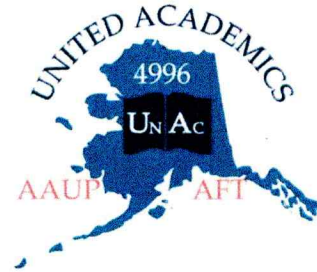


Jill Dumesnil, President
United Academics
AAUP/AFT Local 4996
P.O. Box 755895
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5895
unitedacademicsak.org



January 30, 2025

Dear Representative Carrick,

United Academics AAUP/AFT Local 4996 is the union representing all non-adjunct faculty members in the UA system. We represent more than 1,100 full-time faculty members at all UA campuses. Thank you for sponsoring House Bill 10, which adds a faculty regent as a voting member of the University of Alaska Board of Regents. United Academics supports this legislation.

Adding a faculty regent to the UA Board of Regents is a vital step toward improved decision-making and governance for the University of Alaska system. A faculty regent would ensure that faculty are able to lend their institutional knowledge and professional experience to decisions that will directly impact students and the quality of higher education in Alaska. Creating a faculty regent would also help to foster better collaboration and mutual trust between faculty and UA administration, as they work together to promote the mission of the UA system.

Many public university systems and universities have faculty regents on their governing boards. The rationale for creating such a position at the University of Alaska is consistent with the rationale behind the current student regent position: these positions give faculty and students a voice and guarantee that the governing board has a robust understanding of the needs, processes, and standards of higher education. Some may wonder about potential conflict of interest with the creation of a faculty regent position, but this has been managed successfully in other university systems, and UA board policy includes rules about conflicts of interest, which would apply to all members, including the faculty regent.

The creation of a faculty regent position enjoys wide support among our membership, our governing body, and our leadership. We wholeheartedly endorse HB10: "An Act relating to the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska."

Sincerely,


Jill A. Dumesnil, President