

HB

402

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: March 2, 1990

FURTHER REFERRALS:

FINANCE

Date of Committee Action: 3/13/90

The HEALTH, EDUCATION, & SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered: HB 402

HOUSE BILL NO. 402 . APPLIED TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER

"An Act relating to a center for information technology at the University of Alaska Anchorage."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- [] be replaced with _____ [] the same title
- [] _____ [] a new title
- [] have attached amendment(s)
- [] do pass
- [] do not pass
- [] no recommendation
- [X] individual recommendations
- [] additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

(Date/Dept)

- [] fiscal impact _____
- [] zero fiscal note _____
- [] zero with analysis _____

- [] fiscal note(s) _____
- 2 [X] zero fiscal note(s) 3/2/90 Admin/SA Comm
- [] zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING:

(Check approp. column)

Do Not
Pass No Rec
Amend

	X		
		X	
		X	

Chairman's Signature

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: January 8, 1990

FURTHER REFERRALS: HESS
FINANCE

Date of Committee Action: _____

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

. HB 402

HOUSE BILL NO. 402

APPLIED TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER

"An Act relating to a center for information technology at the University of Alaska Anchorage."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- be replaced with CSHB402(SA) the same title
- have attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Date/Dept)

- fiscal impact _____
- zero fiscal note DOA
- zero with analysis ASA
- fiscal note(s) _____
- zero fiscal note(s) _____
- zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING:

(Check approp. column)

Do Not
Pass No Rec Amend

[Handwritten Signature]

[Handwritten Signature]

[Handwritten Signature]

[Handwritten Signature]

[Handwritten Signature]

 Chairman's Signature

Item 2

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: Applied Telecommunications Center

Agency Affected: Administration
BRU: Information Services

Sponsor: Rep. Boucher
Requestor: State Affairs

Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---

REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See Attached.

Paul Monette

Prepared by: Paul Monette, Director
Division: Information Services

Phone: 465-2220
Date: 01/22/90

Approved by Commissioner: Frank S. Baxter
Agency: Administration

Date: 1/25/90

- Distribution (by preparer) :
- Legislative Finance
 - Legislative Sponsor
 - Requestor
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - Impacted Agency(ies)

1/22/90

Department of Administration
Division of Information Services

HB 402 - - FISCAL NOTE

*An Act Relating to Center For Information Technology
at the University of Alaska, Anchorage*

HB 402 is not expected to have any fiscal impact on the Division of Information Services, either during FY 90 or in succeeding fiscal years.

Item 3



Office of the Chancellor
(907) 474-7112

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0500

JAN 18 1990

January 15, 1990

Representative Kay Brown
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Brown:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your, and Representative Boucher's, draft bill on Information Technology and Geographic Information Systems. The president scheduled this bill for a review with the chancellors at a meeting held in Anchorage on January 9, 1990. There were concerns from each of the three campuses as well as a concern by the statewide administration regarding establishing organizational elements of the University of Alaska Statewide System in legislation.

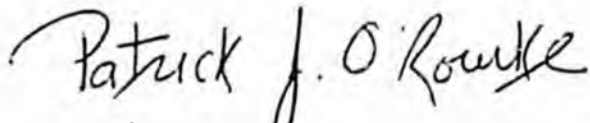
From the campus perspective, we find ourselves supportive of many of the sub-elements contained within the bill but feel that the Center for Information Technology, as proposed, is too broad and unworkable. Further, there were concerns voiced by the University of Alaska Anchorage, with which I concur, that instruction be predominantly the purview of the departments and their various schools and colleges. This is the way it is at virtually all universities, and centers are normally established to perform certain research or service components.

Because I have had previous dealings regarding this issue, I was asked by President O'Dowd to chair a small group from both UAA and UAF to formulate a systemwide response to the proposed legislation and to express any concerns which might exist as well as to proffer alternatives which we might see.

Representative Kay Brown
January 15, 1990
Page 2 of 2

As a result, I shall be convening a group within the next few weeks, and we shall submit a formal response to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your continuing interest and support of these issues.

