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1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

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 SENATE:

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 proposed by  
29 President Donald D. O'Dowd does not clearly preserve the identity, mission,

1 and goals of the community colleges; and

2 WHEREAS the Senate wants to maintain citizen involvement, educational  
3 opportunities, and accreditation standards; and

4 WHEREAS specific details of the restructure are as yet undetermined  
5 and the Senate wants an open-admissions policy and other policies essential  
6 to the continuation of the mission of community colleges to be maintained;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS continued budget cuts could lead to further reduction in the  
9 availability of 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 still exists;

16 BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate urges the Chair of the Senate Health,  
17 Education and Social Services Committee to establish a subcommittee to meet  
18 during the interim at the call of the chair to monitor the proposed re-  
19 structuring of the University of Alaska, to study and develop a formula for  
20 funding the mission of community colleges, and to report to the full legis-  
21 lature on the progress of the restructuring proposal and its effect on the  
22 community colleges of the state no later than the 10th day of the Second  
23 Session of the Fifteenth Alaska State Legislature; and be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED that the community college mission, identity, and  
25 goals as well as the open-admissions policies at community colleges and  
26 rural education sites be preserved in the restructuring process; and be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that the representation of local community interest  
28 be continued through existing community college advisory councils; and be  
29 it

1        **FURTHER RESOLVED** that alternate restructuring proposals include clear  
2        distinctions between institutional support services and academic support  
3        services, and that community colleges retain autonomous academic support  
4        services while institutional support services may be combined into the  
5        appropriate unit of the University of Alaska.

6        **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the members of the Board of  
7        Regents of the University of Alaska; and to Donald D. O'Dowd, President of  
8        the University of Alaska.