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UA Board of Regents approves 5 percent tuition rise



Chris Klint, Senior Digital Producer, cklint@ktuu.com

POSTED: 12:48 PM AKST Feb 20, 2015 | UPDATED: 01:59 PM AKST Feb 20, 2015

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(KTUU - TV)

ANCHORAGE - The University of Alaska Board of Regents has voted to approve a 5 percent tuition increase for students, on an 8-2 vote. The increase will take effect this fall, for the 2015-2016 school year.

The board had voted down a tuition increase in September. Last week, however, regents said they had been forced to consider Friday's increase -- which works out to roughly \$8 for every lower-division credit hour -- due to uncertainty about the 40 percent of UA funding which comes from the state in the face of widespread budget cuts.

The board's composition has come in for criticism during this legislative session. All 10 members currently serve at the governor's pleasure, but a House bill introduced by Rep. Lynn Gattis (R-Wasilla) would draw a majority of regents from various regions of the state. Gattis argues that her area, the Mat-Su Valley, is the fastest-growing part of the state and deserves a voice on the board.

Channel 2's Dan Carpenter contributed information to this story.

This is a developing story. Please check KTUU.com and the Channel 2 newscasts for updates.

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REPRESENTATIVE
LYNN GATTIS
R - WASILLA (HD7)



PRESS RELEASE

CAPITOL ROOM 500

HOUSEMAJORITY.ORG/GATTIS
JUNEAU: 465-4833

GATTIS INTRODUCES BILL CHANGING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
Change brings diversity, more voices to the table

Friday, February 13, 2015, Juneau, Alaska – Wasilla Republican Lynn Gattis today introduced House Bill 107 to restructure the University of Alaska Board of Regents to include a diverse group of members from across the state.

The bill changes the composition of the board to include geographic representation. If passed, the board would include one resident from the following locations: Fairbanks North Star Borough, Municipality of Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, City and Borough of Juneau, a community not connected by road or rail, one student, and five at large members. Currently there is one seat reserved for a student regent and ten at large regents that must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Alaska.

"This bill calls for a change in composition to the University's Board of Regents to represent the state's changing population trends," Gattis said. "The Mat-Su is the second largest community in the state. It is time that we have a seat at the table when it comes to the Alaska's post-secondary education system."

HB 107 was referred to the House Education Committee.

#

For more information, contact Rep. Gattis' office at 907-465-4833.

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Remember the 350,000 bonus check given to the Dean last year? http://www.ktuu.com/news/news/gamble-asks-ua-regents-to-reconsider-bonus/27854142 Guess who is paying for that bonus check?

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Rep. Lynn Gattis

From: Rep. Lynn Gattis
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2015 5:25 PM
To: 'Dave Lyle'
Subject: RE: Some food for thought in regard to UA system

Nothing in your comments that I disagree with. Thanks for the thoughts

From: Dave Lyle [mailto:dflyle@alaska.edu]
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2015 4:16 PM
To: Rep. Lynn Gattis
Subject: Re: Some food for thought in regard to UA system

Lynn,

I could see that as a possibility. I think as long as the person had even attended the school with in the past two to three years. even if the did not graduate. There seems to be alot of folks leaving due to the lack of quality that does need to be addressed immediately. I am honestly concerned with the way things have been going on at Prince William Sound Community College that I feel have gone unaddressed. I also feel that only having one student on the board opens up that student to being forced to vote with the board. Thats why I suggest one student from each of the campuses that are independently accredited. I don't feel that the board looks at issues from students perspective and this is rather annoying. I have even applied for the Student position on the Board of Regents because I feel they need a student who cant be pushed around and who is going to fight for the student. The Board of Regents should be concerned about the students and not all this politics that have gone on.

There are many issues that I feel that need to be addressed but yet seem to continually be swept under the carpet. Your bill is a great start but I feel that there needs to be more done in order to reach your goal. I am tired of seeing these folks continually saying well you know, and go with the easiest options to fix an issue even if it is the worlds worst idea. There needs to be people to speak up and force these folks to weigh all options.

I would like to discuss this issue further if you are interested in hearing my thought.

Thanks,

Dave

On Sun, Feb 22, 2015 at 8:06 PM, Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov> wrote:

Regarding a student on the board of Regents, what about a recent past alumnus? Someone that could knowledgably speak to things that need addressed?