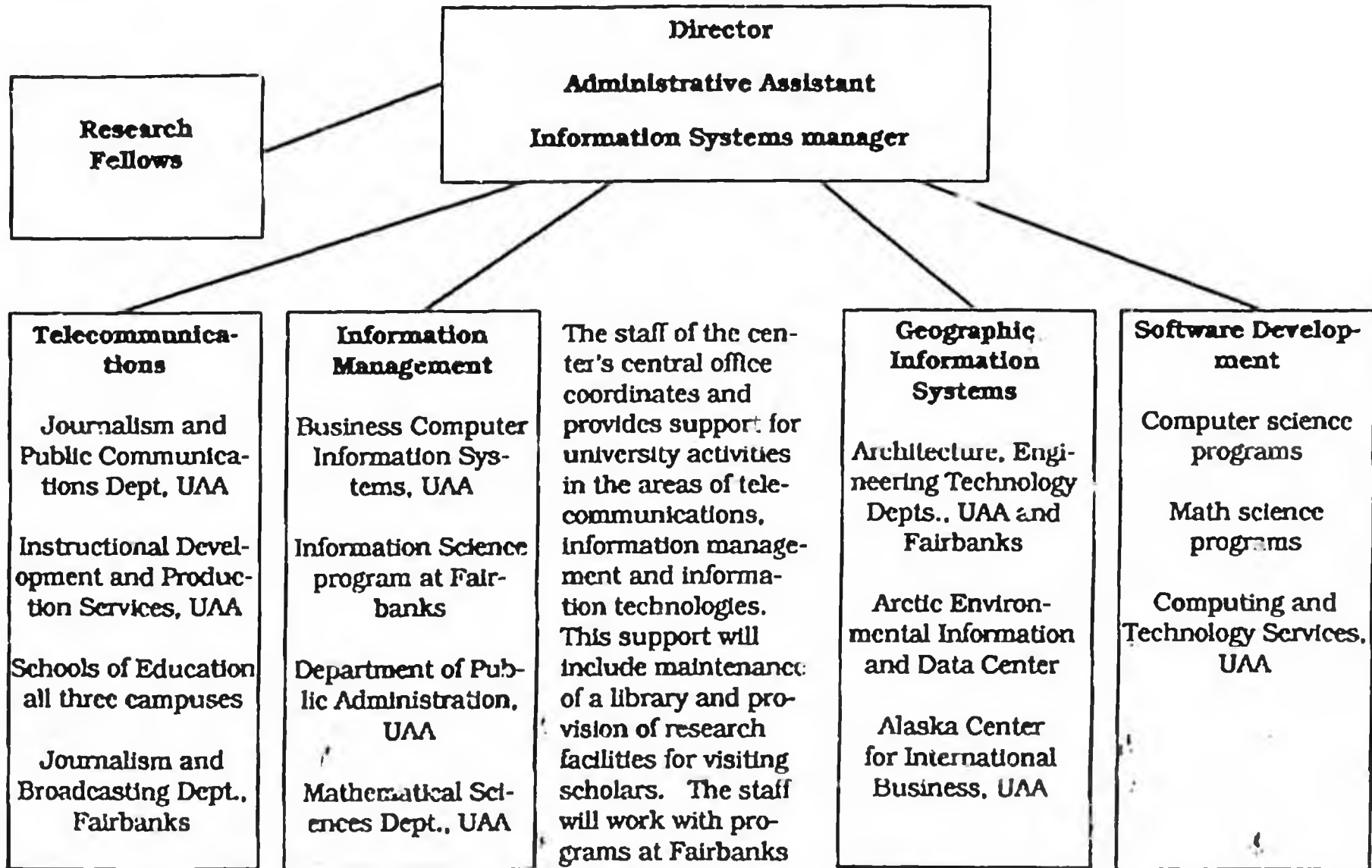
Sincerely yours,



Patrick J. O'Rourke, Chancellor
University of Alaska Fairbanks

PJO'R/cdb

University of Alaska Center for Information Technology



Note: Other programs such as the Institute for Social and Economic Research might also work with this center.

Regarding a House Bill affecting UAA

The Legislation

- *A bill establishing a center for information technology at UAA
- *An appropriation for the center, either in the form of a bill or a fiscal note

Sponsors

Anchorage Representative H.A. "Red" Boucher
Anchorage Representative Kay Brown

The context

This bill is a piece of a larger package of legislation that these legislators believe is important to the economic development of the state.

They will also introduce bills that

- *set policy on access to information
- *establish a cabinet-level department of information services

What the center would do

- *Support existing activities in various departments of UAA, at Fairbanks and in Juneau.
- *Provide leadership on information and information technology issues for the community, for private industry and for government.
- *Attract scholars of international reputation to help investigate Alaskan information issues.
- *Provide training for workers in Alaska's emerging information industries.

The first deadline

They intend to prefile legislation similar to the attached draft Dec. 14 or 15.

Item 4



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, ANCHORAGE

3211 PROVIDENCE DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM
AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Jan. 15, 1989

To: Wendy Redman
Vice President for University Relations

From: Larry Pearson *[Signature]*
Department of Journalism and Public Communications

Re: Center for Information Technology

I am providing information about four centers at other universities that appear to be as broad (or broader) in scope as the proposed Center for Information Technology at the University of Alaska.

I have visited two of the centers: the Media Lab at M.I.T. and the Gannett Center for Media Studies at Columbia. I spent three days in August at the Media Lab with Representative Boucher. He sees the Media Lab as the model for a center in Alaska. Through the connections he has helped develop with the Media Lab (he has now made three visits there and we had two speakers from the Media Lab at the Chugach Conference in August) I think it would be easy to build a continuing relationship between our center and the Media Lab.

I've made two, week-long visits to the Gannett Center, most recently in October 1989. Some of my ideas for Alaska's center were based on my observations of the center at Columbia and discussions with its director.

If the University of Alaska is to make a major contribution to the development of information and communication systems in Alaska I think it will have to be through an interdisciplinary center -- a center that helps scholars in several subject areas to make connections. And that's the idea that is shared by all the centers described in the enclosures.

Center for Information Technology

Its Role

I. Support

- help with grant writing
- help with contract staff for research projects
- help in planning special programs -- such as Chugach Conference
- help in identifying resources for research projects
 - collecting point for materials on information issues (including historical materials such as videotapes)
- provide resources for software development
- help with publication of working papers, project reports, etc.
- help with course development, workshop planning, etc.

II. Coordination

- promote information exchanges among departments and programs working in this area (possible strategies: newsletter on information technology projects; interdisciplinary board that makes decisions on such issues as selection of visiting scholars etc.)
- should also help link UA researchers with researchers in other states and countries doing similar work. The MIT Media Lab-Alaska link being developed by Rep. Boucher is an example. Center would help identify and monitor activities at places where interesting work is being done (for example, the wired city project at Santa Monica);

III. Research

Evaluation research

- effects of information technologies
- are they doing what they were intended to?
- side effects?
- cross-cultural communication issues

Exploratory research

- experimental applications of information technologies to address practical problems (such as Seymour Papert's Logo project)
- expert systems work
- application of CD-ROM technologies to address challenges in health, education

Visiting scholar program

- draw attention of nationally/internationally known scholars to Alaska information issues. Develop over time a large pool of experts interested in Alaskan communication issues.

-- Larry Pearson
Jan. 10, 1990

JUNE '99

**Center
for Applied
Telecommunication**

New Program Proposal

University of Alaska Anchorage

Center for Applied Telecommunication Proposal

The Problem

Alaska's telecommunication systems are inextricably linked to its economic growth. The pipeline from Prudhoe Bay could not be operated without them. Residents of the state's coastal communities depend on them for timely warnings of tsunami waves. They link Alaskans with their friends and relatives in other states, and other countries. They make possible the timely exchange of economic and other information with the rest of the world. We depend on our telecommunication systems for our prosperity and our well-being.

