

**University of Alaska**  
**House Finance Subcommittee**  
**Student, classes and tuition**  
**Outline for discussion**  
**2/12/15**

**Shaping Alaska's Future (Students one of the 5 themes)**

• **Student Achievement and Attainment**

Issue A: Like other open-admission institutions, UA's graduation rates are lower than those of selective institutions. UA students on average take longer to complete degrees than students at peer institutions.

Effect: Full-time baccalaureate degree-seeking students graduate in four to five years at rates competitive with those at our established peer institutions. Full-time associate degree-seeking students graduate in two to three years at rates competitive with those at peer institutions. Part-time students complete their degrees in proportionate time frames. The three universities will ensure that academic standards are rigorously maintained.

Issue B: Like those of many large and complex institutions, UA processes and procedures can be challenging for students to navigate.

Effect: Students experience UA as accessible, efficient and transparent in all areas.

Issue C: UA students must demonstrate skills and knowledge in their particular majors.

In all aspects of their UA educational experience, students also must develop critical thinking skills, good judgment, high ethical standards and an understanding of diversity to be responsible citizens and leaders.

Effect: Students take responsibility for meeting their educational objectives, and both students and graduates demonstrate personal, community and civic responsibility, high ethical standards and respect for others.

Issue D: UA needs to increase national and international recognition of its quality education, programs of distinction and exceptional research in order to enhance recruitment of undergraduate and graduate students and faculty.

Effect: UA's reputation for academic quality, programs of distinction and research makes it an attractive, highly competitive choice for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty.

Issue E: UA recruitment, retention and graduation rates are low, especially for disadvantaged and minority populations and for Alaska Natives.

Effect: UA graduates reflect the diversity of Alaska.

**Student Profile**

- Fall 2014 headcount 31,522
- Fall 2014 student credit hours 269,337 (lower division around 70%)
- Majority of students (60%) attended part-time
- About 25% of the students exclusively attend the community campuses; another 13% concurrently attend both a main and a community campus, and the remaining ~60% of students exclusively attend a main campus.
- University of Alaska has an older student population in comparison with students attending higher education nationally. The median age at UA is 25.

- First time freshman around 3,182 or 10% of the total
- 27 percent of UA students (8,650) took classes from more than one campus in fall 2014, with more than half utilizing e-Learning courses from another campus

### **Recruitment/Retention Efforts**

- Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)
- Come Home to Alaska
- UA Scholars award increase
- Stay on TRACK
- Dual Credit
- Mandatory Student Advising in place

### **First ever's best ever's/managed outcomes/related to Students:**

- Highest number of degrees and certificates awarded ever in FY14, over 4,900, representing more than a 30 percent increase since FY10
- Bachelor's degree completion rate (full-time students in six years or less) is at an all-time high of almost 32 percent across the UA System and has increased almost 15 percent (4.1 percentage points) from FY10 to FY14 alone. This is above the national average of 31 percent for other public, open admission universities according to the National Center for Education Statistics. UAF leads with a baccalaureate graduation rate of 41.5 percent in FY14.
- Students completing 30 credits or more: increased from 13 percent (FY10) to 15.2 percent (FY14)
- Significantly reduced transfer issues and the time required to assess transfer credits throughout the system. For example, UAA's transfer credit processing time has gone from 45 days in 2011 to just 3 days by 2014.
- The average eLearning credit load per student is at its highest level ever at 3.3 credits per student across the system
- Universities in the UA System delivered 26 percent more courses via e-Learning in FY14 than in FY10
- Proportion of students taking at least one e-Learning course during a fiscal year grew from 34 percent in FY10 to more than 41 percent by FY14
- Scholarship aid awarded to UA students up \$10.6 million in four years (2009-10 \$19.2m, 2013-14 \$29.9m)
- Total financial aid awarded to UA students is \$137.0 million, up 14 percent since 2008-2009 (2009-10 \$120.1m, 2013-14 \$137.0m)

### **Metrics**

[http://www.alaska.edu/files/bor/Jun2014/140605Ref02\\_Shaping\\_Alaskas\\_Future\\_Metric\\_Frame\\_work.pdf](http://www.alaska.edu/files/bor/Jun2014/140605Ref02_Shaping_Alaskas_Future_Metric_Frame_work.pdf)

#### **Examples**

- % of Recent College Bound Alaska High School Graduates
- % of Recent Alaska High School Graduates who Attend UA
- First-Time Freshmen with Dual-Enrollment Credits
- Proportion of UA Educated New Teacher Hires
- First-Time Freshmen Taking Math or English Preparatory Class
  - Bachelor's
  - Associate & Certificate

- Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) impact
  - For APS-eligible graduates who enrolled in fall 2011, 75% were still enrolled in fall 2014, compared to only 40% of their ineligible classmates
  - One in six APS first-time freshmen took remedial courses in fall 2014, compared to one out of two non-recipients
  - In AY14, of the 1,958 APS eligible students (out of 7,666 graduates), 941 attended in Alaska (48% versus 43% in AY11)
- How much spent per student? (source State Higher Education Finance FY2013)
  - Educational Appropriations per FTE \$12,932 (includes state and local support)
  - Total Education Revenue per FTE \$17,192 (sum of educational appropriations and net tuition)
- Cost per degree versus other public universities
  - Alaska is ranked #2 in nation with average education and related expenditures per graduate = \$117,909
  - DC ranked #1 at \$165,441. States ranked 3rd-8th, \$80-100,000 are: Delaware, Virgin Islands, Vermont, Connecticut, Hawaii, Wyoming
- Alumni Survey (every 3 years)
  - 88% of recent alumni were satisfied with their UA education, including 43% who were very satisfied. Moreover, 84% were satisfied with their academic experiences at UA
  - 70% of respondents were satisfied with how UA prepared them for their career
  - 84% of alumni reported that their UA education prepared them well to think critically
  - Most alums did their job searches in Alaska (86%), suggesting that UA continues to contribute to increasing Alaska's pool of workers with advanced training

### **Programs/Classes/Courses**

- UA offers 500 programs, including certificate, associate, baccalaureate, masters and Ph.D. programs.
- Undergraduate student credit hours by course subject (see attachment Pyramid Chart )
- High Demand Job Area Degree Programs

### **Tuition**

- Resident Undergraduate Tuition and Fees at Public Four-Year Institutions University of Alaska \$6,311 (2014-2015) (WICHE Average \$7,872)
- FY14 lowest tuition increase in over a decade at 2%
- 4-Year as percent of WICHE Average (77% FY13)
- 2-Year as percent of WICHE Average (193% FY13)

### **Irons in the Fire**

- Align Math and English general education and developmental courses across the system (implement by Fall 2016). Establish & implement common student learning outcomes, course titles & numbering, & placement (tools, scores, and processes) for developmental & general education Math & English courses.
- Establish a common academic year (AY) calendar across the UA system in AY2016
- Review of degree requirements