

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE ADAM WOOL

Session: January - April
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House Bill 21 Sponsor Statement University of Alaska Faculty Regent

The University of Alaska has a mission to inspire learning, advance and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research, and public service, and to emphasize the North and its diverse peoples. The University of Alaska Board of Regents is an eleven member board that is responsible for helping to guide the University towards this mission. The addition of a Faculty Regent to the Board would serve to help advance this mission and to provide further representation to this key University stakeholder group.

Currently, there are six states that require a Faculty Regent to be a voting member of their University Board of Regents. These states believe that the interests of the institution are best served when a Faculty Regent is granted voting representation. The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities has stated that the University of Alaska system should "create a space for inclusive dialogue as the Board of Regents deliberates on the future of the University of Alaska System." One way to ensure that this inclusive dialogue occurs through current fiscal stressors as well as future organizational challenges is through the addition of a seat for a qualified Faculty Regent.

The Board of Regents is critical in determining the direction of our public University system as well as the State of Alaska. Adding a tenured Faculty Member to serve for an appointed two-year term would allow for better representation on the Board, and would provide better opportunities for meaningful input on the direction of the University system in the years to come.

Please join me in supporting HB 21 so that our University system can continue to meet its mission and provide transparency and voting representation for the Faculty constituency at the University of Alaska.