

Michael Mason

From: Alex Baker <alexpieterbaker@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose Bethany Marcum

Good morning,

As a resident of South Muldoon, I am strongly opposed to Bethany Marcum serving on the University Board of Regents. The Alaska Supreme Court found she violated Alaskans constitutional rights by engaging in illegal gerrymandering.

She fought to deny every member of my community their right to free and fair representation by attempting to pair us in a legislative district with Eagle River in order to achieve her partisan goals.

She has proven she is unfit to serve on any non-partisan board or commission. Please oppose her confirmation.

Best regards,
Alex Baker

Michael Mason

From: Armin Abdihodzic <aabdihodzic@alaska.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 3:29 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: UA Board Of Regions Appointee

Dear members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Armin Abdihodzic and I am a faculty member at the University of Alaska Anchorage. I have been living in Alaska for over ten years with my wife and three little boys. I cannot make it to the public testimony session tomorrow due to work conflicts, but I wanted to contact you and urge you not to confirm Bethany Marcum as one the regents for UA.

The University of Alaska system has been going through significant struggles in the past five years (Governor's budget cuts, COVID-19) and we need Regents who will guide us and help us grow and become more efficient in delivering higher education across the State. UA is a public institution and, because of it, requires a necessary budget from the State. Mrs. Marcum is the Chief Executive Officer for the Alaska Policy Forum whose many guiding principles oppose the mission of the public UA system.

Mrs. Marcum also has a history of supporting measures that lead to significant damages to the UA system: supporting a \$130M (40%) cut in 2019.

Additionally, Mrs. Marcum, as a member of the redistricting board, has recently been engaged in a process that was singled out by Anchorage Superior Court Judge Matthews as secretive. Her behavior undermined the trust in the fairness of this process and led to allegations of partisan gerrymandering and the court-ordered redrawing of at least one district.

I am afraid that Mrs. Marcum is not able to serve the UA system well without damaging her role as the CEO of the APF.

I hope that you will give some thoughts to the arguments presented and not confirm Bethany Marcum as one of the UA Regents.

Sincerely,

Dr. Armin Abdihodzic, D.M.A.
Associate Professor of Music - Guitar
University of Alaska - Anchorage
(907) 786-1554



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 176TH WING (PACAF)
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON ALASKA

20 Mar 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FROM: 176 WG/HC

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Master Sergeant Bethany Marcum to the University of Alaska Board of Regents

1. This letter is to give my highest recommendation for MSgt Bethany Marcum to be confirmed to the UA Board of Regents. She is currently a member in our Wing and is highly regarded by all.
2. MSgt Marcum has worked for me for several years. She enlisted in the Alaska Air National Guard first as an Intelligence Analyst for eight years, then as a Religious Affairs Airmen out of her commitment to serve her country and Alaska. She has a strong work ethic, is very knowledgeable and curious, and has a continuous desire to serve. I have no doubt about her commitment to this position. She is caring and compassionate and works well with all those with whom she interacts.
3. In my observations, MSgt Marcum is above reproach in all areas of life: family, social, work, and community. Anytime I see a job posted or need something done, she is the first person to cross my mind because of the professional, committed approach she takes.
4. We serve a large wing with 3 vital missions to our national/state security. But people are the backbone of the organization. Our Airmen and their families are a wide range of ages, ethnicities, viewpoints, backgrounds. MSgt Marcum is my conduit to care for the physical, spiritual, social, and emotional needs of our wing. If our people are not healthy in these areas, job performance fails. If job performance fails, then our mission fails and that is not acceptable. She manages all our programs that ensure our people are healthy mentally, spiritually and emotionally. The skills she has in these important areas ensure the success of each person. I can see how that would be important to reach the UA goal of “fostering academic excellence for student success.” As our wing is so diverse in skills and people, I can see how her Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion training (Air Force Program and Initiative) would aid in another UA goal: “Promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in its students, faculty, and staff.”
5. MSgt Marcum exceeds the mark with two other UA goals “Contribute to Alaska’s economic development, skilled work force, and engaged citizens” and “Operate costs effectively” by being a citizen Airmen. She contributes to Alaska’s development through her service in multiple civic roles over many years. She

demonstrates her financial acumen by leading our office in its financial management.

