

Pat Pitney
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RE: Governor's proposed FY26 budget provides solid support for Regent priorities

Dec. 12, 2024

Dear University of Alaska Community,

Governor Dunleavy released his FY26 budget proposal today. The good news is that it largely funds key Board of Regents' budget priorities, including compensation, and fixed cost increases. Throughout the Board's budget process, the Governor's budget office has emphasized his commitment to working with us and his support for UA. We appreciate that, and the support the budget provides for our high-quality academic, workforce development, and research programs that [empower Alaska](#).

The budget released today is a solid starting point for discussions in Juneau next legislative session. It does not yet include funding for program requests to address recruitment, retention, and graduation, or deferred maintenance, which remain among the Regents' priorities.

Those outstanding items are a reminder of the restrained fiscal environment in which the state operates, and that all of our budget requests will be carefully scrutinized. The pressures of inflation and fixed cost increases are impacting all of us - state agencies, individuals, and the university - at rates outpacing the state's revenue-generating ability. And while we can't fully fund the difference, we will be working hard to advocate for more state support for programs and priorities while also identifying internal efficiencies and process improvements to reduce workloads and fund internal reallocations.

The Board and I remain grateful for the continued, consistent state support over the last several years, and will continue to advocate for Regents' priorities not yet included in the budget. If supported with an emphasis on future growth, UA is uniquely positioned to help grow Alaska's population by drawing in non-residents to put down roots to help build and empower Alaska. The Regents' priorities reflect that potential, and we hope to see it fully realized.

For budget details, see the [Office of Management and Budget FY26 documents](#). You can also view a comparison between the budget released today and the Regents' original budget request on our [Gov Relations Advocacy site](#).

Budget Summary

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The operating budget funds some of the Regents' priorities included in their November budget request, including **\$24 million in state funds to support negotiated compensation increases for faculty and staff, and other rising fixed costs.**

The budget includes modest tuition increases for FY26, as approved by the Board in November. Those modest increases maintain affordability and accessibility for our students and are aligned with our philosophy of balancing growth in costs with maintaining as much affordability as possible.

The FY26 capital budget includes funding for:

- **\$1.25 million for the UAA Alaska Leaders Archive,**
- **\$6 million for ACUASI, UAF's center for drone excellence,**
- **\$2 million for UAS Mariculture program expansion, and**
- **\$14 million to support research programs and priorities of Governor Dunleavy.**

The budget request passed by the Board of Regents in November reflects the true needs of our system so that we can continue meeting the needs of Alaska and Alaskans. We'll continue working with the Governor, Legislature, and the Board of Regents to maintain our positive trajectory, and build a sustainable future for our University and state.

Thank you for all you do to help our students achieve success.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season,

Pat Pitney
President
University of Alaska