

Soundings

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A letter from the Chancellor: The UAS Budget

Dear faculty, staff, and friends of UAS,

It has come to my attention that recent media coverage regarding the University of Alaska budget has raised concerns and questions about the financial future and stability of our institution. I hope this letter will answer your questions, put some rumors to rest, and encourage you to participate in an important planning process that will be initiated in the coming weeks and completed by the end of the year.

University of Alaska President Jerome Komisar recently appointed a task force of university employees to examine options on how the system can cope with the downturn in state revenues during the next decade. The Resource Alternatives Task Force recommended a comprehensive program assessment that would lead to prioritization of programs and budget reductions. This reshaping of the university is projected to be accomplished over a period of three years. The Board of Regents last week endorsed the recommendation and expects to review that assessment at its December meeting.

First, I'd like to remind you that this kind of process is not new to UAS. We have been doing exactly this kind of thing for the past several years. Many employees and friends of UAS probably don't realize that state general fund support for our programs is virtually the same in 1994 as it was 10 years ago. Increased tuition income has helped us cope with some inflationary increases. But, in reality, we have been "reallocating resources" for quite some time. This is not a phrase that is new to any of us.

Secondly, I want to assure you that any university employee who wants to participate in this process can do so through their respective governance group, such as the Faculty Senate or the Classified Employees Association. The groups will be advised shortly on their roles in the process and a timeline for completing the review. In addition, employees can participate in unit discussions conducted by their respective direc-

tors. The advice of employees will be a key element in identifying the efficiencies that can be accomplished and strengthening the core functions of our institution.

Program assessments can be useful tools in identifying options on how the university can live within its budget.

They also provide an opportunity for enhancing the strengths of an institution and dealing with weaknesses. There is no doubt that this process, which will be carried out throughout the university system, will result in the elimination of programs. But more often than not, the elimination or reduction of some programs and services help institutions become more efficient and enhance their stronger programs.

We encourage employees to help us "reinvent" some of the ways we do things.

For example, we are currently curious about how many employees in our current workforce would favorably entertain shorter annual appointments. Would anyone out there like to work just six, seven, or eight months a year or, perhaps, a shortened work week? If so, please let your supervisors know. Reduced annual appointments or a shorter work week for employees who would volunteer for such a change could result in happier employees and substantial annual savings to the university.

That is just one idea. I strongly encourage university employees to voice other ideas and use their imaginations in the months ahead. UAS has been growing and improving during the past decade despite no increases in general fund support from the state. I believe we can continue that trend and strengthen our institution.

Sincerely,



Marshall L. Lind
Chancellor





Tonight: Benefit concert for UAS Piano Fund

Pianist Jean-Paul Billaud, a former instructor at UAS, will provide an evening of classical music tonight at the Northern Light Church, beginning at 8 p.m.

The event, sponsored by UAS, the Juneau Concert Association, ARCO Alaska and Westmark Hotels, is a benefit concert for the UAS Piano Fund. Proceeds will go toward purchase of a piano for the Egan Library.

Tickets, \$14 general admission and \$10 for students and senior citizens, are available at Hearthside Books.

Alyeska CEO to speak at Juneau commencement

David Pritchard, president and chief executive officer of the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, will be the speaker at Juneau campus Commencement on Sunday, May 15, at Centennial Hall.

Pritchard's educational background includes degrees in engineering from Cambridge University in England. A native of England, Pritchard was raised in East Africa and is now a U.S. citizen.

Pritchard has been with Alyeska for one year. He started work with the oil industry in 1969 on various petroleum engineering and project assignments in the Middle East. He

moved to Alaska in 1989 as vice president for development programs with BP Exploration.

Commencement exercises will begin at 2 p.m. About 130 students are expected to earn degrees from UAS this spring. It is yet unknown how many will participate in the ceremonies.

A group of Masters of Public Administration graduates and their families from the Yukon Territory will be traveling to Juneau for the exercises. They have been working on their degrees through a special cohort program offered through of the School of Business and Public Administration.

SBPA to honor graduates and adjunct faculty

The School of Business and Public Administration will host a reception at 6 p.m. on May 6 at the Schaible House to honor and recognize program graduates and the contributions of adjunct faculty.

Dress is casual and food and beverages will be served. Students and part-time faculty are encouraged to bring a guest. RSVP by May 3 to 465-6402.

Calendar

Friday, April 29

- Jean-Paul Billaud, pianist, in concert: 8 p.m., Northern Lights Church. Tickets available at Hearthside Books. \$14 General, \$10 Students and Seniors.

Sunday, May 1

- Alumni Association Brunch for UAS Graduates: 11 a.m., Mourant Cafeteria.
- "Wierd Al" Yankovic in concert: 7 p.m., Centennial Hall. Tickets available at Hearthside Books and at the UAS Bookstore. \$20 General Admission, \$24 at the Door.

Friday, May 6

- Reception for SBPA program graduates: 6 p.m., Schaible House, RSVP by May 3 to 465-6402.
- Teacher Reception: 4-6 p.m., Mourant Cafeteria. For teachers who have hosted student teachers and practicum students.
- Ketchikan Campus Commencement: 7:30 p.m., Revilla High School.

Thursday, May 12

- Sitka Campus Commencement: 7 p.m., Mount Edgumbe High School.

Friday, May 13

- Reception for Yukon MPA Graduates: 5 p.m., Mourant Cafeteria.

Sunday, May 15

- Juneau Campus Commencement: 2 p.m., Centennial Hall.

Teacher reception scheduled for May 6

Teachers who have hosted student teachers and practicum students during the past two semesters will be honored at a UAS reception scheduled for 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, May 6, in the Mourant Cafeteria.

Student Teacher of the Year awards will be presented to three outstanding student teachers and their host teachers. Students completing their education program during the past academic year will also be honored.

The reception will be hosted by the Center for Teacher Education Advisory Committee and the Center for Teacher Education faculty, staff and students.

Soundings is published by the UAS Office of Public Information. It is distributed to UAS employees each pay period, and to others upon written request. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday noon prior to that Friday's publication. Send submissions to 11120 Glacier Highway, Juneau, Alaska 99801, 465-6530 or 465-8759.