision-making processes, as staff hold a valuable perspective in these conversations that cannot be fully known or represented by executive leadership; and
- WHEREAS, The decision to move Foundation staff into the 501c3 nonprofit University of Alaska Foundation and remove them from the University was announced with no prior knowledge or involvement of staff governance or of staff who are affected by this decision; and
- WHEREAS, A consultant was named to run the Foundation structural transition with no prior knowledge or involvement of staff governance or of staff who are affected by this decision; and
- WHEREAS, No cost-benefit analysis was done on whether this was a sound decision that would be beneficial for the University; and
- WHEREAS, Foundation staff were notified of this plan for structural change a mere week before it being discussed by the Board of Regents; and
- WHEREAS, Shared governance is supported by [Regents' Policy P03.01.010](#)<sup>(2)</sup> and [NWCCU accreditation standard 2.A.4](#)<sup>(3)</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, The role of staff governance is to represent, voice and protect staff interest; and
- WHEREAS, Staff governance is not able to fulfill its role if we are left out of the decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, SAA recognizes that changes are necessary to meet our budget cuts, and feels that when these changes are done through shared governance they result in better decisions, more buy-in and better follow-through.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

The SAA desires a clearly communicated and transparent transition process for the Foundation that provides the opportunity for staff involvement and input throughout the process; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED,

The SAA desires any further major action affecting Statewide staff be undertaken while following shared governance principles. The SAA feels that in the spirit of true shared governance it should be, at a minimum, given an opportunity to be involved, and at a minimum, comment on any major decisions prior to them being finalized.

- (1) [Staff Alliance Resolution 2020-01 Administrative Consolidations](#)
- (2) <https://www.alaska.edu/bor/policy/03-01.pdf>
- (3) <https://www.nwccu.org/accreditation/standards-policies/standards/>

**Adopted by the Statewide Administration Assembly the 2nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.**

*Lauren Hartman*

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Lauren Hartman, FY21 President