From: Dave Lyle [mailto:dflyle@alaska.edu]
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2015 5:05 AM
To: Rep. Lynn Gattis

Cc: chambones

Subject: Some food for thought in regard to UA system

Maam,

I want to share with you some thoughts on the recent Tuition Hike by the Board of Regents. The ADN published an article which the link is <http://www.adn.com/article/20150220/university-alaska-board-regents-approves-tuition-hike>

I want to share with you my response and also some ways that you could help with your Education bill.

I have so many issues with this tuition hike. Granted it is only 8 dollars more per credit hour, but here is the thing Many students have to rely on grants and loans from the Federal Government to afford school. Why should the UA System President make 320,000 per year when the Universities are having to cut course offerings to save money. A lot of the professors in Technical Fields are Adjunct or Part Time Professors. This means that they have a Full Time 9-5 job and then they also teach. I have no problem with that only because of the fact that the Instructors are 99 percent of the time in the same field that they are teaching so they have more up to date knowledge and can often teach more than just whats in a book.

Where I have the Issue is the fact that instead of using the 320,000 bonus to make up for part of the budget shortfall. Why should students have to reach in their pocket and dig up an extra 120 bucks when they already pay an extreme bill. Dont forget not only do students pay tuition, they also pay fees. Students pay an extra 75 dollars roughly for Technology Fee per course if they take online courses, plus a 15 dollar delivery fee plus a 6 dollar fee. Thats before we talk about the subpar performance of the Online Education System called blackboard that has more problems than it does success. I have had issues that have continued from one semester to the next, but yet I am expected to deal with them after paying an extra \$96.00 per each class. Now I am expected to give up an extra 120 dollars on top of that. Do you know that Students have to pay to park, hence this is another fee designed to generate revenue, and Why so we can pay the President, and the Chancellors and other big wigs an exorbitant salary. And for what, for them to administrate a system that needs a lot of work.

What needs to happen is the Systemwide office Bigwigs, the Chancellor's, and the UA System President all need to take a huge paycut. Did you know that the Chancellor's all live on their respective campuses, their houses and all the utilities are included. The grounds keepers take care of snow removal, and grass cutting and as well as there are house aids that help in the home. So those expenses are already covered so why do they need cost of living allowances. I am tired of these fat cats making bad decisions and the students are the ones holding the bag. Case in Point, The last President of Prince William Sound Community College was on the Job 6 months and was not only fired, but banned from campus. Did the people in charge do their job, no a simple google search showed that this man had issues in another state and they were just as severe. No

one bothered to do a simple background check on this guy and the students were the ones who paid the price.

So my question to Alaska Governor Bill Walker is why are you letting this occur. Step in and hold these people accountable. Instead of making students suffer I implore you Mr. Governor Make the UA System President and other Top University Officials take pay cuts and show some leadership. Do not let us the young people pay for something that we should have to. Lets fix the true issues that the University System has, such as failing infrastructure, failing products for online course delivery that students have to pay extra in order to use that constantly fail, and hold those in positions of leadership accountable for not only their actions but their inactions as well.

Representative Lynn Gattis I also implore you to reconsider HB 107. Place more than one student on the Board of Regents. I would Encourage you to place one student per each University as well as Prince William Sound Community College on the Board, they could be a current student or some one who was a student with in the last two years prior to appointment. This way students have a voice in which to hold those accountable for the success of the University System. I believe by only having one student on the Board of Regents, it allows for the students voices to be silenced. By having four students on the board, this allows students to have a bigger voice and will hold their fellow Board of Regents accountable.

This is a Top Down problem that can be easily fixed. I believe that until the students are allowed to be heard that this problem will only continue. I believe that there are better areas to make cuts in, as well as by making the schools use uniformity, in their academic schedules, their tuition and fees, and their administrative teams we can save money. Why do we need 5 departments on each campus doing the same thing, why can we not combined them and make them easier to use. Such as the IT department. Students could really benefit from having a true one stop when it comes to IT issues. If students like myself are taking courses at more than one campus you have to call each campus each time you have an issue, if you stream line it then students get a better continuity of care if you will to deal with their issue. This would also save the University money by getting rid of redundancy with in the system.

This is just food for thought.

That was my reply. I would like to expand on a few issues that you could add to your Board of Regents Bill.

