



## REGENTS APPROVE UA BUDGET REQUEST

Board members met on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus Monday, Nov. 1, and approved a \$242.7 million budget request to the state Legislature for day-to-day operating expenses of the system.

The request represents a 5 percent increase, or \$11.6 million, over the current year's spending blueprint. University President Mark Hamilton said Gov. Frank Murkowski has agreed to include the increase in the budget he'll forward to lawmakers in January.

The extra money is necessary to pay for a rise in unavoidable fixed costs, such as negotiated salaries and debt service.

Board members noted that the university has had great success in diversifying its revenue sources in recent years. In 1990, for example, the state contribution of general fund dollars made up 60 percent of the university's budget. Today, the state support makes up 40 percent of the UA operating budget.

While the university system has been drawing less from the state treasury, the financial commitment from the state remains crucial for leveraging federal and private dollars, said Board Chairman Brian Rogers.

Board members also agreed to ask the state for \$118.8 million in capital money next year for crucial needs in code compliance, maintenance, renovations and repairs on campuses across the state. That state money would be matched by \$110.4 million from other funding sources, including federal money and private contributions.

Hamilton noted the institution has received little capital support from the Legislature the last few years, a trend that must not continue.

"This year represents a catch-up year for

us," Hamilton said. "It's our responsibility to lay out our real needs, system wide."

The regents deferred action on a long-term capital improvement plan that looks ahead through the 2007-2012 fiscal year, agreeing the list of projects needs more discussion. The issue could come up at the next board meeting, slated for the Fairbanks campus Dec. 8 and 9.

## CHANCY CROFT URGES SUPPORT FOR REGENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Former board chairman Chancy Croft encouraged board members to continue support of the Regents' Scholarship program, established as an endowment of the UA Foundation through a generous gift from the late Elmer Rasmuson in 2000.

Since then, many supporters have donated to the fund, which currently stands at \$182,000. A scholarship selection committee made up of current and past members of the Board of Regents has awarded 14 scholarships to UA students over the past four years, with each scholarship worth up to \$5,000.

Students attending any campus of the UA system may apply for the scholarship, which helps defray the cost of tuition, books and other educational expenses. Three UAF students and one UAA student received scholarships from the fund for the current academic year.

Additional contributions will, of course, lead to the fund's continued growth and more scholarships awarded in the future. Those interested in supporting the fund may contact the UA Foundation at 474-7687.

## Future Board Meetings

December 8-9, 2004  
Fairbanks

February 16-18, 2005  
Juneau

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*The University of Alaska Board of Regents is the governing body responsible for the university policy and management through the president. Regents are appointed by the governor for eight-year terms, subject to legislative confirmation. A student regent is appointed for two years from candidates nominated on each campus. (Regents' term of office shown in parentheses.)*