

University of Alaska System
Academics, Students &
Research

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Date: September 25, 2024

To: Faculty Alliance, Staff Alliance

From: Paul Layer, Vice President of Academics, Students & Research

Re: Review of P02.01.060 University of Alaska Regents Professor

CC: President Pat Pitney, UAF Provost Anupma Prakash, UAA Provost Denise Runge,
UAS Interim Provost Carin Silkaitis

President Pitney has requested that there be a systematic review of Board policy.P02.01.060 University of Alaska Regents Professor, allows the board to confer an academic title on an incoming or outgoing university president. UAA Provost Runge, UAF Provost Prakash and UAS Interim Provost Silkaitis and I have reviewed this policy and recommend that it be rescinded. Please review and respond by October 25, 2024.

Current Policy:

P02.01.060. University of Alaska Regents Professor.

The board may confer the position of University of Alaska Regents Professor on the president of the university at the time of appointment or subsequent to appointment. At such time as a University of Alaska Regents Professor relinquishes the position of president, the board will establish a new position with sufficient funding in a department or academic unit in which the Regents Professor possesses appropriate academic qualifications, unless the president has been terminated for a cause. The Regents Professor will be tenured in the department or academic unit for which the Regents Professor is qualified and will receive such compensation as the board will determine. If the Regents Professor occupies the position in the department or academic unit for two or more years, the position will be permanently assigned to the department or academic unit.

Discussion:

This policy was last modified in 1996 so that during recruitment, the position of UA president would be made more attractive with the guarantee of an academic appointment with tenure should the president relinquish their position. The provosts and I are of the

opinion that the addition of a former president to an academic department without explicit consultation by the Board with the appropriate university chancellor and chief academic officer (provost) and an assessment of the role of that individual in the teaching, research or service mission or needs of the program could be disruptive to the department and might not be in the best interest of the university. Although initially the board will provide sufficient funding to support the addition of a faculty member, the unit will be responsible for providing space and administrative support for the former president. More importantly, the automatic awarding of tenure is counter to the well-established tenure review processes with faculty and administrative input through a shared governance process.

The opportunity for an incoming university president to join the faculty could be part of the negotiation at the time of hire, but it should not come with a special title and should include consultation with the chancellor and provost of the appropriate university and be conditional on following standard practices for tenure review used for other incoming administrators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul W. Layer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being the most prominent.

Paul W. Layer, PhD
Vice President for Academics, Students & Research
University of Alaska

cc: President Pat Pitney, UAF Provost Anupma Prakash, UAA Provost Denise Runge, UAS
Interim Provost Carin Silkaitis