

Date: September 6, 2016

To: UA Board of Regents Chair Jo Heckman, UA President Jim Johnsen

Through: UAS Chancellor Rick Caulfield

From: University of Alaska Southeast, Faculty Senate

RE: Strategic Pathways Management/Business and Teacher Education Reviews

The UAS School of Management and School of Education are important parts of the University of Alaska Southeast. The faculty of UAS, as represented by the UAS Faculty Senate, are strongly opposed to any options that eliminate these schools from our university.

Programs offered by the School of Management and the School of Education at UAS are successful, both in attracting students and in producing qualified graduates. The UAS School of Management has experienced steady and healthy growth since 2009. The school currently serves 375 Bachelor of Business Administration majors, 110 Master of Public Administration students, and an additional 130 associate and certificate students. In 2015, the School of Education awarded 13 bachelor's degrees, 112 graduate degrees and 61 certificates representing 45 percent of graduate degrees and 48 percent of post-bachelor credentials across the UA system (Metrics provided by UA Statewide Office of Institution Research 12/2015). While all of UA has experienced declining enrollment since 2014, the UAS Schools of Education and Management have, relative to other programs, undergone only a minimal drop in admissions.

Both the School of Management and the School of Education provide qualified graduates that are needed in Southeast Alaska. It is of grave concern that, if these schools are eliminated, those students are unlikely to be served as well by a program located in Anchorage or Fairbanks (even if that program is of high-quality and is administered well). In short, Alaskans and others will lose access to options in higher education. Further, the loss of these students will have a significant effect on UAS as a community and on our reputation in the region. Juneau and the other communities in Southeast Alaska will be hurt by the lack of qualified graduates needed to fill positions in the workforce. A decrease in qualified graduates from the School of Education will be similarly disabling to the local school districts and will make the goal issued by President Johnsen to produce 60% of the teachers employed in Alaska by 2020 and 90% of that workforce by 2025, significantly more difficult to achieve. The Strategic Pathways reports for both programs clearly state that "neither of these schools could be managed remotely without substantial loss of productivity, efficiencies, and students."

It is clear from the growth of programs in the School of Management and the strength of programs in the School of Education that they meet significant needs that are specific to this region of Alaska. It would be a mistake to discontinue schools that are performing as well as the School of Management and School of Education at UAS.

The faculty at UAS, as represented by the UAS Faculty Senate, strongly oppose reductions in force or elimination of either the UAS School of Education or the UAS School of Management.

Best Regards,

Lisa Hoferkamp; UAS Faculty Senate President