

CHANCELLOR'S COMMENTS:

From UAS Chancellor Rick Caulfield

April 22, 2016

We are rapidly approaching the most enjoyable time of the academic year: UAS commencement events in Juneau (May 1), Ketchikan (April 30), and Sitka (April 29). One of my greatest pleasures as Chancellor is shaking the hands of our graduates as they receive their degree. Our current estimate is that we'll see a near-record number of graduates—some 700 plus!



There is no doubt that we face significant budget challenges and a need to think anew about how UA is organized, using Strategic Pathways as our framework. But as we face these challenges, it's worth noting some positives:

- Strategic reallocation of academic positions: reallocated faculty positions to enhance undergraduate fisheries in partnership with UAF and new tenure-track position in ANS/Northwest Coast Arts
- Funding for career & technical education: renewed TVEP funding in AY16-17 for power tech, marine transportation, medical assisting, construction tech, law enforcement, fisheries
- Expanded marketing and recruitment: Expanded contract for digital marketing with Strategies360, successful *Explore Southeast* recruitment event in Juneau, Ketchikan *Finish College Alaska* initiative funded with Title III dollars
- Facilities: Continuing downsizing of our facilities "footprint"—consolidating all Juneau administrative and executive functions in the remodeled Hendrickson building to realize significant administrative efficiency, including combined Chancellor/Provost office; new Title III investments in Ketchikan's Regional Maritime and Career Center; grant-funded improvements to Juneau's Technical Education Center (TEC); use of one-time funds to begin Juneau Whitehead building renovation; expanded use of state-of-the-art heat pump and energy conservation technologies; sale of Juneau's Schaible House & leasing of Admin Services building
- Information Technology: Implementation of recommendations from University of Wisconsin-Madison CIO Bruce Maas; expansion of wide area network bandwidth that will provide a 20-fold increase in access to the Internet at much reduced cost; investment in CELT (Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching) across all three campuses
- Safety, Title IX compliance and Emergency Management: Expanded Title IX and Green Dot training planned; updating plans for responding to emergencies; addition of a campus shuttle on a trial basis on Juneau Campus in AY16-17 to address safety concerns, including road construction impacting Anderson Building access.

Looking ahead, we face enormous uncertainty about the university's overall budget and the likely impact of deep cuts. As shared earlier, the legislative conference committee has proposed a \$50 million cut to UA—the deepest of all proposed cuts. When required fixed cost increases are added in, the total cut will approach \$75 million. For UAS, the cut likely totals \$6 million or more. In coming days and weeks we'll need to draw upon ideas for reductions both in administrative and academic areas.

Another challenge is that resolution of our budget issues will likely come after semester's end when most faculty will be off contract. That reality makes consultation under shared governance much more difficult. As budget details become clearer, UAS will need to respond rapidly to develop our FY17 budget. UAS leadership is committed to working with governance groups to the greatest extent possible—making decisions that are transparent and data-informed.

The challenge facing our state and our university is monumental. However, one thing remains clear: a clear-headed focus on our mission and the nimbleness, flexibility, and innovation that are hallmarks of UAS will be our best assets as we meet the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

Chancellor Rick Caulfield