The importance of our telecommunication systems is widely recognized. The state spends approximately \$10 million annually to support radio and broadcast systems which would not otherwise exist. It spends \$8 million annually for the Division of Telecommunications which operates state telephone, audioconferencing and broadcast telecommunication systems. And the state spends millions more on its computer communication networks.

This is an enormous investment.

But the state of Alaska has slowly come to realize its telecommunication activities have lacked the direction and focus required to ensure that they will continue to serve Alaska well. The cabinet-level Telecommunications Information Council was created in 1987 to look toward the future and to plan for the development of our telecommunication systems. But, while planning is part of the responsibilities of the Telecommunications Information Council, it lacks a budget and it faces many more immediate challenges.

So, while tens of millions of dollars are spent every year to keep the state's telecommunication systems operating, nothing is being spent to ensure that that they are doing what we want them to. When people look critically at these systems, they look at the budgets rather than the effects. They ask, over and over: "Are we getting the most bang for the buck?" But the more important questions rarely, if ever, get asked: Are we getting what we want? What could we be getting? How can we use telecommunications most effectively to keep government responsive to the needs and wishes of the people and to develop the economy of our state?

We have committed ourselves to maintaining telecommunication systems rather than to using telecommunication to solve problems. That is not the way it once was. The perception that satellite communication could solve problems such as getting medical information to isolated villages led to the state's original investment in satellite communication. But that vision somehow was lost, and today we find ourselves maintaining systems that are slowly becoming obsolete.

Satellites are losing their preeminent role in moving large volumes of information over long distances. Telecommunication developments that remain in the future for Alaskans have become reality in other parts of the United States.

While the state uses T1 telephone lines for high-speed communication among computers in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks, T3 lines -- whose capacity is measured in megabytes rather than kilobytes -- are coming on-line elsewhere. How did that happen? What are the consequences for us? At a guess, those cities are becoming less attractive sites for businesses which require high-speed, long-distance communication.

If, however, T3 lines linked those three cities and if Anchorage were also linked to the trans-Pacific fiber-optic cable which will come on-line in the early 1990s, the flow of information between these cities and the business centers of the Pacific Rim could be multiplied many times. Alaskan business, Alaskan government and Alaskan citizens all would benefit.

That's just one economic opportunity telecommunications could provide. It is possible to see many more by looking more closely at the operations of state government and of businesses which need the capability of moving large volumes of information over long distances.

A number of recent and impending developments in telecommunications promise to create new challenges for the state. These include the removal in 1989 of restraints that have kept telephone companies from developing information services, the laying of a fiber-optic cable along Alaska's coast in the early 1990s, advances in technologies for computer-based communication, and efforts within the television industry to develop the capability of broadcasting via satellites to individual homes rather than to community satellite dishes.

These opportunities and challenges constitute the argument for investing in a program that can look closely and objectively at what our telecommunication systems do and that can consider what we might want those systems to do.

The Proposal

The University of Alaska Anchorage already has a Center for Applied Telecommunication in fact, if not in name. Since the fall of 1985, a small group of people -- most of them on the faculty of the Department of Journalism and Public Communications -- have worked with the Legislature, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Department of Administration on a number of telecommunication issues. They have also worked with the University's Center for International Business.

This activity has resulted in five major reports and contributed to the establishment of the Governor's Telecommunications Information Council. It has also contributed to the development of an innovative information system about the Pacific Rim. Most recently it is being demonstrated in the Chugach Conference on the Future of Communication in Alaska. That conference is drawing leaders in state government, broadcasting, and the telephone and computer industries to the UAA campus in August to meet with speakers who include an FCC commissioner and the president of a college at Oxford University. The conference will give Alaska's telecommunication leaders an opportunity to work together in addressing long-term issues.

The impact of these faculty members on telecommunication in Alaska can already be seen. However, their efforts have been largely in addition to their other activities as teachers and researchers. In the absence of a formal center, therefore, there is no assurance that the university will continue to supply the continuing support of telecommunications that is needed. It is clear, too, that existence of a center would have enabled the University to contribute much more during the last few years when many telecommunication systems were under review.

It is time, and past time, to formally enlist the University of Alaska in the effort to rationalize our telecommunications systems. The state turned to scholars such as Heather Hudson and William Melody in the late 1970s for help in developing these systems. It was a logical decision then because academics take a long-range view. They are people who ask questions and try to find the answers, who are willing to explore the possibilities. It would be logical now to enlist their support again, to address the questions which have -- for too long -- gone unasked.

What is needed is a center within the University of Alaska Anchorage that focuses on the uses of telecommunication rather than on the technologies, a center that investigates the questions which the state needs answers to, that trains and provides continuing education for professionals. Such a center would be an important resource for

policy-setting bodies such as the House Telecommunications Committee and the Telecommunications Information Council, and for businesses. The information it would generate could provide economic and social benefits for the citizens of the state. The center would help the state regain the international leadership in telecommunications that it held 10 years ago. Alaska's geography commends it today, as it did then, as a testing ground for communication applications not yet ready for introduction in other parts of the United States.

This center would become an important collecting point for information about changing telecommunication technologies and new applications of those technologies. It would work with manufacturers to review and test equipment. It would give students an opportunity to work with and help refine the communication tools of tomorrow. It would look at how Alaskans use telecommunication systems and at what they get from them.

Such work could greatly increase the value of the state's telecommunication systems for Alaskans and could keep the state from missing opportunities as the telecommunication environment continues to change.

This center would draw on the expertise and resources of the University's Department of Journalism and Public Communications, the Office of Computer Technology, the Center for International Business, and Instructional Production Services.

The center would include a senior research fellow and two junior research fellows. The senior research fellow would be a visiting scholar with a national or international reputation in applied telecommunication research. The senior fellow would bring with him or her for the year he or she is in residency a junior fellow to assist in a major investigative project. This junior fellow would probably be a graduate student from the senior fellow's university. The second junior fellow would be chosen independently and would work on a separate issue.

