

Soundings

Vol. 7, No. 19 • October 14, 1994

A Letter to the Chancellor from the Alaska Committee

Dear Chancellor Lind:

As you know, the Alaska Committee has been working hard to retain the state capital in Juneau. Measure 3 on the November ballot would move the capital to Wasilla.

Many in the community are anxious about the future of the University of Alaska Southeast in the event that the ballot measure passes and the capital is moved. The committee has researched the potential impacts on Juneau and believes that the university would be a part of our community most seriously impacted.

First, it is important to look at the exact language of the ballot measure: "Shall the capital of Alaska be changed to Wasilla?" Note that the operable word is "capital" not "capitol." If a majority votes "yes," Wasilla will become the capital of Alaska on January 1, 1997.

Moving the capital means moving the entire seat of state government—not just the Legislature, the Governor and a few key staff. All the headquarters staff of all state agencies would eventually move. In addition, we can presume that the federal government would re-locate its Alaska headquarters offices to a new state capital site.

If the capital moves from Juneau, it is estimated the community would lose 6000 good paying jobs, up to 20,000 people, and at least half of its economic base. Obviously, it would be difficult to justify continuing state support for a full university in a Ju-

neau one-third its present size. What would be the rationale for maintaining programs in Public Administration or Political Science? Computer Sciences? All local demand for higher education would plummet with the loss of so many professional workers.

If UAS were to hold on, it would be harder to recruit students and faculty to an area that would no longer have many of the amenities we now enjoy. The City and Borough of Juneau, reduced in population and revenue base, would probably not be able to operate Eaglecrest ski facilities. Bartlett Hospital would suffer from cutbacks in revenue. The community could no longer support all the many cultural, recreational and sports resources we value. Perseverance Theater, the Folk Festival, the Jazz and Classics Festival, the Gold Medal Tournament, KTOO Public Radio and T.V.—all would be threatened.

Sitka and Ketchikan, two southeast communities with extended campuses of UAS, would also suffer. Many students in those towns rely on the ability to transfer their lower division credits directly to UAS in order to continue their degree program. The effects of the loss of a full service university in Southeast would extend well beyond Juneau.

Finally, there is the fiscal consequence of diverting millions or billions of state dollars to build a new

continued on reverse

Ketchikan and federal agency cooperate on satellite dish

A new satellite dish at the Ketchikan campus will expand educational offerings for the college and a federal agency.

A receive-only dish is expected to be installed by the end of the month at waterfront facilities downtown. The \$30,000 project links Ketchikan campus and the U.S. Forest Service. The federal agency bought the dish and paid for installation. UAS provided engineering and cabling for the job, which will bring a signal into three classrooms in the Robertson Building.

Ketchikan campus plans to bring in University of Alaska upper-division courses via LiveNet and a wide range of continuing education conferences — many of them combining video downlinks with on-line audioconferencing. The Forest Service will frequently use the system for meetings and training.

Ketchikan campus is also cooperating with the federal agency on use of the college's computer lab for training. Forest Service staff members are expected to receive new computers and software next year.

Evelyn Rhoads Wilson Fund Balance:

Balance of carryforward from FY94:	\$2,743.48
FY95 Earnings (4.69%)	\$4,920.94
General Fund match	\$5,000.00
Total available	\$12,664.42

A Letter to the Chancellor
continued from front

capital in Wasilla. Recent state budgets have been balanced by withdrawals from the state's reserves.

The university system has been told to tighten its belt and to consider eliminating some programs. We know there is over \$150 million needed to repair university buildings statewide. Tuition has increased. There is an inadequate amount of student housing at all three campuses. Even without the proposed mega-project of a new capital, the university system took a cut of \$2.7 million to its operating budget for this year.

In 1982, the last time a capital move was proposed, it was estimated to cost \$2.83 billion. In those days the state was flush with new oil dollars. Still, the voters rejected the idea when told of the cost. Now, North Slope production is declining and oil prices have dropped to decade low levels this past year. Today, where would the money come from to build a new capital?

A project of that size would siphon off millions of dollars from every state agency, including all the campuses of the University of Alaska. That would mean more cuts to programs and faculty. It could increase the amount time required to complete a degree. Some graduate programs could be dropped altogether. Deferred maintenance would continue and the university infrastructure would deteriorate further.

As former Governor Jay Hammond says, "It's a matter of simple economics. We just don't have enough money to go around."

The Alaska Committee knows there are many good reasons to oppose the capital move. But for every Alaskan, especially those who strongly support the University of Alaska, the best reason is that we have more important things to do with our money.

Sincerely,

Jamie Parsons, Mayor
Byron Mallott, Mayor-elect

University, union agree on process for 94-95 promotion, tenure reviews

The following is the text of a new agreement between the University of Alaska and the Alaska Community College Federation of Teachers regarding the process for 1995-95 promotion and tenure reviews:

The University and the Union agree that the Availability of the Parties Agreement and the resulting administrative processes used for the 1993-94 Tenure and Promotion Review Process as amended herein are extended until a successor Collective Bargaining Agreement is in place.

The 93-94 Tenure and Promotion Review Process is amended as follows:

1) The 94-95 Tenure and Promotion Review Processes are voluntary for all collective bargaining unit members. Collective bargaining unit members who deferred their mandatory 93-94 tenure review date under the provisions of the 93-94 Tenure and Promotion Review Process, or who have a mandatory 94-95 tenure review date, may postpone their mandatory tenure review date to 95-96.

2) An Availability of Parties Subcommittee of four members (two ACCFT/ two UA) shall be established to address process and procedural concerns arising from extension and amendment of the 93-94 Tenure and Promotion Review Process. Regional Review Process Time Lines and Agenda will be revised by this committee to reflect appropriate dates. The Availability of Parties Subcommittee will request that the UAA University Wide Faculty Evaluation Committee continue its participation in the Tenure and Promotion review process.

3) The 93-94 Tenure and Promotion Review Process (Regional Review Process) for UAF and UAS collective bargaining unit members will be amended to include the review criteria from the UAA Faculty Review Process for Counseling Faculty (8/17/92) and the UAA Library Faculty Peer Review Criteria and Procedures (3/89).

Calendar

Friday, October 14

- JAHG/UAS Film Series: Samba Traore. 7:30 p.m., JDHS Auditorium. \$6

Thursday, October 20

- Comedian/Ventriloquist Jeff Dunham: 7:30 p.m., Centennial Hall. Tickets on sale at Hearthside Books and at the UAS cashier.

Thursday, October 27

- VIP Advisory Board: 8:30 a.m., CCR

Thursday - Monday, October 27-31

- Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges on campus for accreditation visit.

Thursday, November 3

- Certified Public Managers Program Advisory Board: 4:30 p.m. SBCR

Reminders...

Petty cash closed for six days

Petty cash reimbursements will not be available from Thursday, October 13 through Friday, October 21.

Freebies

Used letter-sized file folders and hanging file folders: both in a rainbow of colors. Also, a variety of storage boxes. See Elizabeth in the Chancellor's Office. Or call 465-6245.

Phi Delta Kappa to meet October 26

Commissioner of Education Jerry Covey will serve as moderator for a panel discussion on public attitudes towards public schools at this month's dinner meeting of Phi Delta Kappa, scheduled for Wednesday, October 26 at the Baranof Hotel.

Social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m and dinner at 7 p.m. The cost is \$16. Anyone interested in attending should RSVP to Dean Robbie Stell at 465-6472.

The focus for the panel discussion will be results of the 26th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup poll on public attitudes toward public schools. Commissioner Covey will lead a discussion on the implications of the poll for policymakers and practitioners.

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, or call 465-6530.