

United Academics
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Dear Alaska Legislators,

Thank you for considering House Bill 9, which adds a faculty regent as a voting member of the University of Alaska Board of Regents.

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 have wondered 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 support from all of the main representative bodies of faculty at the University of Alaska. The UA Faculty Alliance, representing all three Faculty Senates in the UA system, supports this action (see attachment). The statewide Representative Assembly of United Academics, the faculty union, also unanimously passed a motion for a third time in support of legislation to add a faculty regent (see attachment).

In addition, we, the undersigned University of Alaska faculty members, wholeheartedly endorse House Bill 9, "An Act relating to the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska."

(signatories gathered via secured Google Form)

Courtney Carothers	Professor	UAF
Eric Klein	Assistant Professor	Department of Geological Sciences, UAA
Abel Bult-Ito	Professor of Neurobiology and Neurophysiology	Department of Biology and Wildlife, UAF
William Howard	Associate Professor	Chemistry & Biochemistry, UAF
Derek Sikes	Professor of Entomology	Department of Biology & Wildlife, UAF
Sarah Niecko DHSc MSPAC	Assistant Professor	UAS
Kathleen Stephenson	Professor	School of Nursing, UAA
Dani Sheppard	Professor	UAF
John "Jonas" Lamb	Associate Professor of Library Science	UAS
Joel Potter	Associate Professor of Philosophy	UAA
Nguyet Nguyen	Assistant Professor	UAS
Jay Szczepanski	Assistant Professor of English	Humanities, UAS
Andrew Harnish	Assistant Professor	Writing, UAA
Jill Dumesnil	Professor of Mathematics	UAS
Stefanie Ickert-Bond	Professor of Botany, Curator of the Herbarium	UAF
Don Rearden	Professor of Writing	UAA Writing Department
Kimberly Pace	Professor	Political Science/Women's and Gender Studies
Gwendolyn Higgins	Archivist/Assistant Professor	Consortium Library, UAA
Jeffrey Laube	Professor	UAA - KPC
Darren Snyder	Associate Professor of Extension	UAF
Kevin Winker	Professor & Curator	Biology & Wildlife, Museum, UAF
Sonia Nagorski	Associate Professor of Geology	UAS
Ryan Fortson	Associate Professor, Justice Center Chair	Justice Center, UAA
Anja Kade	Assistant Professor (Term)	UAF
Martha Amore	Assistant Professor of Writing	Department of Writing (UAA)
Andrzej Piotrowski	Professor of Mathematics	Department of Natural Sciences, UAS
Kevin Walters	Assistant Professor of Psychology	UAF

Armin Abdihodzic	Associate Professor	Music (UAA)
Max Kullberg	Associate Professor, WWAMI School of Medicine, UAA	UAA
Devin Drown	Associate Professor of Biology	Department of Biology and Wildlife, UAF
Zhaohui Yang	Professor of Civil Engineering	UAA
Jennifer Schell	Professor	UAF
Tara Palmer	Professor	English as an additional language
Sudarsan Rangarajan	Professor of French	UAA
Alpana Desai	Professor of Management Information Systems	MMLBA, CBPP, UAA
Heidi Pearson	Associate Professor of Marine Biology	UAS
Jeffrey Lofthus	Professor of Education	School of Education @ UAS
Rachel Graham	Professor of Mathematics	UAA
Robin Gilcrist	Professor of Construction Technology	Career Education UAS
Dana Brown	Research Assistant Professor	UAF
Jennifer Ward	Associate Professor of Library Science	Egan Library UAS
Kristy Smith	Department Chair / Assistant Professor of Management	UAS School of Arts & Sciences; Business and Public Administration;
Anshul Pandya	Assistant Professor	UAF
Carrie Aldrich	Associate Professor	Department of Writing
Kristin Stoepler	Term Assistant Professor	UAA COH Division of Population Health Sciences
Dr. Kathy DiLorenzo	Associate Professor of Public Administration	Business and Public Administration UAS
Amana Mbise	Assistant Professor	Social Work
REBECA MASEDA GARCIA	PROFESSOR OF SPANISH	DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, CAS, UAA
Chandler Kemp	Assistant Professor	UAF Bristol Bay Campus
Gerri Brightwell	Professor	English, UAF
Yoko Kugo	Postdoctoral Researcher	Center for Cross-Cultural Studies, UAF
Sharon Emmerichs	Associate Professor	English/Writing, UAA
Shannon Uffenbeck	professor	UAA - WWAMI