The fellows would be chosen on the basis of research proposals they submitted. They would spend a year in Alaska gathering information and, at the end of the year, would submit a report containing their preliminary findings. Presumably their research would continue with the support of their home universities past the year they spend in Alaska.

Thus this program offers the benefits of focusing the attention of the national scholarly community on Alaskan telecommunication issues and having the research financed in part by universities in other states

-- all while keeping control over the issues which are investigated in the hands of the Alaskan scholars who operate the center.

The center could be supported by private grants, by reappropriating a percentage of the state funds already designated for telecommunications, or by some combination of the two. One percent of the \$18 million spent annually by the state on broadcast telecommunications and on the Division of Telecommunications would total \$180,000. Annual state spending on telecommunications, including computer systems, exceeds \$30 million. About \$304,100 is needed as an initial budget for the center. Its operating costs would probably be about \$285,000 in subsequent years. After the center establishes itself, it should be able to attract federal and private support for its activities.

The most important impact of this center, of course, is that it would become a significant force in the economic growth of the state. To review, the objectives of the center as described would be:

*It could provide leadership in planning.

Telecommunications technologies are changing so quickly that it is difficult for even those in the telecommunications industry to keep track of them, much less assess their value. A telecommunications center could become a resource for those concerned with how telecommunications might evolve in the state in the next five or ten years. It could contribute to the development of telecommunications in the state. The Chugach Conference and the international trade database of the Alaska Center for International Business are examples of what the center could do.

*It could become a center for advanced education.

Its work with new telecommunication technologies would enable the center to help professionals upgrade their skills and to provide training for those interested in telecommunications careers. It could assure that Alaskans have the necessary skills for new jobs in telecommunications.

*It could develop a continuing program of research.

Activities in the last three years were conducted in a crisis atmosphere; information gathered in response to requests from the state legislature as it reviewed public broadcasting and the RATNET channel was much less complete than it would have been had a center for the monitoring of telecommunications existed.

*It could provide assurance that expert advice would be available to both state government and private industry in emergencies similar to those of the last three years.

The details

Any center or institute established within the University of Alaska must satisfy a number of conditions. Its ability to do so is judged by its response to several questions. This section attempts to provide the information required by the University. There is some duplication of information contained in the preceding sections.

I. Resources, environmental analysis

1. Analysis of opportunities

The history of telecommunication is a history of media that have developed in two stages.

In the first stage, the technology draws the attention, and the problems are defined and resolved by engineers. In the second stage, the technology is secondary. The issues instead are ones of social policy, and the participants in the debate are the public and its representatives. It was the case with both the telephone and radio that the function of the medium was drastically altered in this second stage. The more intelligently conducted the debate at this stage, the greater the ultimate benefit to the public is likely to be.

The events of the last three years -- the disappearance of Learn Alaska, the proposal to eliminate funding for RATNET and public broadcasting, the creation of the governor's Telecommunications Information Council, the legislature's directive to restructure RATNET -- demonstrate the need in Alaska for an organization providing the expertise of the academic community in this second-stage debate. New telecommunication media such as teletext and videotex are offering new communication alternatives for Alaska even as claims and counterclaims are being made about the efficacy of the existing media.

Telecommunications issues are of interest to faculty in a variety of disciplines within the university. Policy issues fall within the province of political science and public administration, communication is a concern of sociology, communication within organizations is that of business, visual communication is the province of art -- but effective communication to diverse audiences using the media is the particular concern of

journalism and mass communication departments. Thus the proposed center would be located within the Journalism and Public Communications Department of the University of Alaska Anchorage, but would draw on the expertise as appropriate of faculty in other departments. Similarly, it could serve to draw the attention of telecommunication researchers at universities elsewhere in the United States to Alaskan telecommunication issues.

2. Extramural constraints

The University of Alaska is engaged in a variety of telecommunication activities. These include the maintenance of telecommunication networks such as UACN's electronic mail network, broadcast of instructional programming on an Anchorage cable channel, and the Learn Alaska audioconferencing system. The use of these systems to meet educational objectives is, of course, the principal reason for their existence. Faculty throughout the University system may provide content for these networks.

Research into innovative uses of telecommunication (such as to download large volumes of textual material to remote terminals) has been conducted or is projected by faculty members within the library department at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the Political Science Department and the Computer Information Systems Department at the former Anchorage Community College, the School of Nursing and Health Science and the Department of Journalism and Public Communication at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Within state government, the Department of Education is also concerned with the use of telecommunication for education. More generally, committees within the State Legislature such as the Senate Finance Committee and the House Special Committee on Telecommunications are examining telecommunication in Alaska. In the Senate, \$300,000 was appropriated in 1984 for a study of how computers might best be introduced in the education system using telecommunication technology. The final report of that study identified needs that the proposed Applied Telecommunication Center would attempt to address:

*We lack a clear social policy objective as we look at telecommunication and computer technology in Alaska. The major task is to find a clear path to follow before embarking on a major effort to introduce new technology into Alaska's government, education and health delivery system.

*A cohesive plan of action should be considered before more money is spent on telecommunication and computer technology. We need to adopt a telecommunication and computer technology development policy that meets the basic needs of all Alaskans.

The House Special Committee on Telecommunications has examined issues during the last three sessions that range from the effects of the AT&T divestiture ruling on Alaska, regulation of cable television, and funding for state-supported broadcasting to computer-based information systems within state government.

Within private industry, it may be assumed that the print and broadcast media are or soon will become interested in exploiting opportunities to use telecommunication as a means for providing new services to audiences in the Anchorage area and in villages. In addition, other types of businesses such as banks and retailers may soon turn to interactive telecommunication as a means of conducting transactions now conducted in person or by mail. Already this is happening in other parts of the country.