6. MSgt Marcum has served two deployments with the Air National Guard as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. She should be honored for volunteering to leave Alaska to serve on deployments in both Afghanistan and Kuwait, sacrificing self and family to support and defend.

7. Finally, yet very importantly, MSgt Marcum brings many personal qualities and strengths to our team. One of the most important is loyalty. I can trust her. I trust her to hold me accountable in a way that never detracts from the team. I trust she has the organization's best interest at heart. Her administration skills and attention to detail cannot be understated. I prize many of her qualities, but her trust, integrity, and loyalty help me sleep at night. Alaska deserves great leadership, vitality, and trustworthiness on the Board of Regents, and thus MSgt Marcum is a must for this role.

8. If you have any further questions or concerns, please e-mail me at bradford.burns.3@us.af.mil or call me at 334-294-9081.

BRADFORD L. BURNS, Ch, Lt Col, AKANG
Wing Chaplain

Staff Chaplain Instructor, Air Force Chaplain
Corps College, Eaker Center, Maxwell AFB, AL

Michael Mason

From: Britteny Howell <brittenyhowell@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:08 PM
To: House Education; Senate Education
Subject: Concerned about UA Board of Regents appointee Bethany Marcum

I would like to express my concern for University of Alaska Board of Regents appointee Marcum. This individual serves in a role on the Alaska Policy Forum that appears at odds with the UA regent's roles and responsibilities. She has publicly supported the devastating budget cuts that the university endured in 2019 and may never recover from. Those cuts led to loss of faculty, academic programs, and decreased student enrollments; caused the UA system to be downgraded by Moody's; and decreased the public's trust in our institution.

We cannot have a strong economy without a strong public university. Her role as a regent will require her to act in the best interest of the UA system, but her past and current behavior indicates she is an inappropriate candidate for this position.

I strongly oppose Marcum's appointment to the UA Board of Regents.

Britteny M. Howell, PhD, CPG

Michael Mason

From: Chris Coffman <chriscoff2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 11:13 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Please Do Not Confirm Ms. Bethany Marcum

Dear Senators,

I'm writing to urge you not to confirm Ms. Bethany Marcum to the University of Alaska Board of Regents.

The potential conflicts of interest between the constitutional and fiduciary duties of the Board of Regents and Ms. Marcum's role as the Chief Executive Officer of the Alaska Policy Forum are so serious that they should preclude her appointment.

One of the guiding principles of the Alaska Policy Forum is that "What belongs to you, you tend to take care of; what belongs to no one or everyone tends to fall into disrepair," and that "Nobody spends someone else's money as carefully as he spends his own." However, the University of Alaska - as a public institution, belongs to everyone; it therefore necessarily has a large budget from the state to enable all Alaskans to access UA programs. This contrast reveals a conflict of duty between serving as a member of the UA Board of Regents and serving as CEO of the Alaska Policy Forum.

Even more concerning is that Ms. Marcum has already advocated cuts that run directly counter to the constitutional and fiduciary duties of members of the UA Board of Regents. She is on record in 2019 speaking in favor of an unprecedented \$130M (40%) cut in funding to the UA system, which led to:

- the UA system's downgrade by Moody's;
- UA's threatened loss of accreditation by its accrediting body;
- cuts to many UA programs that damaged Alaskans' ability to access a full range of educational opportunities;
- a drop in student enrollment systemwide, which compromised UA's ability to generate revenue from tuition and fees;
- increased public mistrust in the system's ability to educate Alaskans; and
- ongoing damage to the university system's reputation.

The damage inflicted on the UA system by cuts Ms. Marcum has advocated stands as clear evidence that she is highly unlikely to uphold the constitutional and fiduciary responsibilities of a member of the Board of Regents.

This is especially concerning because the bylaws of the University of Alaska Board of Regents (BL.03) require that "each member of the board will uphold their constitutional and fiduciary duty to act prudently, in accordance with law, and in the best interests of the University of Alaska System." As Ms. Marcum has already spoken out against the interests of the University of Alaska system by advocating cuts that have inflicted the harms described above, she is an unsuitable candidate for the Board of Regents.

Ms. Marcum's appointment as a regent would force her to either:

- abandon her public position and serve against the position of her employer,
- or
- violate her duties as a regent, damaging the Board of Regents's credibility and risking her removal from the BOR by other regents (in accordance with BL.04 and .05).