Katherine Lubowicki	Term Assistant Professor of Writing	Department of Developmental Education UAF
Kristy Menning	Term Instructor	UAA- Biological Sciences
Elizabeth Allman	Professor of Mathematics	UAF
Rieken Venema	Professor of Statistics	Department of Mathematics and Statistics (UAA)
David Cox II	Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science	UAS Egan Library
Kara Hoover	Professor	Anthropology UAF
Page Brannon	Associate Professor, Head of Instruction and Research Services	Instruction and Research Services, Consortium Library, UAA
Glenn Chappell	Associate Professor of Computer Science	Computer Science, UAF
Tracey Burke	Professor	Social Work, UAA
Jungho Baek	Professor	CBSM, UAF
Debasmita Misra	Professor	CGEE (UAF)
Ilana Kingsley	Professor of Library Science	Library UAF
Jodi Jacques	Associate Director, Alaska Library Network	UAA Consortium Library
Britteny Howell	Assistant Professor	Division of Population Health Sciences, UAA
Francisco Miranda	Associate Professor of Spanish	Languages, UAA
Nelta Edwards	Professor of Sociology	Sociology, UAA
Judy Montalbano DVM	Assistant Professor of Veterinary Medicine	Veterinary Assisting UAA/MSC
Falk Huettmann	Professor	UAF
Wei Hsiao	Professor	UAA
Laura (Whitmore) Kelly	Research Assistant Faculty	UAF, IARC
Gay Sheffield	Bering Strait Agent	UAF Alaska Sea Grant
Brad Myrstol	Professor of Justice	Justice Center (UAA)
Carla Kroeze	Assistant Professor	UAS
Sai Gowtam Valluri	Faculty	UAF
Gabriel Garcia	Professor of Public Health	UAA Division of Population Health Sciences
Brandon Boylan	Professor of Political Science	UAF
E. Lance Howe	Professor of Economics	University of Alaska Anchorage
Kris Racina	Faculty	UAF

