

**2025 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET**  
**CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT #1 TO AMENDMENT #5**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Committee

**TO:** HB 53 / HB 55

**OFFERED BY:** Representative Josephson

**FISCAL YEAR:** FY26

**DEPARTMENT:** University of Alaska

**APPROPRIATION:** University of Alaska

**ALLOCATION:** Statewide Reductions/Additions

**ADD:** \$4,000.0 Unrestricted General Fund, 1004

**EXPLANATION:** **UAA Strengthen the Foundation of Seawolf Athletics**  
(\$2,000.0 UGF)

This request ensures the integrity of Athletics' foundation, including its 13 sports, and supports the three pillars of excellence that UAA's student athletics represent: academic success, community service, and athletic achievements. In FY24 alone this included: a 3.53 average GPA (all 13 teams above a 3.0, over 2,300 hours of community service from our student-athletes, and several individual and team conference championships).

Athletics brings the community to UAA evidenced by breaking the NCAA's Division 2 volleyball attendance record with 3,888 fans packing the Alaska Airlines Center in 2023 and hosting 2,500 Anchorage 5th graders for a men's basketball game. At the event with the 5th graders showcase, Seawolf Athletics serves as a key element to UAA's enrollment strategy. Attending an athletic game is often the first time an Alaskan child comes to a UAA campus. This funding will pair with efforts to increase earned revenue for Athletics through increased ticket sales, as well as improved sponsorship and philanthropic giving - with the goal of ensuring Seawolf Athletics remains a strong partnership between the state, university, and the public.

ROI: Indirect and macro-scale benefits to the university include increased public participation in athletic events, improved public support for the university, and increased future enrollment by building a culture where Anchorage's kids grow up attending games at the campus. Increased philanthropy of \$650,000 and an increase in sponsorship of \$350,000 are anticipated between state support and strengthened community support for these programs.

**UAF Increasing Alaska's Competitiveness- Nanook Athletics & Division I Hockey**  
(\$2,000.0 UGF)

UAF Athletics, specifically Division I (DI) Hockey, can achieve national ranking and strengthen Alaska's competitiveness. Investments in the Athletics baseline ensure growth, community support, and fan engagement to generate new revenues, increase equity-based scholarships for all student athletes, and promote student engagement and enrollment strategies.

A robust athletics program contributes to student life, retention and degree completion, community service and support, and promotes the UAF brand, academic offerings, and university achievements in and outside of Alaska. This request is linked with a UAA request for Seawolf Athletics, as exciting in-state competition is critical to the success and growth of both programs.

ROI: A competitive Nanook intercollegiate athletics program generates energy, visibility, brand awareness, and community engagement for UAF. Students benefit as participants and spectators, and athletes have higher persistence and graduation rates than others. Athletic competitions are family-friendly and engage the broader community. UAF athletes perform community service and serve as brand ambassadors for the University and specific academic programs. While state funding provides essential support, earned revenue remains a cornerstone of Nanook Athletics. To continue to sustain nationally competitive programs and performance, and fully realize these benefits, a strategic operating investment is critical to reinforcing the program's foundation and securing the future success of Nanook Athletics. Increased philanthropy of \$600,000 and an increase in sponsorships of \$400,000 are anticipated between state support and strengthened community support for these programs.