First off As I stated I think their should be at least 4 students on the Board. The reason this allows students to voice their opinion and not be forced to vote with the board if there needs to be decent. It is easy to convince one person to go with the flow and alot harder to convince four. The students may still be out voted but it gives students a leg to stand on when we have support on the Board of Regents. These People are supposed to be looking out for the students and sadly they are having some issue in that regard.

Secondly A way to cut some expense to both the State Budget and the University Budget is uniformity, and getting rid of redundancy. As I shared in my thoughts to the article, there is way

to much redundancy in the University System. We could do better with less of that. For example Why have 4 IT departments when you could streamline in to One Department for the entire system., Students would get better service for their IT needs and you could cut positions and large salaries of the Heads of these departments. To be honest I have had some of the same IT issues that have been occurring since 2012 that are still unresolved.

I do appreciate your time and consideration in this matter

//S//

David Lyle

Membership Chairmen

Executive Board Member

Alaska Libertarian Party

C:757-375-1925

E:dflyle@alaska.edu

Rep. Lynn Gattis

From: Professor (ret.) Dr. Gerhard Kramm <gerhardkramm46@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2015 5:07 PM
To: Rep. Lynn Gattis
Subject: UA Board of Regents
Attachments: Elstonetal2015Overview of Small Fixed-Wing Unmanned Aircraft for Meteorological Sampling.pdf; FY16-Capital-Budget---Web-Version-Amended-.pdf; research2012.pdf

Dear Representative Gattis,

I think that your idea to send people from different regions into the UA Board of Regents is not a good idea. This Board of Regents should not be considered as a School Board for Alaska. During the past the UA Board of Regents has already made awkward decisions because of incompetence. The problem is that many regents have, of course, a good to very good education, but it is insufficient for understanding what research and education does mean for the further development of a university. Here is a typical example of inadequate decision by the UA Board of Regents:

In 2012, for instance, the UA Board of Regents approved the creation of the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration - Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (ACUASI - RDT&E). In the proposal for the creation of the ACUASI from November 26, 2012 it is claimed:

“Anticipating the importance of these unmanned systems for Alaska, the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF-GI) began aggressively experimenting with these technologies several years ago and is rapidly becoming a world leader in UASs.”

I must assume that this proposal was presented to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska held in Fairbanks, December 6-7, 2012. In the minutes of this meeting it is mentioned that former Vice Chancellor Myers reviewed the proposal with the board. Unfortunately, the Board of Regents approved the creation of this center. Its motion is effective December 6, 2012.

Neither the UA Board of Regents nor UA President Gamble did know that this claim is clearly wrong. The Geophysical Institute (GI) was never a world leader in UASs. Obviously, the opposite is true. This was already clear when the proposal was presented before the Board of Regents because -- as mentioned before -- measurements proposed to NASA for 2012 were not carried out. Some months later, even the ACUASI Director, Mr. Walker, was replaced by Mr. Rogers. I never met Mr. Rogers during any of the meetings regarding the respective NASA grant. He was the replacement for Mr. Walker and had to take part on these meetings.

For probing the atmosphere it is indispensable to have an appropriate infrastructure for testing and calibrating the research platform and the sensors installed. Aerodynamic styling of UAVs and the calibration of the wind

sensor can only be performed in a wind tunnel. The best would be a Göttingen-type wind tunnel (<http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/k-12/airplane/tuneret.html>). For calibrating temperature, humidity, and pressure sensors, calibration chambers and pressure chambers are required. Has ACUASI such an equipment? Is one of the ACUASI members, for instance, familiar with wind tunnel studies? Do they know what Reynolds number and Froude number similarity does mean? If concentrations of gaseous and particulate constituents have to be measured, also a smog chamber is required for calibration the respective sensors. When I calibrated my tethered-balloon sonde in 1979, I used the Göttingen-type wind tunnel of the Department of Vehicle Systems at the University of Applied Sciences, Cologne, the calibration chamber of the Meteorological Institute of the University of Frankfurt, and the pressure chamber of our institute for calibrating the sensors for wind speed, temperature, humidity, and pressure. The magnetic compass installed for measuring wind direction was always tested against a high precision one. Before and after any period of soundings the calibration curves of the sonde were checked by intercomparison with sensors of still higher precision. Unfortunately, the GI Atmospheric Science Group was never asked for advice.