Thank you for your service on our legislature and for your careful consideration of the serious conflicts of interest that would be presented by Ms. Marcum's appointment to the University of Alaska Board of Regents. For the reasons stated above, I urge you not to confirm her.

Sincerely,
Chris Coffman
Fairbanks, AK 99709

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF BETHANY MARCUM APPOINTMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA BOARD OF REGENTS

Craig L Fleener | chizhur@gmail.com

23 March 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I submit this letter of support asking that you appoint Bethany Marcum to the University of Alaska Board of Regents. Bethany has been a friend, colleague, and co-worker for well over a decade. Most notably, I had the privilege of supervising Bethany for several years in the Alaska Air National Guard where she served as an intelligence analyst. On a daily basis Bethany demonstrated her commitment to excellence, her analytical skills, and her ability to handle the extreme pressures of briefing senior military leaders on complex and dynamic national defense issues. She has been recognized many times for superior performance, her devotion to duty, and willingness to go the extra mile.

On a personal level and as a colleague I can say that I have witnessed Bethany's commitment to the betterment of the State of Alaska and most importantly, its people. Down through the years, she has committed thousands of hours volunteering on innumerable issues that plague our state. One that I have watched most closely is her efforts to improve education outcomes, in order to provide future generations of Alaskans a hand up to be successful. Bethany has a number of strengths to offer the people of Alaska as has been demonstrated throughout her adult life not only by her personal commitment to education, but also legislation, and the rule of law.

In conclusion, I highly recommend her appointment will be an extremely positive addition to the University. If you need additional information, please contact me anytime. If my observations of her performance are any indication of how she'd perform on the Board of Regents, her appointment will be an extremely positive addition to the University. If you need additional information, please contact me anytime

Sincerely,



Craig L Fleener

Anchorage, Alaska

907-687-6406 |

LAW OFFICES OF CRAIG RICHARDS
810 N Street, Ste. 100 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 306-9878 • crichards@alaskaprofessionalservices.com

March 21, 2023

Senate Education Committee
State of Alaska Legislature
VIA EMAIL: Senate.Education@akleg.gov

Dear Chair Tobin:

I write on behalf of Bethany Marcum, whose nomination to the University of Alaska Board of Regents is currently before your committee.

My interactions with Ms. Marcum have been entirely professional, where she was a contact for a client or someone working with a client. It is therefore through an objective professional lens, not a political or personal one, through which I offer my support for her nomination.

As the members of your committee are quite aware, the period since 2015 – when the long-term price of oil fell – has been challenging to Alaska’s educational institutions. The University of Alaska is perhaps one of the most impacted by continued budget shortfalls at the State of Alaska level. Now, more than ever, the University needs Regents that are dedicated to helping it positively address that dynamic, both as effective advocates for additional funding and as thoughtful transition leaders able to help lead the University to a place where it maintains high quality educational services notwithstanding State funding is below historical averages. Based on my observations of Ms. Marcum, she will be effective in both roles (funding advocate and transition leader).

Specifically, I have observed that Ms. Marcum objectively and thoroughly considers all the information provided before forming opinions and is open to revisiting those opinions as data and circumstances change. Ms. Marcum is respectful of those with different ideas and viewpoints and, in my experience, communicates professionally and thoughtfully. This gives her the laudable ability to work collaboratively even with those she might disagree. She is also the type of person that can and does generate long-term plans to achieve goals. I think these character traits are critical to addressing the challenges that lie ahead for the University. As has been demonstrated in the last few years, the University must embrace change to manage to current and future funding levels and student expectations. Effective change management is not ideological or based on short-term decision making, but is a slow, thoughtful process that iterates many times. Ms. Marcum is a passionate, eager, forward-thinking Alaskan that can meaningfully contribute to improving our University of Alaska in a challenging environment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Craig Richards

March 19, 2023

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Bethany Marcum's appointment to the Board of Regents.

I know the responsibilities of the Board of Regents well. I served on the Board from 2003 to 2011, including two years as Chairman. The best Regents bring a huge commitment to education, and particularly higher education. Exemplary Regents also bring management work experience and prior service on policy setting boards.

Bethany brings all of these assets. I have known Bethany for more than a decade and have been consistently impressed with her respectful proper decorum in meetings and interaction with others.

