I am emailing you to offer testimony concerning the UA budget proposal for FY18.

Currently the Regents have requested $341M. I know in this economic environment, that is a very large number, but it needs to be. Without the educational opportunities offered by UA System, our Alaskans will

1) become an uneducated populace or

2) take their tuition dollars out of state (helping perpetuate this negative budget situation).

Neither of those options sound good to me. I am aware that the Senate Finance Committee is supporting a budget of $309M (along with a $16M amendment to equal the governors proposed budget). BUT, that would still equal a

loss of $700K for my little ol’ KPC. That may not seem like much to you, but WE FEEL EVERY SINGLE DOLLAR.

I have watched countless friends lose their hours at best (going from 40 hour work weeks to 32 or less) and jobs at worst. My department alone now consists of 2 pro staff after losing our Administrative Assistant in the last round of budget cuts (that alone cost KPC about $1.3M!). We literally cannot function with fewer than 2.

In fact, we actually need our assistant back, but we are limping along and supporting our students as best we can.

We also lost our Career Services Coordinator - who we NEED. Literally HALF of the students I have encountered since January have asked for assistance in career topics (resumes, interviews, job resources, etc.).

I am terrified these cuts will continue to cost us talented, dedicated, and hard working staff, let alone faculty.

I understand trimming fat and tightening our belt, BUT WE ARE STARTING TO CUT BONE and ALASKA'S STUDENTS ARE SUFFERING FOR IT!

Please support the Regents’ proposed budget.