

FROM THE PROVOST: October 17, 2014

- **UAS FALL SEMESTER HEADCOUNT REMAINS STEADY; STUDENT RETENTION UP**

UAS fall semester opening enrollments stabilized this year with an increase of 0.2% compared with fall 2013. Student credit hours at UAS fell -3.4% from fall 2013 to fall 2014. Overall the UA system as a whole saw a decrease of -3.7%. The Sitka Campus was the main driver of the modest improvement in headcount, adding 6.5%. The Ketchikan Campus saw the largest increase in student credit hours, increasing by 5.4% compared with fall 2013. It was good news to see that UAS first-time full-time freshman (FTFT) retention rates continue to increase, and that UAS has the highest FTFT retention rate for UA Scholars of all three UA universities. Our First Year Experience, quality teaching and advising, and broad-based retention efforts are paying off. For details, see http://www.uas.alaska.edu/provost/ie/docs/fall_2014_opening_enrollment.pdf

- **UAS STRATEGIC PLANNING & BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPBAC) TO MEET**

The SPBAC, which reviews and makes recommendations about UAS overall planning and budget priorities, will meet again on November 18. The Committee includes representation from governance groups and university leadership. In a fiscal environment where the UA system may again see budget reductions, the Committee will invite ideas for generating new revenue, consider new FY17 requests, and examine options for budget reductions as needed. More information about the SPBAC can be found at <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/vicechancellor/spbac.html>

- **UAS FY16 BUDGET PRIORITIES PRESENTED TO BOARD OF REGENTS**

The proposed UAS FY16 operating budget request to the BOR includes general fund requests for a Coordinator of First-Year Experiences, a Title IX Compliance Coordinator, degree completion efforts, teacher education initiatives, and a Biology/Fisheries faculty position to advance a proposed joint UAF/UAS undergraduate fisheries degree offering. These requests will be reviewed by the BOR at its meeting on November 5-6. Updates about the UA budget can be found on the BOR website and at <http://www.alaska.edu/swbir/budget/>

The Regents continue to give special attention to teacher education programs at our three universities. Education deans at UAA, UAF, and UAS have presented a draft Teacher Education Revitalization Plan to the Board that reflects much greater collaboration across our three universities. Several regents have voiced an interest in seeing a plan for combining UA schools/college of Education into one statewide school, along with the plan for greater alignment of existing schools. No decisions have been made in this regard.

- **UAS AND JUNEAU WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL HOST FORUM ON MEXICO, OCT 23-25**

UAS joins JWAC in hosting a special Forum on Mexico on the Auke Lake Campus beginning Thursday evening, October 23 and extending through Saturday, October 25. All events are free and will be held in the Egan Lecture Hall. Special guests include Yolanda Cruz, an indigenous scholar and filmmaker who will present her film on indigenous communities in Mexico. Details at www.jwac.org

- **UAS RECEIVES NEW GRANT FUNDING**

UAS faculty have a modest role in a new \$18.8 million award received by the University of Alaska Fairbanks from the National Institutes of Health to fund statewide biomedical research and student training focused on the interface of health, disease and the environment in people and animals. The five-year award will continue support for an NIH Institutional Development Award Network of Biomedical Research Excellence linking university-based researchers and students from UA's campuses to meet both the research and workforce needs of Alaska's cities and rural communities.

UAS will also receive \$1.6M for mine training programs and infrastructure as part of a UA statewide TAACCCT (Trade Assistance Act) grant award. The UAS funding will support a new Juneau-based faculty member in Power Technology/Mining and improvements to the Technical Education Center. As noted previously, the UAS Ketchikan Campus is receiving a \$6.6M Title III grant for enhancements to career education programs and facilities.

- **PROPOSED POLICY ON COMMUNITY CAMPUS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The UA Board of Regents will soon be considering a new policy and regulations relating to the role and function of community campuses within the UA system. The UA Community Campus Directors Council, including Priscilla Schulte and Jeff Johnston from UAS, met recently to review draft versions of a proposed policy. Copies of the latest draft can be obtained from campus directors or from the Provost's Office.

- **SITKA CAMPUS DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT UPDATE**

A search committee led by Sitka faculty member Leslie Gordon is reviewing applications for the position of Director, UAS Sitka Campus. The position remains open until filled even as reviews are underway.

****PROVOST READS****

Internet Resources for Higher Education Outcomes Assessment

<http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/archives/assmt/resource.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 20 Juneau Campus brown bag—open discussion, noon-1pm, Fireweed Room
October 23-25 Juneau World Affairs Council/UAS Forum on Mexico