Bethany is well educated; she obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri and an advanced degree from the University of Illinois. She places a high value on education and will work to ensure all Alaskans seeking a UA education are provided that opportunity.

I have observed Bethany to be someone who always comes prepared to meetings; she will read and give consideration to the sometimes daunting amount of information provided to the Regents prior to each meeting.

Finally, I would add that the work of the Board of Regents entails policy setting, advising the President of the University, and important fiscal and educational decisions. Rarely does the Board deal with political issues.

I am pleased that Bethany Marcum is willing to take on the responsibilities of participating in the body that makes the important decisions regarding our University. Please confirm her appointment.

Cynthia Henry
3216 Riverview Drive
Fairbanks, AK. 99709

Michael Mason

From: D L <runnerlars@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 11:41 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Bethany Marcum Board of Regents Appointment

Dear House Education Committee

I am writing in opposition to the appointment of Bethany Marcum to the Board of Regents. Ms. Marcum served on the Alaska Redistricting Board and performed poorly. Ms. Marcum was found by a judge to have violated the Open Meetings Act. During the redistricting process, Ms. Marcum routinely behaved in an openly partisan manner. I am concerned that if Ms. Marcum serves on the Board of Regents she will continue to flout the rules and cause the University of Alaska and the Board of Regents to be sued. We simply cannot afford to appoint someone like Ms. Marcum to the Board of Regents.

Sincerely

Don Larson
Fairbanks, AK

Dave Donley
6860 Tondi Lane, Anchorage, Alaska 99507
Telephone: 907-561-8234 / Email: dd1@gci.net

March 18, 2023

To Members of the Alaska Legislature:

I wholeheartedly support the appointment of Bethany Marcum to the University of Alaska Board of Regents. I respectfully ask for your vote to confirm her nomination.

I have known and worked with Bethany on public policy issues for many years. She has a passion for improving all aspects of education in Alaska through development of innovative and creative policy improvements. Bethany brings an analytical, data-based approach to improving our public schools. She seeks out all sides of public policy debates and approaches policy research with an open mind to seek the objectively best options.

Her considerable experience makes her very qualified to serve our state and our university extremely well. Please take the time to meet with her in person and I believe you will agree.

This is my twenty-second year of holding elected office in Alaska and I have been elected as a democrat, republican and most recently non-partisan. In my roles as a student, Senate Finance Co-chair, and school board member I have interacted with the University of Alaska and the Board of Regents. That experience additionally supports my faith in Bethany as an excellent choice for the Board of Regents.

Best wishes for a successful legislative session.

Sincerely,



Dave Donley

This letter is from me as an individual and not on behalf of the Anchorage School Board; Anchorage School District; or any other organization in which I hold an office or position.

Member Alaska Bar Association since 1979
Admitted to practice law before:
Alaska State Courts, U.S. District Court for Alaska, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and
The Supreme Court of The United States of America
Member of the Alaska State House of Representatives 1987 – 1993
Member of the Alaska State Senate 1993 – 2002
Member Anchorage School Board 2017 - present

Michael Mason

From: Edna DeVries <Edna.DeVries@matsugov.us>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 5:11 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Board of Regents - Bethany Marcum

I highly recommend that Bethany Marcum be appointed to the Alaska Board of Regents. I have known Bethany for many years and found her to have great leadership abilities. She knows Alaska's people and their educational and community needs and can balance that with the stewardship of Alaska resources.

Thank you for your consideration of her appointment. Please reach out to me if you have questions or I can be of further assistance to the committee.

Edna

Mayor Edna DeVries
Phone 907-861-8682, cell 907-795-8133
Edna.devries@matsugov.us
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
350 Dahlia, Palmer, AK 99645

Michael Mason

From: Mackenzie Pope
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 11:33 AM
To: Michael Mason
Subject: FW: UA Board of Regents nominee B. Marcum

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Allman <esallman@alaska.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 4:00 AM
To: Sen. Löki Tobin <Sen.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov>
Subject: UA Board of Regents nominee B. Marcum

Dear Senator Tobin,

Please do not vote to confirm Ms. B. Marcum to the UA Board of Regents. She is wholly unsuitable to help guide the University of Alaska system, given her prolonged record of trying to destroy, dismantle/ and or severely handicap the University. Someone who treasures and honors the UA mission and goals should be on the board, not her.