Ali Ziegler	Associate Professor	UAS
Leah Berman Williams	Professor of Mathematics	Mathematics and Statistics, UAF
Hattie Harvey	Associate Professor	UAA
Javier Fochesatto	Professor and Chair	UAF
John Mouracade	Professor of Philosophy	Philosophy UAA
Sara Buckingham	Associate Professor of Psychology	Department of Psychology, UAA
Michael Jones	Term Assistant Professor of Resource Economics	UAA-ISER
Jonathan Stecyk	Professor of Biological Sciences	CAS UAA
Allison Rice	Professor	Alaska Sea Grant, UAF
Dr. William L. Myers	Professor of History, and Chair of International Studies	History, and International Studies (UAA)
Lia Calhoun	Associate Professor of English	English; Kachemak Bay Campus of UAA
Jon Nachtigal	Assistant Professor	CBSM, UAF
Frank Witmer	Associate Professor of Computer Science & Engineering	UAA
Latrice Bowman	Assistant Professor of Mathematics	UAF
Ruby Fried	Assistant Professor of Health Science	UAA - Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies
Deborah Narang	Professor of Mathematics	Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics, UAA
Sergei Avdonin	Professor	DMS UAF
Vanessa Hiratsuka, PhD MPH	Assistant Professor of clinical and translational research	UAA Center for Human Development
Vivian Gonzalez	Professor	Psychology UAA
Elizabeth Zacher	Associate Professor of Art	Humanities/ Art/ Sitka
Mary Beth Leigh	Professor	Department of Biology and Wildlife, UAF
Jacques Philip	Research Assistant Professor	AIB, UAF
Diane Wagner	Professor	UAF Biology & Wildlife
Justin Cramb	Assistant Professor	Anthropology
Julie Maier	Professor of Developmental Mathematics	Developmental Education, UAF
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Donna Aguiniga	Associate Professor	Social Work
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John George	Professor	UAF CTC
Laura Conner	Research Professor	Geophysical Institute, UAF
Timothy Miller	Associate Professor	HPER
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David Tallmon	Professor of Biology	Natural Sciences UAS
Maria Williams	Professor	UAA. Alaska Bative Studies
Mara Bacsujlaky	Assistant Professor of Extension	IANRE
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Mary Wegner	Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Superintendent and Educational Leadership Programs	School of Education at UAS
Anthony Rickard	Professor of Mathematics Education	Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics, UAF
Nicolae Lobontiu	Professor of Mechanical Engineering	UAA
Jeremy Jones	Professor	Biology and Wildlife, UAF
John Rhodes	Professor of Mathematics	Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics, UAF
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Sean Topkok	Associate Professor	CXCS, UAF
Jill Faudree	Professor of Mathematics	UAF
Daryl Farmer	Associate Professor of English	UAF
Anthony Paris	Professor of Mechanical Engineering	Mechanical Engineering, UAA
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John Lutterman	Professor of Music	UAA
John Gimbel	Professor of Mathematics	UAF
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Michael	Whalen	Geoscience UAF
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Tyler Kirk	Assistant Professor of History	History UAF
Rachael Ball	Associate Professor of History	UAA
Megan Buzby	Associate Professor of Mathematics	UAS
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Chris Coffman	Professor and Department Chair	English, UAF
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Jack Chen	Professor	UAF
Colleen Ianuzzi	Associate Professor	UAS
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Sonia Ibarra	Faculty	UAF
Judith Atkinson	Professor	Dept. of Developmental Education UAF
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Harry Banks	Instructor of Information Technology	UAA
Leslie Shallcross	Professor of Extension - Health, Home and Family Development	UAF - IANRE
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David Morrison	Associate Professor	CSNT / UAA
Kathleen Nevis	Term Associate Professor	UAA
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Douglas Cost	Associate Professor	UAF- SOE
Anthony Gaussoin	Assistant Professor of Mathematics	UAA Mathematics
Gregory Hartley	Associate Professor of Writing	UAA CTC Dept of Writing
Darryl Jordan	Associate Professor	UAA
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Charles Mason	Professor	Journalism, CLA, UAF
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Elizabeth Arnold	Associate Professor	UAA
Susie Feero	Associate Professor of Health Information Management	Career Education, UAS
Andreas Anger	Professor of Applied Business	ABUS CTC UAF
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Donna Langley	adjunct instructor of mathematics	UAA
Shunji Ninoyu	adjunct instructor	UAA
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Ellen VandeVisse	adjunct instructor	Science MSC, UAA
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Mary Dallas Allen	Professor	UAA School of Social Work
Erik Hirschmann	Professor	History, UAA, Mat-Su College