Until today no measurements were performed as requested by the respective NASA grant. Therefore, it is indispensable to describe the requirements of such measurements. For modeling purposes one needs, at least, measurements of the meteorological field quantities like wind vector, temperature, humidity, solar and infrared irradiances, as well as the concentrations of the species under study. In case of particulate matter not only the concentration, but also the size distribution is required. Because of these requirements an appropriate platform for carrying out measurements has to be chosen. Such platforms are full-scale aircraft, unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs), tethered balloon sondes, kite sondes, and remote-sensing equipment (radiometers, LIDARs, RADARs, SODARs, etc.). A combination of such platforms is commonly used in sophisticated field campaigns. Generally, in case of any aircraft, propellers and jet-engines must not notably interfere with the air under study. Consequently, in case of UAVs the use of pressure propellers is mandatory. ACUASI's Aeromapper, Gatewing, Nanook, and OpenRaven fulfill this condition. In case of helicopter sondes like Helipod of the Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany, the sondes must be hanging far below the helicopter. Thus, helicopter-type UAVs like quadcopters or hexacopters are rather inappropriate for atmospheric measurements. The use of such UAVs as carriers for a drop sonde is hindered by their relatively low payload. The use of drop sondes, for instance, requested by this NASA grant has already been canceled.

ACUASI was established under the motto "We have a solution: now we are looking for problems." This is the wrong way. It is clearly the matter of an awkward prioritizing. Such a system is sucking a lot of money, for instance, given by the State of Alaska. This money, of course, is not available for funding research projects at UAF. Therefore, the use of UAVs must be subordinated to the research goal, but not vice versa. But now, it is only another one in the GI's Zoo of service units. **Research at UAF, however, is highly important for the existence of this campus; service can be performed by small engineering offices.**

The idea to use UAVs for meteorological probing is very old. In 1970, Konrad et al. reported about the use of a small radio-controlled aircraft as a platform for meteorological sensors. The problems associated with UAVs are also very old, for instance, less payload, unstable flight track, and especially inaccurate wind measurements. When I was a graduate student at the University of Cologne, Germany during the 2nd half of the 1970's the attempt to use an UAV was not successful because the UAV was notably damaged while landing. Therefore, Prof. Dr. Raschke, the head of the department, decided to use tethered balloon sondes. I developed such a sonde and used it for measuring horizontal wind vector, temperature, humidity, and pressure, over the City of Cologne. The results of this urban boundary layer probing were also used to evaluate SODAR observations.

Today, such sondes are commonly used if meteorological field quantities and various gaseous and particulate trace constituents are to be measured concurrently. The payload restriction is only a minor problem because there are large balloons that can serve as carriers. When I was aboard the German research vessel *Meteor* during the international Joint Air-Sea Interaction experiment JASIN '78 balloons with volumes of 80 m³ and more filled with helium were used as tethered balloons where several sondes were mounted to the tether line. With such an equipment vertical profiles of wind vector, temperature, humidity, and pressure were determined concurrently. I know from the literature (Burns, 1974) that a similar equipment, the Boundary-Layer Instrumentation System (BLIS), was designed to meet the observational requirements of the GARP Atlantic Tropical Experiment (GATE).

Only medium-class UAVs like NASA's Sierra with a comparable payload (> 45 kg) are preferable because they can also be used for long-range measurements. Unfortunately, **the final flight of NASA's Sierra took place on July 26, 2013. While conducting a sea ice survey off the North Slope of Alaska for the MIZOPEX mission, the Sierra lost engine power and glided into the water approximately 40 miles north of Oliktok Point. ACUASI's Nanook (i.e., the ScanEagle) took also part in this mission, but only equipped with ImSAR's NanoSAR. The payload of the ScanEagle is of about 3.4 kg, i.e., its instrumentation for meteorological measurements including gas and particle concentrations is notably limited. However, because of its high flight endurance and its higher payload it is much better suited for meteorological measurements than ACUASI's OpenRaven. In case of an area of a few square kilometers an array of tethered balloon sondes is much more favorable.**

To use UAVs for animal counting is burdened by the fact that UAVs are harassing wildlife. Citing concerns about users harassing other visitors and wildlife, the National Park Service banned remote-controlled airplanes and helicopters at all of America's 401 national parks and memorials (see <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/06/20/drones-banned-at-national-parks/11099497/>).