Elizabeth S. Allman

--

Department of Mathematics and Statistics University of Alaska Fairbanks PO Box 756660 Fairbanks, AK 99775
e.allman@alaska.edu

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://eallman.github.io__;!!LdQKC6s!OQgl0EzLemULtVkt4QRWJFG4HQepcneGVNNIDoRZ5r1ecGDfxaRY0FSVpWwnC7RuPnlGCCUef6QQj3a-TG0ShXvXc7LBQ\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://eallman.github.io__;!!LdQKC6s!OQgl0EzLemULtVkt4QRWJFG4HQepcneGVNNIDoRZ5r1ecGDfxaRY0FSVpWwnC7RuPnlGCCUef6QQj3a-TG0ShXvXc7LBQ$)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Mrs. Bethany Marcum's appointment to the University of Alaska's Board of Regents.

I have known Mrs. Marcum for at least 5 years and have worked with her in volunteer and community work. I can speak to her character and work ethic, both of which are of the highest quality.

In character: Bethany has demonstrated integrity beyond most. She's punctual and is always prepared for whatever task is before her. She's not afraid to try new things and searches out the knowledge and experience to do them well, and isn't afraid of trial and error either. But definitely brings her "A" game to whatever the challenge may be.

In work ethic: Bethany is a team player who challenges the process and adds value to the goal with creative solutions. Additionally, she takes initiative to see those solutions through.

I have found her to be adept, incredibly intellectual, hard-working, caring, deliberate, and goal focused.

I would consider her to be a superb addition to the Board of Regents, as she would bear that honor with the same character and work ethic that I have experienced working with her over the past 5 years.

With respect,

GINGER WILLIAMS | Unite Kidz Pastor

Unite Church

ginger@unitechurchak.org | Cell: 907-727-9649 | 2626 Abbott Rd. Anchorage, AK 99507

"Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him."

- Ps. 91:1-2 NLT

Date: March 21,2023

To: Members of the Senate Education Committee

Subject: Support Appointment Bethany Marcum Board Of Regents

I am writing in support of the appointment of Bethany Marcum to the University of Alaska Board of Regents. I believe that Bethany is more than qualified to serve on the Board. I have known Bethany for seven years and found her to be a reliable person of high character who would be an asset to the Board.

By way of history, Bethany has lived in Alaska since 1995, arriving here after teaching overseas for four years (Japan and Hungary). She is currently CEO of Alaska Policy Forum, a state policy nonprofit. Bethany is a citizen airman in the Alaska Air National Guard and previously worked for the Alaska State Legislature, U.S. Naval Reserve, Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, and MACTel.

She obtained a Bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri in Sociology and went on to obtain a Master's degree from the University of Illinois. In my estimation, she fully recognizes and appreciates the unique role of universities, and especially the important role that the University of Alaska plays in our state.

I feel that Bethany's personal experiences have given her an exceptional understanding of how important it is for Alaskans to have the opportunity to attend the University of Alaska. I know she shares the viewpoint that every student who desires a degree or even just the "college experience" should have the opportunity to pursue that.

Bethany has a long record of service to our state, having volunteered with multiple Alaska organizations, over the years including Unite Church, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Civil Air Patrol. Having her share the wisdom she has acquired from prior service will be a benefit as she serves on the Alaska Board of Regents.

I know Bethany will bring enthusiasm, professionalism and good judgement to the board. I urge you to support Bethany's appointment to the Alaska Board of Regents.

Best regards,

Joe Mathis

816 Oceanview Drive

Anchorage Alaska 99515

Michael Mason

From: Joel Potter <jmpotter3@alaska.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 3:22 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Concern over Marcum appointment to UA BOR

Greetings,

I am writing to express my concern about the appointment of Bethany Marcum to the UA Board of Regents.

Ms. Marcum's [partisan behavior](#) on the Alaska redistricting board last year is disqualifying from my perspective. The appointment to the Board of Regents is for ten years and comes with significant responsibilities to steward a public good for all people in Alaska. There is no place for such partisanship in this context.

