



University of Alaska Southeast

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To: Chancellor Richard Caulfield, Vice-Chancellor Michael Ciri, and Provost Priscilla Schulte
From: UAS Faculty Senate
Approved: March 4, 2016
Re: Strategic Pathways Framework

We, the Faculty Senate at UAS, express to you, our representatives to the Summit Team, concerns about the Strategic Pathways framework and the process that led to its presentation. We echo the sentiments expressed by the UAA Faculty Senate in a February 18 memo to their Summit Team members and those expressed by the three faculty unions to the Board of Regents.

The Strategic Pathways document outlines, for the public and the Board of Regents, how the University is planning to respond to significant budget reductions. We find it troubling that the scope of the document is limited to the academic activities of the University (research, teaching and outreach). While we are confident that the Summit Team is looking at reductions across the university, lacking a comparable document outlining the reallocation and streamlining of administrative functions, the Strategic Pathways approach appears to focus budget reductions solely on the academic mission. To be clear, we are fully cognizant of the State's budget shortfall, and understand that this shortfall may negatively affect academic programs.

Furthermore, we feel that President Johnson should publicly state that elimination of academic programs is a last resort to meet budget constraints. In the event that the UA system is unable to support all of its current academic programs, the criteria and program data used in determining reductions should be publicly accessible. Just as importantly, the University should produce a counterpart document that publicly presents a plan to streamline administrative reductions.

Finally, it is unclear that the "lead campus" model as currently presented will actually result in significant savings. If there is a target for cost cutting via Strategic Pathways or even projected cost savings, that information needs to be available to faculty. If programs eliminations occur at one or more campuses, we will see overall decreased enrollment and reductions in tuition revenue. Either scenario would damage the reputation of each university. This seems unwise at a time when each university needs to recruit and maintain as many students as possible.

We also ask our President and the Board of Regents to include UA faculty members, through shared governance, in decisions about the future structure of the University. Specifically, we ask that faculty representatives from UAS, UAF and UAA participate in a transparent manner in the creation and implementation of the Strategic Pathways framework. In addition, faculty-at-large should know the names of the faculty that represent them.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to the staff, faculty and students of the University of Alaska Southeast.