

From: [Polar Hanneman"s](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: UA Funding
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 5:48:01 PM

Attention Committee Members:

I am going to be to the point in my written testimony. I sent a longer message last week, perhaps to the house members. The spirit is the same in both emails. You must fund the UA system to the fullest amount possible. This is vital to the future of the university and to the state. We must have a university system of excellence and you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. With funding cut to exceeding low levels that is precisely what you are doing. You must also fund the Alaska primary and secondary school systems in the same way. Do not balance the budget on the backs of our children.

My husband and I urge you to put forth the funding so that the Engineering Building at UAF can finally be finished. That will make such a difference to an already world-renowned Cold Regions Engineering Program. It is time to quit funneling the money to UAA and put our money where it is so desperately needed.

Additionally, you must not make dire cuts to UA sport programs. There are many excellent sports programs at all the universities. I am speaking of one that is near and dear to our hearts, skiing. It is a division 1 program that draws junior skiers of excellence from around the world. These are some of the hardest working student athletes around with excellent coaches. The results speak for themselves. They consistently compete for top spots nationally and are often in the top five. These are individuals that often remain in the community and continue to contribute to its well being.

Finally I urge you to take the courageous step in this time of financial uncertainty and institute a state income tax or use earnings from the permanent fund in order to keep the state on the right track. Every Alaskan should help pay their way out of this crisis.

Sincerely,
Keith and Carolyn Hanneman
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