Furthermore, it is not even clear that stewarding the constitutionally protected public good of higher education is consistent with the [guiding principles](#) of the Alaska Policy Forum, which Ms. Marcum leads as CEO:

- Free people are not equal, and equal people are not free.
- **What belongs to you, you tend to take care of; what belongs to no one or everyone tends to fall into disrepair.**
- Sound policy requires that we consider long-run effects and all people, not simply short-run effects and a few people.
- If you encourage something, you will get more of it; if you discourage something, you will get less of it.
- Nobody spends someone else's money as carefully as he spends his own.
- **Government has nothing to give anybody except what it first takes from somebody,** and a government that's big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take away everything you have.
- Liberty makes all the difference in the world.

That Marcum may not be fully committed to the UA university system seems to be supported by [her public statements](#) in support of 140M in cuts to the system in 2019, which contributed to the loss of academic programs serving 500-600 students at UAA alone. In her statements she suggests that such cuts are the only financially responsible option, but this demonstrates a set of priorities ill-suited to a university regent: full PFD over public access to higher education; short term savings over long term investment in our young people and in our state.

Please exercise your legislative oversight and vote against this appointment.

Sincerely,
Joel Potter

--

Joel M. Potter, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Chair

Department of Philosophy

University of Alaska Anchorage

3211 Providence Dr.

Anchorage, AK 99508

Office: ADM 257

Cell: (907) 351-5502

Email: jmpotter3@alaska.edu

Michael Mason

From: John Binkley <john@riverboatdiscovery.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:08 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: UA Regent confirmation of Bethany Marcum

Alaska Senate Education Committee members.

I am writing in support of Bethany Marcum's appointment to the University of Alaska Board of Regents.

Ms Marcum and I served together on the most recent Alaska Redistricting Board. That process began in September of 2020 and concluded in May of 2022. During that time all five Board members worked together closely to redistrict the entire state.

It required a large commitment of time, travel, energy and hard work to accomplish the requirements as outlined in the Alaska Constitution.

During that time, I came to know and admire Ms Marcum's intelligence, hard work, dedication, and patience.

I believe she will bring those same strengths to the University of Alaska as a regent.

She also has worked as a legislative aide. Having that experience of understanding the legislative process will make her an effective advocate for the UA before the Legislature.

I would highly recommend her confirmation.

Thank you.

John.

John Binkley

Chairman

Godspeed Inc

john@riverboatdiscovery.com | Cell (907) 322-2390 | Office (907) 479-6673

1975 Discovery Drive | Fairbanks, AK 99709

[Riverboat Discovery](#) | [Gold Dredge 8](#) | [Ward Cove Dock Group](#)

Michael Mason

From: John Coghill <johncoghilljr@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:24 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: UofA Board of Regents

Senators greetings from a former colleague.

To whom it may concern,

This my recommendation for Bethany Marcum in support of her appointment to the Alaska Board of Regents.

I am very pleased to hear of Bethany's appointment.

Her work ethic and willingness to work with people and ideas while bringing her views unashamedly will suite Alaska well in the University system.

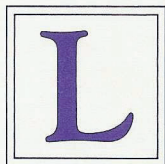
Her work in the private and state government policy worlds has proven her ability to engage productively and often forcefully with integrity.

Her commitment and loyalty to a strong University of Alaska, a healthy Alaska economy as well as understanding our place on the globe give me confidence in her as a Regent.

My gratitude to you all and her as you consider her by confirming Bethany to serve us on the Board of Regents for the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,
John Coghill.

Sent from my iPhone



LOREN & CAROLYN LEMAN

2699 Nathaniel Court • Anchorage, Alaska 99517 • (907) 243-2000

March 22, 2023

Senator Löki Tobin, Chair
Senator Gary Stevens, Co-chair
Senate Education Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

sent by email to senate.education@akleg.gov

Dear Senators Tobin, Stevens & other members of the Education Committee:

I support the confirmation of Bethany Marcum to the Board of Regents for the University of Alaska.

Bethany and I have known each other for at least as long as she served as legislative staff, and perhaps even before that. I like her commitment to good government—we have had good discussions about issues important to Alaska. Bethany has the right appreciation for the University of Alaska, the leadership skills, and diligence to function capably as a regent.

