

FROM THE PROVOST: May 1, 2015

- **UAS COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATIONS**

Over 600 students at our three UAS campuses will be celebrating completion of degrees, certificates, and occupational endorsements during UAS commencement events today, Saturday, and Sunday. The UAS Sitka Campus commencement ceremony takes place this evening at 7pm. Ketchikan Campus celebrates student success on Saturday, May 2. The Juneau Campus celebration takes place on Sunday, May 3, at 2pm in the Student Recreation Center. Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend these events to help celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of our students! For details see <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/commencement/ceremonies.html>

- **UAS AND SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE SEEK EXPANSION OF NORTHWEST COAST ARTS**

UAS and Sealaska Heritage Institute are submitting a \$2.3M partnership grant proposal to expand Northwest Coast Arts opportunities in Juneau and throughout Southeast Alaska. The proposal to the federal Alaska Native Education Program would expand credit and non-credit opportunities, share resources at the Walter Sobeloff Center and UAS campus, and help UAS fulfill its mission of incorporating the cultures and environment of Southeast Alaska into its curriculum. It includes a partnership with the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. UAS Humanities faculty expressed support for the proposal and this exciting new possibility.

- **UA FY16 BUDGET REMAINS UNCERTAIN**

The recess taken by the Alaska State Legislature during its Special Session means that several aspects of the University of Alaska budget for FY16 remain uncertain. Foremost among those is the question of pay raises for state employees, including raises associated with negotiated labor contracts. Finalization of the FY16 UAS budget will come after this and other uncertainties are resolved. For information about the UA system-wide budget and the legislative process, see <http://www.alaska.edu/state/advocacy/>

- **STRATEGIC PLANNING AND BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS MAY 6**

The UAS Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Committee (SPBAC) will meet on Wednesday, May 6, 2-3:30pm to review the current status of UAS budget planning for FY16 and FY17. Even with continuing budget uncertainty, a roadmap for addressing UAS' FY16 budget challenges is largely in place. This roadmap—based on the assumption of flat student enrollment overall—includes long-planned academic program reductions, leaving some positions unfilled, furloughs for senior administrators, administrative savings, and some budget cutbacks in all units. For details see <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/vicechancellor/spbac.html>

- **TOWARD IMPROVEMENTS IN DATA-INFORMED DECISIONMAKING AT UAS**

Institutional Effectiveness Director Brad Ewing is working on implementation of SharePoint software that will improve ready access to data at UAS for program assessments, academic program reviews, and decision-making needs of faculty department chairs, program heads, deans, and directors. Look for more information about this improved tool at the start of the 2015-16 academic year.

- **UAS DIVERSITY ACTION COMMITTEE TO MEET**

Libby Roderick from UAA's Difficult Dialogues Initiative project will join members of the new UAS Diversity Action Committee and UAS Executive Cabinet members for a meeting on Wednesday, May 6. The Committee and Executive Cabinet members hope to identify issues and strategies that the Committee can address in the 2015-16 academic year.

- **CELEBRATION OF FACULTY EXCELLENCE**

A Celebration of Faculty Excellence, sponsored jointly by Faculty Senate and the Provost's Office, will be held on Monday, May 4, from 3:00-4:30pm in the Glacier View Room on the Juneau Auke Lake Campus. The event will celebrate faculty who were nominated for excellence in the areas of teaching, research, service, adjunct instruction, and advising.

- **FACULTY SENATE HOLDS FINAL SPRING SEMESTER MEETING TODAY**

The Faculty Senate will hold its final meeting of the academic year today, May 1, from 2:30-5:00pm. The meeting agenda includes interviews with Chancellor candidates plus wrap-up of spring semester business.