

USUAS-JC



University of Alaska Southeast  
United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast

Priority Reading  
Resolution 14/15-03  
Support of the University of Alaska Budget

**Sponsored By:** President Callie Conerton

**Date of Introduction:** March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

**Purpose:** To express immense concern over the State of Alaska Budget

**Whereas:**

The USUAS-JC recognizes the current and difficult financial situation facing the state of Alaska

**Whereas:**

The USUAS-JC acknowledges that the State of Alaska's operating cuts have occurred to avoid further state debt

**Whereas:**

The University of Alaska is vital to the State of Alaska in not only providing an education to its citizens but also ensuring that the State of Alaska prolongs its constitutional mandate<sup>1</sup> to institute and support its University system.

**Whereas:**

The University of Alaska provides exceptional post-secondary education to over 35,000 students<sup>2</sup>, with approximately 3,260 students currently attending the University of Alaska Southeast.

**Whereas:**

The University of Alaska has a tuition rate that is extremely lower than similar universities in the Pacific Northwest, which is a big incentive for both Alaska residents and out-of-state students.

**Whereas:**

The State of Alaska has supported the University of Alaska in the past, asking the University to expand and grow their programs.

**Whereas:**

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<sup>1</sup> Article 7, Sections 2-3 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.alaska.edu/alaska/about-ua/>

The State of Alaska has created the Alaska Performance Scholarship to incentivize students to stay in Alaska and continue their educational goals in Alaska.

**Whereas:**

The 25 million dollar cut that the House of Representatives made was an extreme cut to the budget of the University of Alaska and would cut programs and services that make the University functional and would make the University of Alaska less able to incentivize students to not only education themselves in Alaska but also stay in Alaska.

**Whereas:**

The University of Alaska's programs create Arctic Researchers, Biologists, Nurses, Teachers, Miners, Engineers and many more career fields that Alaska not only needs but employers are looking for.

**Whereas:**

Sending students out of Alaska to learn, in order to get a quality education, will not benefit Alaska.

**Be It Resolved:**

That the USUAS-JC supports the University of Alaska in its mission to create a well-rounded University system for students to learn in.

**Be It Further Resolved That:**

A copy of this resolution is sent to: Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Cheanualt; Majority Leader of the State of Alaska House of Representatives Charisse Millett; Minority Leader of the State of Alaska House of Representatives Chris Tuck; President of the Alaska State Senate Kevin Meyer; Majority Leader of the Alaska State Senate John Coghill; Alaska State Legislature, Minority Leader of the Alaska State Senate Berta Gardner; University of Alaska President Patrick Gamble; University of Alaska System Governance Council; University of Alaska Board of Regents Chair Jo Heckman; University of Alaska Southeast Chancellor John Pugh; University of Alaska Southeast Director of Student Life Eric Scott

**This Resolution is to take effect:** March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015



Callie Conerton

President