Nevertheless, ACUASI's applications like animal counting, pipeline scrutinizing (a GI jester also proposed dog poop counting), etc. must be assessed as service, but not as research. As mentioned before, this work can also be performed by small engineering offices. On a long run, increasing service activities will stifle research activities. The money related to grants awarded by federal and state funding agencies for service is not available for scientific research. This means that at UAF the number of graduate students mainly supported by research grants will be decreasing, and its faculty members will be struggling to get research grants for paying a part of their salaries, especially in front of the background that contracts like the respective NASA grant are improperly handled because of pure incompetence in carrying out atmospheric measurements. Peer-reviewed papers can only be expected in the matter of scientific research, but not in case of such applications like animal counting, pipeline scrutinizing etc. Remember the reputation of UAF's GI is based on outstanding research results, but not on service activities.

Meanwhile, there are many papers on the use of UAVs in meteorological measurements (see the review paper attached). In 2011, when I was asked for a collaboration in this matter by Mr. Walker, I agreed because I had heard some good news about Dr. Reuder's attempt to use an UAV for turbulence measurements considered to evaluate WRF's parameterization schemes for the atmospheric boundary layer. Dr. Reuder is professor at the University of Bergen, Norway. I know him from earlier times when he was a doctoral student with Dr. Dr.

habil. Dlugi, (I am in collaboration with Dr. Dr. habil. Dlugi since two decades.) Dr. Reuder published various papers dealing with his measurements. His UAV was developed in cooperation with the Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile (ENAC), Toulouse, France. This is a first-class affiliation. Reuder's paper are cited in the review paper attached.

However, as reported before, the start of ACUASI was really bad. The measurements of 2012 and 2013 required by the NASA grant were not performed, i.e., there were already serious problems before the UA Board of Regents approved the creation of ACUASI-RDT&E. The Table 1 - Initially Identified Mission Instrumentation of the proposal submitted to NASA was mainly based of wishful thinking. Until today, there is no clear picture what the UAVs of ACUASI can be measured, and there is no list of sensor specifications used in its UAVs.

Here is an example: In this Table 1, an airborne DRUM Aerosol sampler is listed, but during a meeting regarding the NASA grant a particle counter (Hal HPC-600) was mentioned because it was used in NASA's Sierra and AeroPod platforms. The latter is a kite sonde. When I made a search I found the following information:

“The HPC-600 handheld laser particle counter is the latest innovation in the demanding application of particle distribution measurements. It is useful in measuring particle distributions in ultra-clean environments by its single particle counting ability as well as in indoor air quality applications.”

The plume of a wildfire is, certainly, not an ultra-clean environment. As mentioned in the paper of Pieri et al. (2013) entitled “In situ observations and sampling of volcanic emissions with NASA and UCR unmanned aircraft, including a case study at Turrialba Volcano, Costa Rica”, NASA used it, indeed, in its Sierra and AeroPod platforms.

There is another aspect that is related to the use of UAV's like the ScanEagle. The ScanEagle has a flight endurance of about 20 hours. This is advantageous because it can be used for long range measurements. Unfortunately, the occurrence of aircraft icing has to be considered. Holland et al. (2001) reported:

“The Mark I Aerosonde was flown in the Arctic (based from Barrow, Alaska) in April 1999, in support of the U.S. Department of Energy Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program. Operations were hampered significantly by aircraft icing, which is common in the Arctic, where field measurements are typically expensive, logistically difficult, and hazardous.”

This means that not only the loss of such an expensive UAV due to aircraft icing, but also the related consequences have to be assessed. One of these consequences could be the ignition of wildfires if the ScanEage will crash down into a remote area covered by vegetation.

In summary: The creation of the ACUASI and its brief history indicate that a mistake was replaced by chaos. The UA Board of Regents made a decision which only harms research activities at UAF. I must assume that most of the regents did not recognize the difference between research and service. Nevertheless, even more money is requested for ACUASI (see attachment).

This example documents that the UA Board of Regents requires high qualified people who are familiar with academic research and higher education. In election you will never find such highly qualified persons. Comparable boards of universities located in the lower 48 have such qualified persons. In contrast to UA, many of these universities also have presidents and chancellors who have earned doctoral degrees.

The 2012 Annual Report entitled "The Top American Research Universities" (see attachment) documents that UA and especially its research campus UAF have to be improved. Their rankings should and could be better.