Joshua Wesolowski	Adjunct Instructor	UAA
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Carolyn Bergstrom		UAS
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James Hemsath	Adjunct Professor of Management	UAA CBPP
Kevin Maier	Professor of English	UAS
Gwen Bachman	Adjunct Instructor	UAA, MatSu College Natural Sciences
Gerardo Dau	Adjunct Professor	UAA - Matsu
Nina Avdonina	adjunct professor	UAF
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sarah gerken	professor	biological sciences
Megan Ritter	Term Professor	UAA COH
Daisy Huang	Associate professor	UAF
Florian Hofmann	Postdoctoral Fellow	GI
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Martin Truffer	Professor	UAF
Christine Kube	Assistant Professor of Nursing	UAA
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Erin Larson	Research Assistant Professor	ACCS - UAA
Kirsten Grond	Postdoctoral Fellow	Biological Sciences UAA
Raymond Anthony	Professor	Philosophy, UAA
Thomas Kelly	Postdoctoral Fellow	CFOS UAF
Tesfaye Kibret	Term Assistant Professor	Physics and Astronomy (UAA)
Eduardo Wilner	Associate Professor and Department Chair	Philosophy, UAF
Brian Hemphill	Associate Professor	Anthropology UAF
Seth Jones	Assistant Professor	Philosophy, UAF
Georgina Gibson	Research Associate Professor	UAF
Hannah Hennighausen	Assistant Professor of Economics	Economics, UAA
Jenifer McBeath	Professor of plant pathology and biotechnology	UAF
Brandon Boylan	Professor of Political Science	UAF
Charla Brown	Associate Professor	Business and Public Administration / UAS
Eileen Harney	Assistant Professor	English Department, UAF
Jenifer McBeath	Professor of Plant Pathology and Biotechnology	AFES UAF
Tim Hinterberger	Professor	WWAMI School of Medical Education, UAA
Jenifer McBeath	Professor of plant pathology and biotechnology	AFES UAF
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Diane McEachern	Professor	UAF CRCD
Zenaida Kirkland	Assistant Professor	UAF CTC
Emily Wall	Professor of English	UAS, Humanities
Daria O. Carle	Science & Engineering Librarian	UAA Consortium Library
Karen Kurtz	Term Assistant Faculty	Medical Laboratory Science UAA
Dorn Van Dommelen	Professor of Geography	Anthropology and Geography, UAA
Sarah Stanley	Associate Professor	UAF
Jessica Knight	Assistant professor	Chemistry UAA
Greg Taylor	Assistant Professor	UAF
Diane Hanson	Assistant Professor	Anthropology, UAA
Sandra Wildfeuer	Associate Professor Mathematics	UAF
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David McAlpin	Postdoctoral Fellow	UAF Geophysical Institute
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Nathaniel Hicks	Associate Professor of Physics	Physics & Astronomy, UAA
Margaret Short	Associate Professor of Statistics	UAF
Terri Manthey	Assistant Professor	Quantitative Studies, CTC, UAA
Jacqueline Tagaban	Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education	Department of Social and Human Development - UAF
Art Nash	Energy Specialist	UAF
Lisa Strecker	Term Assistant Professor of Ethnobotany and Anthropology	UAF
Sasha Bitzer	Assistant Professor	UAF
Kelechukwu Alu	Associate Professor of Developmental Mathematics	Developmental Education, UAF
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Shawn Russell	Assistant Professor of Allied Health	UAF
Daniel Strawser	Term Instructor of Music Education and Cello	Music Department, UAF
Alexa Filanowicz	Clinical Associate Professor	UAA School of Social Work

yelena Matusevich	professor	FLL
Jared Griffin	Associate Professor of English	UAA-Kodiak
Gloria Eldridge	Professor	Psychology, UAA
Jennifer Bernard	Assistant Professor of Business	Business Administration
Forest Wagner	Outdoor Studies Assistant Professor	UAS
Sergey Marchenko	Research Associate Professor	Geoscience
Janice Dawe	Research Assistant Professor	IANRE, UAF
Arghya Das	Assistant Professor	UAF
DeeJana Engle	Adjunct Instructor	UAA
Mary Carlson	Assistant Professor	UAF
Carol	Assistant Professor	UAA - WWAMI
Joanne McCrea	Assistant Professor	Department Of Veterinary Medicine
Betty (BJ) Aldrich	assistant professor	CTC Allied Health - UAF
Debra Crawford	Instructor	UAA, Department of Quantitative Studies
Scott Hamel	Professor and Chair	Civil Engineering, UAA
Michael Moravec	Asst. Professor Air Traffic Control	CTC UAA
Jon Skinner	Adjunct	UAA
Dan	Associate Professor of Physics	UAA
Julie Matweyou	Associate Professor	Alaska Sea Grant UAF
Heide Provencher	Assistant Professor	COH, School of Nursing, UAA
Hyun Woong Jang	Postdoctoral fellow	Department of Petroleum Engineering (UAF)
Kimberly McGinnis	Assistant Proessor	UAF Business Administration
Terrence Kelly	Associate Professor	Department of Philosophy UAA
Libby Eufemio	Asst. Professor of Alaska Native Studies	Alutiiq Studies Program, Kodiak College
Kitaysky	Professor	UAF, Biology & Wildlife
D'Arcy Hutchings	Instructional Design Librarian, Associate Professor	UAA
Tzu-Chiao Chen	Assistant Professor	Department of Communication, UAA
Maria F. Ippolito	Professor	UAA Department of Psychology
Chanda Meek	Professor	Political Science, UAF
Deborah Giedosh, EdD	Faculty	MAU
Sam Cook	Associate Professor	UAA

