

STATE OF ALASKA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1987

**Source**

CSHR 2 (RIs) am

**House**

**Resolve No.**

5



Relating to the University of Alaska community college system.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS the Legislature, during territorial days, established community colleges in the state through the Community College Act; and

WHEREAS the Legislature, since 1970, has been supportive of legislation to strengthen and develop the unique mission of community colleges; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education has

supported in its studies and reports the distinct community college mission; and

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

WHEREAS the proposed merger of the existing community colleges into new units could significantly reduce citizen involvement, diminish educational opportunity, and jeopardize accreditation standards; and

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

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

WHEREAS merging community colleges into four-year schools could potentially lead to students from community colleges competing for seats in courses with university students; and

WHEREAS Alaska citizens have made it clear that they want their community colleges preserved and strengthened; and

WHEREAS public opposition to the reorganization has been evidenced by public testimony, numerous editorials, resolutions adopted by local government bodies, and both private and public interest groups;

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives urges the Governor to appoint in future appointments at least three members to the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska who represent the interests of community colleges; and be it

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

FURTHER RESOLVED that the restructuring process include clear distinctions between institutional support services and

instructional services, and that community colleges retain instructional services while institutional support services may be combined into the appropriate unit of the University of Alaska; and be it

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

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