3. UAA and Extramural Strengths and Weaknesses in Regard to Proposed Center

Clearly, the Center for Applied Telecommunications would have no monopoly of interest in the issues it would address. It would operate in an environment in which many interests -- some of them competing -- already exist. It would offer a different perspective, however, from that which might be obtained from other groups. Its interest in Alaskan telecommunication would be broader than that of any of the organizations identified above. It would not be a new competing interest in the telecommunication policy debate but rather a new source of information that would raise the debate to a higher level than might otherwise be possible.

The Center could look to these other organizations for financial support in the form of contracts and grants as it addresses issues of particular interest to them (cf. budget). The level of guaranteed funding would be high enough to assure continuing research activities regardless of such contracts and grants.

To meet its objectives, the Center would become a resource center for all those interested in Alaskan telecommunication issues. Some space would be needed to house its collection of telecommunication documents. The documents might be

housed at first in space already available within the Department of Journalism and Public Communications at UAA and later, perhaps within the consortium library on the UAA campus (cf. space needs). Ideally, abstracts of these documents should be made available on the University of Alaska Computer Network.

II. Basic Decisions

1A. The mission and purposes of the Center for Applied Telecommunications

The principal objectives of the Center for Applied Telecommunications would be to:

- *Train undergraduate and graduate students in effective use of communication technologies and in communication research.
- *Support research that focuses on the applications and effects of communication technologies.
- *Maintain a database on telecommunication research in Alaska.

In realizing these goals, the Telecommunications Center can serve the community and the state by:

- *Providing graduates capable of creatively using communication technologies to solve communication problems.
- *Providing research findings that can contribute to the formulation of sound telecommunication policy for Alaska.

More specifically, the Center can accomplish its mission by:

- *Training students in the effective use of telecommunication technologies as professional communicators.
- *Training professional communicators in the effective use of new technologies.
- *Training the general public in using telecommunication technologies most effectively.
- *Conducting experiments focused on the content and audiences of new communication technologies.

*Surveying public agencies, private groups and individuals on past and current telecommunication applications.

*Collecting state documents, research reports, and other materials in a telecommunication applications library.

*Collecting applications materials including videotapes, software, lesson plans, and scripts.

1B. The Center's relation to the missions of the academic unit and UAA

The Center will be placed administratively within the Department of Journalism and Public Communications. It will report through the chairperson of the Department of Journalism and Public Communications to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and to the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs of the University of Alaska Anchorage.

The Center will have a director as its chief administrative officer. The director will administer the Center in conjunction with a board of directors that will include the full-time faculty of the Department of Journalism and Public Communications. Members from other departments may also be appointed to the board. Policies and procedures for the Center will be drafted by the director and board of directors and submitted for approval to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs of UAA.

All full-time faculty of UAA with appointments to the Center will regularly offer courses in their respective academic units. The number of courses each will offer per year will depend on the amount of funded teaching buyout monies received by the Center via contracts, grants or other means.

2. The student clientele

The Center would, on occasion, offer short courses and workshops to the professional community and the general public. Its clients within the professional community could include all those groups identified in Section 1.2 of this report. The Center's resource materials would also be made available to these groups.

One course, Information Age Communication, now offered by the Department of Journalism and Public Communications would become the responsibility of the Center. Students would be introduced to the communication technologies, to economic

and social policy issues, and perhaps to experimental applications of new communication systems.

Other telecommunication courses would continue to be offered directly through the Department of Journalism and Public Communications. The Center could provide students experience as research assistants and it could generate research problems and data for analysis in JPC's Communication Research course.

3. Student outcomes, contributions of knowledge, UAA development

Students would acquire skill in use of telecommunication media and a more general understanding of telecommunication content and how it is used by audiences. They would develop skill in communication research methods.

The Center would act to fill gaps in knowledge about telecommunication applications that have been identified by committees within the State Legislature and that are of sufficient interest to other groups, both public and private, within Alaska. The Center can act as a force to assure that decisions are made intelligently as Alaska considers how to enter the Information Age.

The Center would aid the University of Alaska Anchorage in fulfilling its mission by contributing to the identification, analysis, understanding and application of knowledge to Alaskan problems.

4. Proposed mix of courses

Not applicable

III. Description of Proposed Program

A. Summary

1. Title: Center for Applied Telecommunications
2. Level: Not applicable
3. Degree: Not applicable
4. Summary description: The Center for Applied Telecommunications would undertake and support research about telecommunication applications in Alaska. It would also conduct workshops and classes and maintain a document library to provide information within the University and in the Anchorage area about telecommunication content and its effects on audiences.

5. Admission requirements: Not applicable
6. Proposed implementation date: January 1, 1990

B. Description of instruction

Only one course, Information Age Communication, would be offered through the Center in the immediate future. That course is currently offered through the Department of Journalism and Public Communications. It would continue to be taught by a member of the full-time faculty of that department and would fulfill a course requirement for majors in that department as well as be an upper division elective for students with other majors.

C. Description of research and development

Research objectives of the Center for Applied Telecommunications would be to gain a better understanding of how people communicate in Alaska and how this communication might be affected by particular applications of telecommunication technologies. Several theoretical approaches to these issues have been developed in mass communication research. They include uses and gratifications, diffusion of innovations, knowledge gap, agenda setting, and information campaign research.

Some more specific themes for individual and group research are suggested by the discussion of telecommunication policy in Section I.2.

Research would be conducted by faculty attached to the Center and by a senior visiting research fellow and two assistant visiting research fellows. The visiting fellows would be selected on the basis of research proposals submitted to the Center.

Research results would be made available through the library of the Center for Applied Telecommunications. Articles based on results of research conducted by the Center would be submitted to appropriate academic publications. Such research would be summarized in press releases made available to the Alaskan media. In addition, the Center might on occasion publish reports of research using the production facilities of the Department of Journalism and Public Communications.

D. Public/community service

1. Continuing education program

The Center would provide continuing education for professionals and the general public primarily through short courses and workshops. These courses would be offered as frequently as community interest, Center funding and staff availability permit.

