

Original sponsors: Pourchot, Sund,
Navarre, et al.

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2 (Rules) am

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the University of Alaska

6 community college system.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

8 WHEREAS the community colleges in the state contribute tremendously to
9 the educational and economic well-being of the state and its residents; and

10 WHEREAS the missions of the community colleges are distinct in the
11 programs they provide for career training and higher education; and

12 WHEREAS community colleges meet the local needs in their particular
13 communities and regions for specific higher education and maintain open-
14 door admissions; and

15 WHEREAS the community colleges offer community service courses and
16 activities as well as vocational and technical training; and

17 WHEREAS Alaska's community colleges are essential human development
18 agencies and integral parts of their communities; and

19 WHEREAS the community colleges are cost-efficient and productive
20 education units in the state; and

21 WHEREAS the legislature during territorial days established community
22 colleges in the state through the Community College Act; and

23 WHEREAS the legislature, since 1970, has been supportive of legisla-
24 tion to strengthen and develop the unique mission of community colleges;
25 and

26 WHEREAS the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education has supported
27 in its studies and reports the distinct community college mission; and

28 WHEREAS a restructuring of the University of Alaska as approved by the
29 Board of Regents does not clearly preserve the identity, mission, and goals

1 of the community colleges; and

2 WHEREAS the proposed merger of the existing community colleges into
3 new units could significantly reduce citizen involvement, diminish educa-
4 tional opportunity, and jeopardize accreditation standards; and

5 WHEREAS specific details of the restructure are as yet undetermined
6 and it is not clear that policies essential to the continuation of the
7 mission of community colleges would be maintained; and

8 WHEREAS continued budget cuts could lead to further reduction in the
9 availability of degree and nondegree courses; and

10 WHEREAS merging community colleges into four-year schools could poten-
11 tially lead to students from community colleges competing for seats in
12 courses with university students; and

13 WHEREAS Alaska citizens have made it clear that they want their commu-
14 nity colleges preserved and strengthened; and

15 WHEREAS public opposition to the reorganization has been evidenced by
16 public testimony, numerous editorials, resolutions adopted by local govern-
17 ment bodies, and both private and public interest groups;

18 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives urges the Chair of
19 the House Finance Committee to establish a subcommittee to meet during the
20 interim at the call of the chair to monitor the proposed restructuring of
21 the University of Alaska, to consider methods for improving the quality of
22 and access to public higher education in a cost-effective manner, to study
23 and develop a formula for funding the mission of community colleges, and to
24 report to the full legislature on the progress of the restructuring pro-
25 posal and its effect on the community colleges of the state, and to report
26 on recommendations for improving the quality of and access to public higher
27 education in a cost-effective manner no later than the 10th day of the
28 Second Session of the Fifteenth Alaska State Legislature; and be it

29 FURTHER RESOLVED that the community college mission, identity, and

1 goals as well as the open-admissions policies at community colleges and
2 rural education sites be preserved in the restructuring process; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives urges the Governor
4 to appoint in future appointments at least three members to the Board of
5 Regents of the University of Alaska who represent the interests of commu-
6 nity colleges; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED that the representation of local community interest
8 be continued through existing community college advisory councils and
9 vocational education advisory committees; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED that the restructuring process include clear dis-
11 tinctions between institutional support services and instructional ser-
12 vices, and that community colleges retain instructional services while
13 institutional support services may be combined into the appropriate unit of
14 the University of Alaska; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents should not make transfers
16 between fiscal year 1988 allocations for community college instruction and
17 other allocations for instruction, and allocations for instruction should
18 not be reduced to fund administrative costs.

19 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the members of the Board of
20 Regents of the University of Alaska; and to Donald D. O'Dowd, President of
21 the University of Alaska.