Bethany Marcum's varied professional background looks "Alaskan." Her military service, staff to the Legislature, leadership at the Alaska Policy Forum, and service on other assignments have been impressive. She understands the Board of Regents as a governance, not an administrative, board yet she has the intellectual curiosity to learn and challenge the status quo, without overstepping her proper role. I like that. Bethany's own life experiences attending two land-grant institutions give her an appreciation for what tuition support through State investment does for availability of education.

When I served on the Senate Finance Committee, for at least one legislative term I chaired the finance subcommittee for UA. That experience, plus being the father of a UAA graduate, co-chairing the State Committee for Research, and serving on two academic advisory boards for UAA for nearly the past 15 years have given me a "front row seat" appreciation for what the University does, the challenges it faces, and insights into how it can improve. Carolyn and I still get on campus regularly.

Bethany's commitment to excellence will help make UA stronger, an improved asset, and a continued huge contributor to Alaska's future. She is a hard worker and a team player. Bethany Marcum is up to the task and I encourage you to confirm her.

Sincerely,

Loren Leman, P.E.

Mead Treadwell

528 N Street

mead@treadwellalaska.com

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

(907) 223-8128

March 23, 2023

To the Members of the Alaska State House and Senate Education Committee

Via Email; House.Education@akleg.gov; Senate.Education@akleg.gov

Re: Recommendation for Bethany Marcum as a UA Regent

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Bethany Marcum is before you for confirmation as a University of Alaska Regent. I recommend approval.

From my interactions with her, beginning when I was Lt. Governor and she worked in the Legislature, I've come to know Bethany as a serious person who is dedicated to finding solutions to the public policy issues which vex us in Alaska. As a member of the Board of the Alaska Policy Forum I have seen her at work — bringing facts, reasons, and intellectual curiosity to public discourse. Her standard is excellence. APF's work in helping the Legislature make a bipartisan approach to improved reading will be the same, constructive bipartisan approach in support of education she will bring to the Regents.

I love our University. I have worked hard to bring major funding as Chair of the US Arctic Research Commission, a member of the State Committee on Research, and in my continued work with Japanese leaders who support the International Arctic Research Center. As we build programs to make our state safer and more competitive, it will be good to have Bethany as an advocate.

Sincerely,

Mead Treadwell

Theresa Drell

Michael Mason

From: texmack42@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2023 8:01 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: University of Alaska Board of Regents

To whom it may concern.

By way of introduction, I lived in Alaska from March 1968 until January 2016. I went to Alaska while in the U.S. Army and stayed until civilian retirement, some 46 years later. After my time in the service, I worked primarily in the financial Services industry and retired in 2006 after 35 years as Senior Vice President of Central Administration with Alaska USA Federal Credit Union,

I first met Bethany Marcum over 25 years ago while we were both employed at Alaska USA. During her tenure there, Mrs. Marcum held several increasingly responsible positions, and without exception, any time our responsibilities intersected, I found her to be a consummate professional. She had the ability to quickly grasp the situation at hand, evaluate the issues and offer relevant and practical solutions. It was always a pleasure to work with her as I knew I never had to worry about whether or not any of her assigned tasks, large or small, would be accomplished both properly and in a timely manner.

In addition to our years working together, I've had many opportunities to socialize with Bethany and her husband. Based upon my experience, both personal and professional, I can attest that Bethany Marcum is one of the most ethical people it has been my pleasure to know. She is loyal, dependable, and considerate. Mrs. Marcum is not only intelligent, but is more than willing to take the time and effort to do the research that will allow her to make informed decisions.

Accordingly, I can, without reservation, recommend Bethany Marcum for your consideration for a position on the University Of Alaska Board of Regents.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Ron McAlpin
PO Box 684
Devine, TX 78016
[907-227-2750](tel:907-227-2750)
texmack42@gmail.com

Michael Mason

From: Ryan Andrew <akskidoo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 5:42 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to Bethany Marcum's nomination

Good Evening,

As a resident of South Muldoon, I am strongly opposed to Bethany Marcum serving on the University of Alaska Board of Regents. The Alaska Supreme Court found she violated Alaskans constitutional rights by engaging in illegal gerrymandering.

She fought to deny every member of my community their right to free and fair representation by attempting to pair us in a legislative district with Eagle River in order to achieve her partisan goals.

I believe strongly that Bethany has proven herself unfit to serve on any non-partisan board or commission. Please oppose her confirmation.