2. 3. Technical assistance services, consultation

Center staff would be available as consultants to the print and broadcast media, to legislative bodies such as the above-mentioned state House and Senate committees, to other governmental bodies, and to other groups with an interest in the evolving telecommunications media.

Members of the Department of Journalism and Public Communications have already taken on this role, as was indicated in the introduction to this report. Thus the Center would formalize existing relationships as well as make it possible to establish new ones which would work to the benefit of the Department and the University.

As mentioned above, the Center would assist in the work of other researchers within and outside the University by making available its collection of materials on telecommunication in Alaska.

E. Program budget years 1 - 5

1. Personal services, faculty, staff

(note: salaries given are for the first year of operation. They would increase at the same rate as other university salaries in subsequent years.)

Director -- ^{45,000} ~~\$25,000~~. Full-time salary during three summer months, buyout of one course each semester during academic year.

~~Assistant Director~~ -- \$15,000. Full-time salary and benefits during three summer months.

Technical Supervisor -- \$25,000. Full-time salary and benefits.

Secretary/Administrative Assistant -- \$25,000. Full-time salary. Additional secretarial/clerical help would be needed by the end of the five-year period and, on occasion, during major projects.

~~Visiting research fellow~~ -- \$70,000. Salary and benefits.

Junior research fellows -- \$60,000 for two, salary and benefits.

Student Assistants -- \$3,600 for two, quarter-time assistants.

2. Travel

\$4,500 annually, primarily for in-state travel.

3. Contractual services, commodities

Approximately \$45,000 annually to cover Center costs for interviewers, long-distance phone costs, database access charges, and preparation of materials for surveys and other research and instructional activities. This amount would also include costs of preparing reports, maintaining the Center's library, supporting workshops, and purchasing office supplies.

4. Equipment

The Local Area Network computer lab and the broadcast facilities of the Department of Journalism and Public Communications can support some of the research and instructional activities of the Center. The Center would seek recognition by manufacturers as a beta site for the testing of new communications hardware and software.

Annual cost of additional capital equipment for the research center's activities is estimated at \$31,000. This includes \$16,000 for office equipment. The office equipment expense should decline after the first year to \$5,000.

IV. Impact Assessment of Program Adoption

A. Faculty workload

No major short-term impact on faculty workload is anticipated. Much of the research and public service work of the Center would be undertaken to fulfill existing contract commitments with the University. The director of the Center would teach one less course each semester. Visiting scholars might provide some instructional support.

B. Academic unit budget

The Center would use equipment of the Department of Journalism and Public Communications. It is thus anticipated that any effect on the departmental budget will largely be

indirect, as an additional demand on departmental resources. (It should be noted, again, that the Center will to some extent simply formalize activities already engaged in by departmental faculty and supported by the departmental budget at present.)

It is recommended that the Department of Journalism and Public Communications be allowed to transfer, at its discretion, departmental monies (excluding salary funds) to the Center as the need arises.

C. Other programs, short term and long run

In the long term, as the Department of Journalism and Public Communications continues to grow, the Center will be a valuable resource for undergraduate and graduate instruction. It will enable the department to offer students courses and research opportunities that are available nowhere else in Alaska and that could be rivalled by only a handful of mass communication schools in other states.

D. Library holdings

The Center would include a collection of books, magazines and other materials on telecommunication. Some of these materials are already in the consortium library collection. Others might be obtained as a part of a proposed video repository. The Department has begun to collect other documents including Alaskan legislative documents that may not be available anywhere else. The center might maintain its own collection of such documents or it might acquire the documents and donate them to the consortium library for display in a special telecommunication section.

E. Space requirements

Approximately 1,000 square feet of space would be required for telecommunications documents and equipment and for workspace for the technical supervisor, secretary, visiting scholars, student assistants and contract workers.

F. Capital equipment

See item III.E.4.

Item 7

Office of the Chancellor
(907) 474-7112



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0500

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Kay Brown
Representative H.A. "Red" Boucher

FROM: Patrick J. O'Rourke, Chancellor
University of Alaska Fairbanks *PJO*

DATE: February 20, 1990

RE: HB402/HB403

At the request of President O'Dowd and on behalf of the entire University of Alaska Statewide System, I convened a group of faculty from both the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks to review and recommend suggested changes to House Bill 402 and its companion Appropriations Bill HB403. Attached you will find our recommendations for changes in these pieces of legislation.

It was the feeling of all concerned that proposals for centers, such as the Center for Information Technology, should first go through the appropriate processes within the University of Alaska Statewide System. There is sensitivity regarding the protecting of the Board of Regents' role to organize and establish operating parameters for the University. However, at the same time, we recognize your desire to provide assistance in an area that you believe needs addressing. In general, we concur with the philosophic intent behind the purposes, and we hope our recommendations achieve a balance between the Board's role and that of the legislature.

The individuals convened as a working group included the following:

From the University of Alaska Anchorage: Mr. Larry Pearson, Associate Professor of Journalism and Communications; Mr. Lin Bauer, Associate Professor of Architectural and Engineering Technology; Mr. Vern Oremus, Dean of the School of Career Education (representing Chancellor Behrend).

From the University of Alaska Fairbanks: Mr. Bill Stringer, Associate Professor of Geophysics; Mr. Ken Dean, Remote Sensing Geologist; Mr. Tom Hassler, Director of Administrative Computing; Patrick J. O'Rourke, Committee Chairman, Chancellor--UAF.

Representative Kay Brown
Representative H.A. "Red" Boucher
February 20, 1990
Page 2 of 2

In addressing the bill, the following desired outcomes were addressed by the committee:

1. Support for on-going research in information and communications technology.
2. Enhancement of GIS course offerings including faculty, hardware, software, and maintenance.
3. An opportunity for the UAF and UAA faculty, as well as the faculty at UAS, to work together on common projects and goals utilizing the best expertise from each University.

