

# *From the Provost*

## *November 2019*

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What a year. We didn't even really get time to celebrate our accreditation success. The angst, stress, and fear have been overwhelming for all us. I hope everyone takes time over the coming break to recharge and refresh.

**Spring Start Up** – Please mark your calendars for Spring Start Up on January 8. We will stream the sessions on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be working on the agenda soon.

**Budget** – Budget is on the minds of many of us as we are forced to make another \$2.5 million cut for next year and a very similar cut the following year. I have called for “expedited program reviews” which asked program faculty specific questions rather than asking them to do full program review. I know faculty are overwhelmed with their current workloads heading into finals, so if additional time is needed please let me know. President Johnsen has requested that Chancellor Caulfield provide a summary of where the cuts for next year will occur by January 6.

**Dual Enrollment** – I continue to explore different options for dual enrollment for high school students. I have asked the Faculty Senate to compose a faculty task force to help identify options and suggest how to move forward in this area. Ideas are welcome and can be sent to faculty senate representatives or directly to me.

**Board of Regents** – I attended the Board of Regents meeting on November 7 and 8 in Fairbanks. The Board is addressing the issues raised in the letter from the NWCCU and held a workshop on the 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss issues surrounding board responsibilities and inclusivity. I am sure we will hear more at the next meeting scheduled for January 17, 2020.

**Sitka** – As you have probably heard, Leslie Gordon, Director in Sitka, has taken another position and will be leaving UAS December 6. Dr. Math Trafton has graciously agreed to serve as the Interim Director. We will be searching for a new Director in the spring.

**Other:** I am now chairing the eLearning Subcommittee of the Academic Council, serving as Dean of Graduate Studies, serving on the IT Council, the IR Council, Protection of Minors committee, Strategic Enrollment Task Force, the Retention Committee, the Master Plan Committee, the Summit Team, the Academic Council, the Promise Neighborhoods Grant, the Northwest Coast Arts Initiative with Sealaska, Chancellor's Cabinet, Chancellor's Advisory Council, Executive Cabinet, and Provost's Council. I will be attending the NWCCU Annual Meeting in mid-November.