



# UNIVERSITY of ALASKA SOUTHEAST

## Strategic Planning & Budget Committee (SPBAC)

### Meeting Notes - March 6, 2019

#### **Attendees:**

In Person: Karen Carey, Michael Ciri, Rick Caulfield, Pete Traxler, Julie Vigil, Elise Tomlinson, Eric Scott, Maren Haavig, Marnie Kaler, Nick Bursell, Sam Kito, Nathan Leigh, Jon Lasinski, Trisha Lee, Mae Delcastillo, Steve Atwater, Gail Cheney, Keni Campbell, Rachel Jacobus, Ronald Cadiente Brown. Audio: Noelle Gangle, David Felts, Robin Gilcrist, Priscilla Schulte, Leslie Gordon, Jill Hanson

#### **Discussion:**

Karen handed out a hard copy of the Accreditation Self Study. An electronic copy will be emailed to those calling in.

Rick talked about the budget cuts and indicated that there is no part of Alaska that is not touched by the Governor's proposal. He discussed the most recent Board of Regents meeting and the letter that President Johnsen had been asked to share on behalf of Governor Dunleavy, which was a highly unusual situation.

The major focus for the Regents is advocacy and how to communicate with legislators. Rick asked that everyone use the Advocacy Toolkit now available from the Chancellor's webpage. He reminded everyone that UA employees are not allowed to use any UA resource when communicating personally with legislators, including email addresses and letterhead, etc.

It is very important to relay to the legislature how education changes lives. Students and alumni will be a major factor in advocacy efforts. UA is contracting with an outside firm, using private money, to coordinate a concerted advocacy campaign.

The new budget is supposed to go into effect July 1. Cuts will definitely be less than the \$134 million proposed by Governor, but there will be significant cuts regardless. We need to think about what the UA system will look like with significant cuts and determine how to go forward. Even \$30 million would be a significant cut for UA. Rick encouraged everyone to remain calm during the process. The SPBAC will be the venue to share thoughts and ideas as we develop plans moving forward.

President Johnsen is encouraging the three chancellors to look closely at mission during the budget process. He is not planning a pro rata, across the board cut. A lot of this work has been done through Strategic Pathways, and this is a time to revisit those and continue to look for efficiencies, keeping in mind what is distinctive about each MAU. Rick reviewed the Strategic Pathways handout that shows each MAU's focus within the UA system. We need to think about the mission of UAS and what is distinctive about what we offer.

The concept of a single accreditation across the UA system was brought up, but the consensus is that it would be too complicated to do and is not currently on the table. There has also been talk about putting all of the community campuses under one MAU, with UAS used as a model of coordinating across the three campuses. Rick said this is actually a very old idea, going back over 30 years.

Priscilla said she would like to see discussion about duplication of programs (i.e. marine transport). Karen noted that the Provosts are all on board with not duplicating what each other is doing. There will be more discussion about that moving forward, and she will keep us informed. We all need to work together across the system.

Michael suggested having each department create some type of financial reserves. He encouraged everyone to look at their discretionary funding, and think about which things are truly necessary. There is a need to be mindful about how the actions of UAS are seen by the public. Building internal reserves by underexpending will help everyone prepare for the July budget situation.

### **Special Exercise**

Papers were handed out to everyone color coded to three themes: Academic/yellow, Administrative/green, Student Support/pink. Karen reminded everyone that the UAS mission and core themes are how we define ourselves. Attendees were asked to anonymously provide answers to the questions asked. Sitka and Ketchikan also participated from a distance, with answers being collected by Keni and shared anonymously other than that.

- Question #1: What are the core academic functions at UAS? Write down about five items. What are our assets that are distinctive to us?
- Question #2: What are the core administrative functions at UAS? What are those things that would be most essential to retain here?
- Question #3: What are the core Student Support functions of UAS?

Notes from everyone were read and discussion commenced. Keni emailed out word clouds for each of our three topics in the exercise.

Karen encouraged everyone to share any ideas with her as we move forward. There is no clarity on what is happening yet. Rick said there is lots of uncertainty; we all feel it. As the legislature proceeds and we participate in advocacy we will be able to have more meaningful exercises, We are here for our students. Keep focusing on the important work we do. The rest will unfold and we will figure out. There is important work to do right here, right now.

WORD CLOUDS from the above exercises are attached.

