

**Date:** December 12, 2016  
**To:** UA Board of Regents  
**CC:** UA President Jim Johnsen  
**From:** UAS Faculty Senate Executive Committee  
**RE:** **Strategic Pathways College of Education (COE) motion**

There have been many heartfelt opinions expressed about the potential loss of the UAS College of Education. There are good reasons to locate a school of education at a tier 1 research university like UAF. However, the UAS Faculty Senate would like to share with the UA Board of Regents some history and wisdom that was very effectively communicated at Monday's meeting of the Juneau Advisory Council and provides the clearest and strongest reasons for locating the administrative head of the COE at UAS.

Former Chancellor of UAS, Dr. Marshall Lind, while speaking to President Johnsen and the Juneau Campus Advisory Council on Monday afternoon summarized the history that should be a significant part of any decision regarding UAS and the COE. Dr. Lind was the Chancellor at UAS from 1987-1999, the Chancellor of UAF from 1999-2004, and Commissioner of the Department of Education from 1971-1983 as well as from 1986-1987. He has Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in education and a PhD in Education Administration. He knows his field well and has first-hand experience with the history of the University.

Dr. Lind reminded everyone that UAS went through a similar "restructuring plan" 30 years ago when UAS transitioned from the University of Alaska Juneau to the University of Alaska Southeast. Special Education, the School of Fisheries and Public Administration programs were all moved from Juneau to the UA campuses at Fairbanks and Anchorage. This move affected the public's perception of UAS as a viable university which in turn, diminished its capacity to generate revenue and recruit students which in turn threatened UAS' ability to function as a 4-year institution. Promises to maintain communication and engender faculty collaboration between Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau were made but not kept. All but two of the faculty positions promised to UAS (e.g. Fisheries) were lost to UAF. It took Chancellor Lind's successor, Chancellor John Pugh, 30 years to rebuild programs and make UAS the success it is today. President Johnsen is asking you to repeat history and expect a different result.

There are strengths to a single school of education under the UA umbrella, including program improvements, collaboration, and innovation but removing the existing, successful UAS-COE and relocating its administrative core to the UAF campus would have disproportionately large and negative impacts on UAS and the communities of Southeast Alaska. There are many programs at UAA and UAF that are well-known across the state, nationally, and internationally and that would serve to buffer both of those universities from the loss of economy, reputation, and financial support that UAS

will inevitably suffer without its COE. The innovative changes that President Johnsen envisions under Strategic Pathways Phase I (i.e. improvements, collaboration, and innovative thinking) would be more quickly and efficiently implemented through a COE that has demonstrated those very features throughout its lifetime and that COE is located in **Juneau**. The exceptional UAS COE record of success has been aptly described in numerous letters of support for locating the COE administrative head at UAS, and those letters should also make obvious the tremendous community support the UAS COE enjoys. So many facts underscore its qualifications. Furthermore, locating the administrative hub of the UA College of Education at UAS would eliminate the devastating economic impacts to Juneau and UAS that the loss of a major anchor program would entail

Before casting your vote at tomorrow's special meeting, it is the wish of the UAS Faculty Senate that each member of the UA Board of Regents reflect on the sentiment expressed, and shared by many at Monday's event with President Johnsen, by the honorable Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott. Losing the UAS College of Education would disrupt the balance of the three universities in the UA system and cripple the economy of Southeast Alaska. Alaska Native communities in Southeast Alaska would most certainly be negatively impacted by the loss of the quality educational prospects, community support, advocacy, and employment opportunities provided by the UAS COE. UAS is a small university that is known throughout the state of Alaska for the state's strongest school of education, producing the most teachers at the lowest cost, the most Alaska Native teachers, and producing multiple Alaska Teacher of the Year Award recipients. The UAS COE is an anchor for UAS and losing it to Fairbanks would leave state legislators with little incentive to continue supporting the entirety of UAS's baccalaureate programs. Losing the UAS COE would be ruinous to UAS as a whole. As past Chancellor's Pugh and Lind both attested to, a loss of legislative and financial support is precisely what happened 30 years ago.

The UAS Faculty Senate humbly requests that each UA Regent **reject** the motion currently before them that will place the administrative head of the UA COE at UA-Fairbanks. Please vote against that action. History has shown the devastating impacts of that action. The UAS Faculty Senate believes the best move for the entire UA System would be to locate the administrative head of the COE in Juneau at UAS.

Thank you very much for your time and your deliberations in this very difficult decision.

Sincerely,

Megan Buzby, PhD  
Faculty Senate President-Elect at UAS  
Lisa Hoferkamp, PhD  
Faculty Senate President  
Maren Haavig, MBA, CPA  
Past Faculty Senate President