Throughout our discussions, we tried to minimize any internal University system conflicts, and we believe we were able to achieve a strong consensus position. In the attached paper, we reference specific lines within the bill with recommended changes, and we provide a short rationale for each. If you desire additional information, please feel free to call upon me or, if there is a need, I can meet with you in Juneau to discuss the recommendations at greater length.

Although we address it later in the report, we do have concerns regarding the continuing funding mechanism of this bill. The language of the bill implies that such a center could be a self-supporting operation and that a one-time only appropriation would lapse to the general fund on June 30, 1991. This is a cause of concern to all because it is our belief that it would need continuing general fund support. Additionally, in the finance area, although it is not a specific detail in the bill, the accompanying back-up document, which created the appropriation, has some problems, and we are submitting as part of this report a recommended solution to address what we see as a shortage of hardware contained within the bill. In essence, certain facets of the ongoing center would require some time to start up and, thus, we see the ability in the first year to take care of the needed equipment enhancements while in the second year these funds could be devoted more directly toward the continuing operations of the center.

I would like to express my appreciation to both of you for your continuing interest in these needs and for your efforts on behalf of the University of Alaska.

PJOR/clb
Attachments

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MODIFICATIONS TO HOUSE BILL 402/403
An Act relating to a center for information technology

Submitted by: UA System Working Group

Patrick J. O'Rourke, Chair
Larry Pearson, UAA
Lin Bauer, UAA
Vern Oremus, UAA
Bill Stringer, UAF
Ken Dean, UAF
Tom Hassler, UAF

In addressing HB402 and HB403, the working group was sensitive to trying to balance the existing needs of both the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks as well as acknowledging the need for enhanced research in the whole area of information technology. Additionally, we were sensitive to the role of the Board of Regents in establishing the organization of the University as well as the role of the legislature in expressing its desire for activity in a particular area as well as its role in the appropriations process. Hopefully, the recommended suggestions contained in this report achieve a reasonable balance.

Certainly, the establishment of a center for information technology is not the only way to bring about a focused effort in this regard, but we acknowledge that it is a way of addressing such a goal. Thus, it does not seem inappropriate to us that such a center be established. Furthermore, given the fact that Anchorage is, in a way, the communications hub of the state, it seems appropriate that this center would be housed at the University of Alaska Anchorage. However, in noting so, there is a need to assure that the instructional programs at both UAA and UAF have the freedom to meet their specific needs. Under the proposed language changes, this will be possible.

The following comments specifically reference HB402 by line.

LINE 6-7

Change to "*An Act relating to a center for information technology at the University of Alaska Anchorage and enhanced GIS programs within the University of Alaska System.*"

Rationale: The Act is broader than just the creation for a center for information technology at UAA. Concern was expressed that the GIS component could be dropped at either or both UAA and UAF if the bill ran into difficulty.

No changes are recommended for Section 1, "Findings of the Legislature." It was the working committee's belief that the legislature had the right to express its findings as it saw fit.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MODIFICATIONS TO HB402/403
FEBRUARY 20, 1990
PAGE 2 OF 5

PAGE 2/LINE 14-17

Change to *"The purpose of the center for information technology is to foster and facilitate, through the various schools and colleges, multidisciplinary efforts in education and to engage in research in information management, applied telecommunications, geographic information systems, and to develop ways of making electronically stored information more accessible to users."*

Rationale: There are already various efforts occurring in information technology at both UAA and UAF. It was believed by the working group that the addition of a center should be to foster and facilitate these efforts rather than to establish them. Additionally, it is noted that instructional programs are offered through the various schools and colleges, and it seemed inappropriate to provide this as a purpose for the center. Thus, the working group tried to arrive at language which would preserve the prerogative of the schools and colleges to deliver their instructional programs but to give a clear role to the center in engaging in research in the areas identified. There was much discussion regarding the last point, and it was generally agreed that there was a service function to be provided by assisting in making electronically stored information more accessible to users but that the center would not be the only place involved in software development.

PAGE 2/LINE 21

Change *"... provide education and training, ..."* to *"... provide support for education and training in information technology, ..."*

Rationale: This is in keeping with the concept expressed above that education and training are actually provided through schools and colleges and that the center, while having a predominate research function, could also support such efforts. However, this would have to be through the schools and colleges. Also, by the addition of the words *"in information technology"* we are further clarifying the purposes of the center.

PAGE 2/LINE 29

Change the word *"shall"* to *"may."*

Rationale: This is our attempt at compromise between protecting the right of the Board of Regents to establish the organization of the University and protecting the right of the legislature to indicate areas that it believes the University should address. Clearly, for the Board of Regents to take advantage of the appropriation accompanying this bill, they would have to take appropriate action to establish a center in accordance with the language of the bill. In our minds, it avoids an unnecessary battle in an attempt to get something positive in place. Other alternatives to this language could include: *"is requested to establish"* or some similar language which acknowledges the Board of Regents' role in this process.

PAGE 3/LINES 1-2

Change *"... Fairbanks and Southeast University campuses."* to *"... University of Alaska Fairbanks and University of Alaska Southeast."*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MODIFICATION TO HB 402/403
FEBRUARY 20, 1990
PAGE 3 OF 5

PAGE 3/LINES 3-7

Delete both existing sentences and replace with "*The University of Alaska shall account for all fees collected under this section.*"

Rationale: The working committee is concerned with isolating and reporting these separate fees outside of the regular budgetary structure. We believe that the existing laws of the legislature, which require all sources of income to be appropriated by the legislature, is sufficient to cover this section. We recommend that the accounting for fees achieved under this structure be in accord with normal budgetary processes. Additionally, because the language of the bill talks about a number of instructional programs from three different universities within the system, it is unworkable and has a tendency to pull appropriations from one segment of the University in a way that would not provide reasonable flexibility to those charged with carrying out the functions. For instance, tuition fees are collected for instructional purposes, and these will be collected as part of the tuition of the University of Alaska Anchorage, the University of Alaska Southeast, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks in different programs. Each University currently has a different means of recording these fees, and flexibility needs to be retained in this section.