Sincerely yours

Gerhard Kramm

Dr. rer. nat. Gerhard Kramm

Research Associate Professor of Meteorology (ret.)

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URL: <http://engineeringmeteorologyconsulting.com/>

February 20, 2014

Governor Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

One of my work group leaders, Beth Fread, from our Mat-Su Borough Economic Development Strategic Plan, met you at a fundraiser in December. Your conversation included a discussion about three things we need from your office to be successful in growing our local economy, and you had her write them down on the back of a business card. To re-cap, here are the three things: 1) A seat on the University Board of Regents, 2) a seat on the State Aviation Advisory Board, and 3) an 8-lane highway from Port Mackenzie to the "Roads for Resources" and beyond.

My main reason for writing to you today is to address the #1 item on the list – a creation of a Mat-Su seat on the Board of Regents for UA. This is so important to the MSB economic development advisory council because the main recommendation from the professional group we hired to write our economic development strategic plan was for us to develop our local economy through an expansion of our healthcare services and a creation of a university-medical district.

This development strategy is based upon the premise that the US is largely transitioning from an economy based on agriculture, manufacturing, and resource development, to one that is knowledge and creativity based. Healthcare has produced the largest number of jobs over the last several years in the US, in the state of Alaska, and even in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The borough's largest private employer is Mat-Su Regional Medical Center, a cornerstone to our economy in terms of offering quality, living wage jobs, which is one of the primary goals of this Mat-Su Borough Economic Development Plan.

Our work group tasked with the strategy to develop a university-medical district researched this option and discovered that as long as the Mat-Su did not have any representation on the UA Board of Regents, any major development in the Mat-Su requiring a partnership between the medical industry and higher education would not be a priority. Mat-Su's three-decade-long population growth has radically changed Mat-Su College into a thriving community college predominated by degree-seeking young adults, progressing on into either UAA or UAF.

In the history of the Board of Regents, there have only been four Mat-Su representatives since 1917, and three of them were student representatives. Mat-Su needs a specific Regent seat designated by you to create this economic development opportunity of a University-Medical District. Mat-Su is the only region experiencing this population growth. Creating this seat would certainly help in expanding higher education and economic development in general, as well as specifically in the way described in this letter. We need to develop our economy and our workforce at a higher level to continue to provide family-wage jobs here in the Valley.

Please let me know what steps need to be taken in order to properly move in this direction.
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kim Ford
Mat-Su Borough Economic Development Chairwoman
Mat-Su Economic Development Strategic Plan Work Group Coordinator
(907)354-8186, kim.e.ford@live.com
3232 Naomi Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Cc: Representative Shelley Hughes, Legislative Chair for Economic Development, Trade & Tourism

Andrew Ford

From: Rep. Lynn Gattis
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 1:52 PM
To: Andrew Ford
Subject: FW: UA Board of Regents, Mat-Su representative

Add this to our Board of regents packet, Bill, as usual has good historical content

-----Original Message-----

From: Sen. Bill Stoltze
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 10:19 PM
To: Lori Restad
Cc: Brandon Brefczynski; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Jim Colver; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: Re: UA Board of Regents, Mat-Su representative

Appointment of a qualified Valley resident has been a top priority for me for over a decade. The last confirmed member to the BOR was in the 1920's (M.D. Snodgrass) V. Louise Kellogg of Palmer was appointed in 1955 but the legislature regrettably failed to take up her nomination. A mat-su resident on the BOR is also a priority of the entire Valley legislative delegation, and is a matter we discussed as recently as Tuesday. I have personally discussed this issue with Governor Walker and his staff, as I have with the three previous administrations. I feel very optimistic that we have a much better chance of receiving one or more of the appointments than we have ever had. I know of at least one excellent applicant, and have spoken to that individual. Your message is indeed very timely, and certainly reinforces our ongoing efforts. May i include this message in correspondence to the Governor? I believe it would be helpful.