Andrea Dewees	Associate Professor	UAS
Mari Hahn	Professor of Music	UAA
Kathi Trawver	Professor	UAA School of Social Work
Raghu Srinivasan	Associate Professor	UAA
Christopher Jung	Associate Professor	BIOL UAA
Jodee Kuden	Professor of Library Science	UAA
Amanda Glazier	Asst Professor of Biology/Env Sci	UAA PWSC
Herminia Din	Professor of Art	UAA
Carrie King	Professor, Dietetics and Nutrition	Dietetics and Nutrition, UAA,
Kelly Smith	Associate Professor of Automotive Technology	UAA
Kristen Ogilvie	Associate Professor of Anthropology	UAA
Juergen Sidgman	Assistant Professor	Accounting and Finance

additional comments from University of Alaska faculty:

I strongly support a faculty regent on the UA BOR!

Faculty are an essential part of the university. We care about our students, we care about our communities, and we care about our state. Please give us a voice in the direction of the UA system by giving us a vote on the Board of Regents. Thank you.

I strongly support this, my previous institution/employer had a faculty regent, and it was vital in ensuring that faculty's voices are heard. Transparent policies and procedures were effective at mitigating any potential for conflicts of interest.

Thank you! A faculty regent has been needed for much time.

It is high time that the BOR heard from faculty since we are the frontline in educating Alaska's students.

I strongly support HB9 to add a faculty regent to the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska

I appreciate your time in considering supporting HB9!

Support for a faculty regent improves board of regent decision-making capabilities.

Thanks, this is overdue and a second faculty regent is needed

A faculty regent would add additional depth to the information available to the BOR about the work of the institution.

The other concern that I have heard from legislators is the potential of having a tie vote if there are an even number of Regents. I have two points to make regarding this: (1) almost all of the votes of the Board of Regents (BoR) are unanimous. This is due to the fact that they generally only consider the dominant point of view that is provided to them - that of the administration. Hence, they are lacking a significant amount of information and have made ill-informed decisions. The BoR desperately needs to be better informed if they are going to fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities to Alaskans and the State of Alaska, (2) both the Alaska State House and Senate have an even number of legislators and have rules that deal with tie votes that could be utilized on the BoR, should a tie vote ever happen.

Faculty does the core functions of a University-teaching and research. So faculty should have a seat at the table.

A faculty regent would add some perspective to the BOR's discussions. The faculty carry out the university mission of teaching, research and service through their daily activities and have the most direct contact with the students and the public of any university stakeholder.

I would like to be this person appointed to the BOR.

BOR needs the perspective of a faculty member. In addition, a member with a stellar scholarly record would be extremely beneficial to all.

I believe a faculty regent will improve the working relationship between administration and faculty through consistent professional communication.

Faculty expertise in higher education would be a great asset to the BOR.

A faculty voice on the Board of Regents is deeply necessary to ensure a broad range of viewpoints and perspectives. This is in the best interest of a dynamic university system that values shared governance and decision making.

Too much emphasis on business folks. What do they know about the delivery of a quality education?

In the interest of deliberative decision making, the BOR would benefit from a faculty perspective, given the close relationship faculty have to students and the curriculum.

I am very much in favor of having a faculty member on the Board of Regents.

I am in favor of a faculty member on the Board of Regents.

Invaluable and a unique perspective can be provided.

I am strongly supportive of this initiative to create a more balanced decision making process for the Board of Regents by adding a faculty voice to the members.

A faculty regent can contribute to achieve the educational goal among other regents who seem to be just a bunch of business people without much experience in education.

Giving faculty a voice on the board would support trust and understanding between faculty and those who govern the university. Few things seem as important.

It would truly help to have representation by a faculty member who has been part of the university before.

It's essential the BoR has a breadth of opinion and background. A faculty member will ensure that.

We so need a faculty regent, at this point in time, especially!

I support creation of a faculty regent position.

A faculty voice is needed.

It is hard to believe that one needs to sign a request to add an academic to the board that guides the future of an academic institution.

Having a faculty regent seems like an obvious need to me. Why hasn't this been done before?

This would be a **major** morale boost for faculty who are discouraged by insufficient shared governance in recent years, and this would in turn directly benefit student success. Please add the faculty regent.

This would be a good investment for the University of Alaska!

Worthy goal!