

University of Alaska System
Vice President for Academic Affairs
202-I Butrovich Building
P.O. Box 755000
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5000



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

Phone: (907) 450-8018
Fax: (907) 450-8002
www.alaska.edu/research/

March 8, 2014

Senator Anna Fairclough
State Capitol Room 514
Juneau AK, 99801
Email: Senator.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov

Senator Fairclough:

The University of Alaska (UA) strongly supports SJR 23 and SB 195.

SJR 23, if passed by the legislature and supported by a public vote, will allow the Alaska Student Loan Corporation to issue general obligation bonds, which will result in lower interest rates for student loans. UA strongly supports this bill because it will reduce student debt, make it easier for students to successfully pay off their loans, and lower default rates. This bill clearly supports higher education in Alaska.

The second bill, SB 195, makes needed substantive changes to statute regarding the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education and the Alaska Student Loan Corporation. UA is working hard to improve college completion rates in Alaska and this bill clearly supports that endeavor. In addition, the bill addresses the Alaska Education Grant to help qualified low income students and several ACPE housekeeping issues such as clarifying the process for nominating the student commissioner.

These two bills, if passed, will improve postsecondary education in Alaska. Thank you for your work on these important actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dana L. Thomas'.

Dana L. Thomas, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Cc: Patrick Gamble, President
Tom Case, Chancellor, UAA
John Pugh, Chancellor, UAS
Brian Rogers, Chancellor, UAF
Chris Christensen, Associate Vice President for State Relations
Michelle Rizk, Associate Vice President for Budget