PAGE 3/LINES 9-10

Change Section (b) (1) to read "*provide support for education and training in information technologies to students, professionals, and the general public. . .*"

Rationale: The original language was somewhat awkward, and there was a strong belief by the committee that the word "*information technologies*" rather than "*communication technologies*" was more specific than what was being sought.

PAGE 3/LINES 12-13

Change to read "*support research on the applications, effects, and management of information technologies; and to provide research results to the general public.*"

Rationale: Again, we are trying to clarify language and to indicate that the center has a role in supporting education and training, direct research, and dissemination of results.

PAGE 3/LINE 14

Change "*... a database on ...*" to "*... an inventory of ...*"

Rationale: The committee was concerned that the use of the term "*database*" implied key word indices and major management systems which it did not think the appropriation could back-up. Rather, the committee believes that what is needed is an information source (that is, an inventory of telecommunications research).

RECOMMENDATION FOR MODIFICATION TO HB402/403
FEBRUARY 20, 1990
PAGE 4 OF 5

PAGE 3/LINE 16

Change "library" to "collection."

PAGE 3/LINE 17

Insert the word "other" between "and" and "telecommunication."

Rationale: The committee believed that a "library" had implications beyond what was intended and felt more comfortable with the word "collection." By inserting the word "other" on Line 17, it maintains the flow when we are talking about state documents and research reports relative to telecommunications.

PAGE 3/LINE 18

Add the words "using the GNOSIS access as appropriate."

PAGE 3/LINE 19

Change "develop and expand . . ." to "support the development and expansion of . . ."

Rationale: Again, the committee is trying to preserve the prerogatives of departments in various schools and colleges who have responsibilities for direct instruction.

PAGE 3/LINE 23

Change "seminars;" to "seminars in cooperation with cognizant departments;"

Rationale: Continues to acknowledge the role of departments in instruction.

PAGE 3/LINE 24

Change "undertake applied research . . ." to "support or undertake research . . ."

Rationale: The committee wished to acknowledge that the center could sponsor research through other organizations as well as undertake it itself. Additionally, it deleted the word "applied" as an adjective from research because of subsequent language in that sentence which talks about "apply geographic information technology, . . ." It was a redundancy.

PAGE 3/LINE 26 (8)

While the committee had no language change to suggest regarding this section, we would like to express a belief that, while it may be appropriate for the University and this center to provide information on the availability of geographic information, it is not the purpose of the center to collect and maintain geographic information data that appropriately belongs with the federal, state, or municipal agencies. If this is the understanding of this section, then the committee has no problem with it.

RECOMMENDATION FOR MODIFICATION TO HB 402/403
FEBRUARY 20, 1990
PAGE 5 OF 5

PAGE 4/LINES 1-3

Recommend broadening this language to *"prepare and publish on a regular basis research findings and periodicals relating to the center's activities."*

Rationale: The committee felt a broader charge would be in the best interests of the legislation and that the bill contained a broader role than that which was contained here. We believe this very specific item came about through the meshing of two separate approaches (GIS and information technology) into a single vehicle.

PAGE 4/LINES 12-14

Recommend deletion. The University submits an annual report and an annual budget request to the legislature which are appropriate vehicles for reporting on these activities.

PJOR/clb

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: Applied Telecommunications
Center
Sponsor: Boucher
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: _____
BRU: _____
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Please refer to HB 403, which is an appropriation bill for an Applied Telecommunications Center.

Prepared by: House State Affairs Committee Phone: 465-4963
Division: _____ Date: Feb 02, 1990
Approved by Commissioner: H. A. "Red" Boucher, Chair Date: Feb 02, 1990
Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)



Donald D. O'Dowd
President

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA STATEWIDE SYSTEM

202 BUTROVICH BLDG
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99775-5560
PHONE 474-7311
FAX 474-7570

March 5, 1990

RECEIVED

MAR 8 1990

Representative Kay Brown
Representative Red Boucher
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representatives Brown and Boucher:

Thank you for communicating with me in late December of 1986 concerning legislation that would establish a Center for Information Technology at the University of Alaska.

As soon as possible after receiving the material, I shared it with the Chancellors of our three universities and obtained their thoughts on how this legislation would serve the University as well as the State. Chancellor O'Rourke was designated to take responsibility for reviewing the legislation with representatives from the communications and information faculty on our several campuses and to suggest possible changes in the legislation. A meeting was held by that group in February and the results have been communicated to you in a memorandum from Chancellor O'Rourke dated February 20.

The effort of the group was to honor the spirit of the legislation and at the same time find ways of adapting it so that it would complement ongoing programs as well as add a new dimension of coordination and organization that would speed our ability to make contributions in the information technology fields.

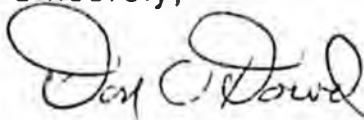
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

I hope that these suggestions are helpful and indicate ways in which the legislation could be adapted more closely to specific features already in place in the University. As you know, we have a relatively sizeable investment in information technology education and research at this time and it is certainly not in our interest to downplay that effort while establishing a new coordinating entity. I believe that all of the values that you incorporated in your draft legislation are preserved in the context of the suggested changes and that this amended version, if the changes can be included, would strengthen the concept and benefit the University's ongoing enterprise.

Best wishes for every success in advancing this proposal for legislative approval. Please let me know if there is any way that we can assist in the process or further refine the legislation.

Thank you for your interest in the University and your willingness to spend time, energy and political capital advancing one important aspect of its program.

Sincerely,



Donald D. O'Dowd
President

DDO:dm

cc: Pat O'Rourke
Wendy Redman

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT HAS
NOT BEEN FILMED BUT IS
AVAILABLE IN THE ORIGINAL
FILE

The Chugach Conference



Discussing
The Future
of Communication
in Alaska

August 18-19, 1989

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907.465.3800

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

H. HESS 3-1-90

H. HESS 3-13-90