

## **FROM THE PROVOST: January 30, 2015**

- **RECENT GRADUATES GIVE UAS HIGHEST RATING IN OVERALL EDUCATION**

Recent University of Alaska alumni give UAS the highest rating for their overall education compared with our sister UA universities, according to a draft report produced by McDowell Group in December 2014. “By campus, net satisfaction with the overall academic experience was highest at UAS (90 percent) followed by UAF (88 percent) and UAA (81 percent)” according to the report. Moreover, recent graduates highlighted their net satisfaction with personal growth as being highest at UAS. For the UA system overall, nearly nine out of ten graduates said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their overall education and intellectual growth. A final version of the report will be released soon.

- **UAS SITKA CAMPUS DIRECTOR CANDIDATES VISIT SITKA AND JUNEAU**

Two candidates for the position of Director at the UAS Sitka Campus are visiting both Sitka and Juneau this week. The two were selected for face-to-face interviews by the search committee led by Associate Professor Leslie Gordon at the Sitka Campus. Feedback from faculty and staff who interacted with the candidates is invited; please send that feedback to Leslie at [ljgordon@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:ljgordon@uas.alaska.edu) and a copy to me.

- **UAS PLANS OPEN FORUM ON STRATEGIC PLAN AND BUDGET—FEBRUARY 13**

Chancellor Pugh and the UAS Executive Committee are planning an open UAS community forum on our strategic plan, mission, and dynamic budget environment—to be held on Friday, February 13, from 3-4:30pm (Glacier View Room). The event will be held on the Juneau Auke Lake Campus with distance connections for those at the Ketchikan and Sitka campuses. The forum is open to all members of the UAS community. It is intended to provide current information about the university’s budget, answer questions from community members, and invite ideas about strategies to increase revenues and reduce expenditures in light of the state’s budget challenges. It expands the discussion about budget priorities that is also taking place within the UAS Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Committee (see <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/vicechancellor/spbac.html>)

- **UAS FACULTY HANDBOOK UPDATES—SUGGESTIONS INVITED**

Faculty Senate and the Provost’s Office are working on updates to our UAS Faculty Handbook using a shared governance process. We’re inviting any suggestions for improvements to the current Faculty Handbook. Please send those suggestions asap to Faculty Senate President Kevin Krein ([kjkrein@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:kjkrein@uas.alaska.edu)) with a copy to me for consideration by the review committee.

- **UAS FY16 BUDGET STATUS—A DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT**

UAS and the UA system as a whole is dealing with a very challenging and dynamic FY16 budget process in the Legislature. The State of Alaska, which provides over 40 percent of the university’s operating budget, is facing significant revenue shortfalls due to the drop in oil prices. At this point, it appears that Alaskans could face at least 3-4 years of budget reductions. Governor Walker’s budget included more modest reductions for UA than for most other state agencies. Nevertheless, current estimates (which could change) suggest that UAS could see something like a -7.6% reduction in FY16; this is on top of a -4.6% reduction in this fiscal year. The UA Board of Regents may well revisit the topic of a tuition increase at its February 2015 meeting in light of these budget challenges. For more information, see <http://www.alaska.edu/state/advocacy/>

- **FEBRUARY 15 IS DEADLINE FOR UA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Please remind students that the deadline for applying for AY15-16 University of Alaska scholarships is February 15, 2015. Students should also be encouraged to go online and complete their FAFSA. Details at: [http://www.uas.alaska.edu/financial\\_aid/scholarships/index.html](http://www.uas.alaska.edu/financial_aid/scholarships/index.html)

- **WORK CONTINUES ON COMMON UA CALENDAR AND CLASS TIMEBLOCKS**

The UA Board of Regents approved a change of policy in April 2014 that calls for a common academic calendar across our three UA universities and also common instructional time blocks. Policy 10.04.100 states that “a common academic calendar for all university campuses will provide for a fall and spring semester of not less than fifteen weeks of instruction, which may include examination days; start and end dates, recesses, and daily schedules, i.e., course blocks, will be common among all campuses. Class schedules must provide for a minimum of 800 minutes of instruction per credit hour.” UA leadership expects to move forward in meeting this policy expectation once recommendations are received from a committee led by Faculty Alliance. The policy will require UAS to ensure that we offer at least 800 minutes of instruction per credit hour; up from our current minimum of 750 minutes.

- **EGAN LIBRARY “WEEDING PARTY”—KEEPING OUR COLLECTIONS CURRENT**

Faculty are invited to an Egan Library “Weeding Party” on Wednesday, February 4, 11am-2pm, to update collections and to keep them relevant. Library staff invite faculty to spend time reviewing the collection in areas of interest and expertise. Collection development is a university service activity that can be included in tenure and promotion files. Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Caroline Hassler at [hchassler@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:hchassler@uas.alaska.edu) or contact her for an alternate time.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

February 3	Faculty Handbook shared governance committee—2-4pm
February 4	Egan Library collection “weeding party”—11am-2pm
February 6	Faculty Senate meeting
February 13	UAS Open Forum on Strategic Planning and the Budget