Please keep in touch. I will do the same. Sincerely, Bill Stoltze.
State Senator.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 22, 2015, at 1:52 PM, "Lori Restad" <lori.restad@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear Senator Stoltze,
>
> In 2009, the Northland Pioneer Grange in Palmer, Alaska asked the Governor at the time, Sarah Palin, to appoint a Mat-Su resident to the UA Board of Regents. The Mat-Su Borough Assembly agreed and passed a resolution supporting the idea. We are still waiting for representation on the Board of Regents.
>
> Four regents terms will expire next month, and I am wondering if any Mat-Su residents are being considered. Do you have any input in this process? Is there anything that the Northland Pioneer Grange can do help secure representation on the Board of Regents? I realize that the appointments are coming up very soon. Please let me know if you think we can be helpful in this matter.
>
> Lori Restad
> Secretary, Northland Pioneer Grange No. 1 Palmer, AK
> 907-746-4900

Board of Regents' Office
Phone: (907) 450-8010
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910 Yukon Drive
P.O. Box 755300
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5300

Representative Lynn Gattis
State Capitol Room 500
Juneau AK, 99801

Via email: Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov

RE: HB 107 – Composition of the Board of Regents

Dear Representative Gattis:

Thank you for your email requesting input from the Board of Regents on HB 107. As we understand it, HB 107 would establish a requirement that the governor appoint six regents from specified geographic areas of the state as vacancies occur. Regents appointed to meet these regional residency requirements would be required to maintain residency in that region or lose their seats. One seat would remain a student seat and four other seats would remain at-large appointees. At present all but one (the student seat) of 11 board seats are appointed at large by the governor, subject to Legislative confirmation.

While we understand and appreciate the reasons for the proposed legislation, the board has two significant concerns about this approach: the bill would create geographic constituencies and promote regionalism on the board; and the regional residency requirements may be subject to constitutional challenges that could call board action into question. I'll briefly address these concerns in turn.

The different constituencies served by each of the three separately accredited universities (UAA, UAF, UAS) and their community campuses makes collaboration a challenge in the best of times. Yet collaboration on the board and among these components of the UA System is critical to making the best use of limited resources and serving the public effectively. In adopting the Shaping Alaska's Future initiative <http://www.alaska.edu/shapingalaskasfuture/> as Regents' Policy last June, the Board of Regents formally committed itself and tasked the entire UA system to collaborate to create a cost-effective, integrated state-wide system of higher education that works for students and the public. (For example, see Theme 5, Accountability to the People of Alaska, Issue E <http://www.alaska.edu/shapingalaskasfuture/accountability/>) Because regents have focused on serving the broad interests of the entire state, the board has been united in support of that overarching interest. As a result, the three universities are making important strides in areas including common academic calendars and general education requirements. We fear that in mandating representation of specific regions, HB 107 will create regionalism on the board that may pose additional barriers to collaboration.

Regional residency requirements also may create constitutional disputes that may leave the board in limbo and unable to take effective action. Article 7, § 3 of Alaska's Constitution requires that the governor's appointments to the Board of Regents be confirmed by the Legislature. However, the constitution does not limit whom the governor may appoint or make the governor's

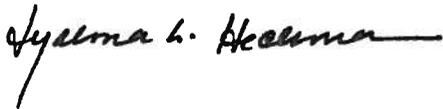
appointment authority subject to law. HB 107 would significantly restrict initial appointments and impose ongoing regional residency requirements on regents. By contrast, prior statutory provisions regarding regent appointments generally provide broad and uncontroversial implementation details.

Regional residency requirements may result in disputes and delays in appointments. Delays alone could limit the board's ability to act since by law six votes are required for board action. If based on regional residency requirements, rejection of a governor's appointees or early termination of a regent's term may also result in litigation. Either way, the existence of constitutional questions about regional residency requirements will have real world implications for the University. Any uncertainty about the qualifications of appointees or composition of the board could directly interfere with the University's ability to take action requiring board approval. These include among other things selling bonds, hiring a president, conferring degrees, adjusting tuition, adopting budgets and selling or purchasing property.

The board also must authorize any declaration of financial exigency and reduction or discontinuation of academic programs. These are actions that permit the university to reduce faculty and staff without the constraints or notice periods typically required. Third parties dissatisfied with board decisions in such areas will have significant incentive to seize on any uncertainty regarding board authority to delay or disrupt necessary actions. This is particularly problematic when budgetary pressures require aggressive and prompt action.

We very much appreciate your willingness to consider board concerns in this regard. We also look forward to working with the Legislature to ensure that the needs of all areas of the state are considered as the University meets the difficult challenges ahead.

Sincerely,



Jyotsna Heckman, Chair
Board of Regents