

## **The last 30 year history of Legislative Appropriation to University of Alaska**

Article 7 of the Alaska constitution establishes the university system governed by the board of regents.

While the constitution provides the university a level of autonomy, the legislature has the responsibility of appropriating the university's funding and can limit the University's movement of budgeted funds. By placing funding in specific appropriations state agencies are limited in their ability to move funding across appropriation lines.

The last 30 years of University of Alaska budget structure has been a story of repeated expansion and contraction as the legislature divided the university into multiple appropriations and then consolidated.

- Starting in FY90, the University had seven appropriations.
- In FY93, The University was broken out into over thirty appropriations.
- In FY96, it was consolidated back into seven.
- In FY05, the legislature consolidated it into a single appropriation.
- In FY09, the legislature divided the appropriations out again into seven separate appropriations, creating a separate appropriation for rural campuses associated with UAF.
- In FY14, the legislature consolidated it into a single appropriation again.
- In FY20, the legislature divided the university into two appropriations. One for Anchorage, Fairbanks, and statewide items. The other for rural campuses with all of UAS, including the Juneau campus.

In the past the legislature has created separate appropriations to limit the movement of funding from rural campuses into the main University campuses.

The university has the ability to move funding across appropriations via Reimbursable Service Agreements (RSA's). These agreements allow state agencies to pay other entities to provide them with services. They are not simply a mechanism to move money from one appropriation to another; they require that:

1. The purchaser has the authority to obtain or provide the service and has an appropriation that may be used for that purpose; and
2. the provider actually provides the service and bills an appropriate amount for that service

Large RSA's (a cumulative yearly total exceeding \$100k) require approval from the Office of Management and Budget. RSA's for the University are dictated under Alaska Statute 37.07.080(e). The flow of funds using RSA's is relevant because of the amount of centralized services that are provided to community campuses by the main campuses. RSA's can allow community campuses to pay for at least some of those services.

Over the last 30 years the legislature has appropriated UGF to the university at a steadily increasing rate until FY15. Since that peak level the ratio of UGF to University receipts has gone down and stabilized closer to a 50/50 match.