



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA

Many Traditions One Alaska

Regents' Recap

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UA BOARD OF REGENTS' MEETING September 2006

Tuition increase approved

The University of Alaska Board of Regents approved a 7 percent tuition increase for the 2007-2008 school year at the September board meeting, after two days of discussing the issue and hearing from numerous students.

Board members agreed with students testifying that the best way to expand need-based financial aid in Alaska is to request it from the state. UA President Mark Hamilton floated the idea of an additional increase above the 7 percent to support a need-based program, but he agreed asking the state for the money is the best approach.

Regents voted for the 7 percent increase on an 8-2 vote, with Regents Bob Martin of Juneau and Carl Marrs of Anchorage voting no.

Making Students Count



President Hamilton presented four university employees with the 8th annual Make Students Count Award, given to employees singled out for putting students first. Pictured from left are Rhonda Ooms of Statewide Labor Relations; Melodee Monson of UAA Human Services; President Hamilton; Jenifer Sandonato of UAS Instructional Services; and Julie Parzick of UAF's History Department.

Photo by UA Governance Staff ©2006 University of Alaska.

Mary K. Hughes of Anchorage, chair of the board, said the university is counting on the students' help to lobby for more need-based aid from the state's next governor and the Alaska Legislature.

"We all clearly understand that Alaska students have a very real need for a financial aid program based on income levels," Hughes said. "The students' offer to help us garner that support in Juneau is very much appreciated."

Board members and Hamilton discussed a wide range of options for holding the line on future tuition, including a lock-in rate, but took no action.

Even with the 7 percent increase, the UA system is about in the middle of similar, four-year public universities in the west.

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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.)

Kudos from Coalition



President Hamilton accepted an award on behalf of the university system from Robert Conlon of the Alaska Commission on Post-secondary Education. The award, presented by the Coalition of Alaskans Supporting Higher Education, lauds the university for its leadership and assistance in the Alaska College Goal Sunday program. Photo by UA Governance Staff ©2006 University of Alaska.

The tuition increase pushes the rate from \$120 to \$128 per credit for lower division courses; \$135 to \$144 per credit for upper division courses, and \$268 to \$287 per credit for graduate courses. Exactly how much a student pays depends on credit load and type. For an average load with a split of upper division and lower division courses a student could expect to pay about \$150-\$200 more in tuition per year. Credit hour rates for Kodiak College and Prince William Sound Community College in Valdez are slightly less, but they also will see a 7 percent increase beginning in fall 2007.

New Degree Programs Approved

Board members also approved several new programs, including a bachelor's degree in international studies at the University of Alaska Anchorage, to be reviewed in five years; undergraduate technology career specialty certificates in welding, construction and industrial safety at Kodiak College; and the continuation of several programs, including a bachelor's in aviation technology, associate of applied science in technology, bachelor's in health sciences, and master's in global supply chain management, all at UAA; and a master's in rural development at UAF.

Candidate visit

Regents also heard from gubernatorial candidates Andrew Halcro, Tony Knowles and Sarah Palin over the two-day meeting. The informal exchanges allowed regents to ask the candidates their positions on higher education issues and to let the candidates know some of the board's concerns for the university system, including need-based financial aid, retirement cost increases in the state-run PERS and TRS programs, the state's investment in university research, and other issues.

Board members also attended a dedication ceremony for UAA's new Integrated Sciences building, slated to open by fall 2009.

In other business:

Regents also had an early look at the proposed budget for the 2008 fiscal year, but aren't scheduled to debate and vote on it until the November meeting in Anchorage. The budget request then goes on to the governor and legislature for action.

In addition, regents took the following action regarding UA facilities:

- Formal project approval for a \$5.7 million upgrade to the Arctic Health Research Building at UAF;
- Total project cost increase for an addition to Prince William Sound Community College, at \$4.7 million;
- and formal project approval of a \$4 million renovation to the Tanana Valley Campus building in downtown Fairbanks.

Future Board Meetings

November 1, 2006
Anchorage

December 6-7, 2006
Fairbanks