Kind Regards,

Ryan Andrew

March 20, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you regarding the consideration of Bethany Marcum's appointment to the University of Alaska Board of Regents.

Bethany and I worked together for several years. We collaborated on many projects where she was the project manager, and I was the client. All the projects we worked on together were extremely successful as she ensured all my departments needs were met in a timely fashion and were completed above expectations. Bethany was extremely professional and always supported my departments mission and goals. She has an amazing work ethic and communication skills, close to none other that I've experienced.

Bethany would be a great asset to your board. She has a passion for what she believes in, and I believe her contributions to your mission would be unprecedented.

Regards,

Sandra Syrup
907-227-3869
Syrupmama02@gmail.com

March 18, 2023

University of Alaska Board of Regents

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of testament for both my personal and business relationship with Mrs. Bethany Marcum:

I have known Bethany Marcum 25+ years, in a professional relationship with both of us working at Alaska USA Federal Credit Union and then as a family friend with common interests.

Although I did not work directly with Bethany at the credit union, I was able to observe her in action on many occasions. She appeared to be objective and decisive in her decision making at all times. She was analytical and thorough in her evaluation of and approach to tasks and projects. I do not recall a single instance where her judgement was questioned.

On a personal note: both the McAlpin's and Marcum's households have pets and whenever we have had the need to travel, I have never hesitated to entrust Bethany with our beloved fur family members. The level of love and responsibility she takes is above and beyond, Bethany and her husband, Dr Conley Marcum are rare and trusted friends that we have opened our home to in our absence on more than one occasion. I consider Bethany completely trustworthy.

I highly recommend Bethany Marcum for your consideration for a position on the University of Alaska Board of Regents. Please feel free to contact me should you wish any further information.

Sincerely,

Sarah McAlpin
PO Box 684
Devine, TX 78016
907-230-2137
sarahmcAlpin@gmail.com

Michael Mason

From: Ted Eischeid <eischeid@mac.com>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 9:04 AM
To: Senate Education
Cc: House Education
Subject: Oppose Markum for Regents

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am writing to ask you to oppose the nomination of Bethany Markum to the Board of Regents. Ms. Markum leads an organization that advocates for the dismantling of public education- whether she could provide effective leadership to a public university system is seriously suspect. Moreover, as a member of the Alaska State Redistricting Board she twice voted to advance an illegal gerrymandered map as ruled by the Alaska Supreme Court. Her judgement in this regard disqualifies her as a Regent in my mind. Alaska can do better.

Thank you.

Ted Eischeid
410 Mellow Pl
Anchorage AK 99508

March 17, 2023

From: Timothy A. Barto
Eagle River, Senate District L

To: Senate Education Committee

Greetings Chair Tobin, Vice Chair Stevens, and Committee Members:

I am honored to write to you regarding Bethany Marcum's appointment to the University of Alaska Board of Regents. The governor has made an outstanding selection, and I am confident Mrs. Marcum will make a great addition to the Board.

I met Bethany in 2001, when she enlisted in the Navy Reserve and was assigned to U.S. Naval Forces Alaska as an Intelligence Specialist. She was 35 years old – which was, at the time, the cutoff age for enlistment - but had all the enthusiasm of recruits half her age. Assigned to mentor and prepare her for basic training, I quickly became impressed with her willingness to learn and her unrelenting work ethic. After several years with the Navy, she transferred to the Alaska Air National Guard, which led to her being deployed to an overseas combat location. She changed military occupations from intelligence to chaplain services, where she continues to serve our state and country to this day.

Bethany brings a variety of experience to the Board, from military duty to private industry work to legislative aide to non-profit CEO. She taught English in Japan, and has traveled the world extensively in order to experience different cultures and engage in hunting safaris, a pastime she shares with her husband, Dr. Conley Marcum.

Bethany is quite simply the hardest working individual I have ever met. I recall her working a full-time job in private industry while drilling as a Navy reservist, attending graduate school, and volunteering her time with church and her hunting association; and she has not slowed down to this day. Bethany Marcum will bring her incredible work ethic to the Board of Regents.

She will also bring an ability to work with people across all cultural, societal, and political lines, and she will bring an advocacy for education. Bethany is passionate about improving and promoting education at all levels. She is an ideal candidate for the University of Alaska Board of Regents. If I may be of any further assistance to your committee, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Timothy A. Barto