USUAA PASSES RESOLUTION SUPPORTING UAA’S PARTNERSHIP WITH TANAINA CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Following termination of lease, President Lucason urges University to continue strategic partnership

Anchorage, AK - Yesterday, after hearing concerns from the UAA Student Body and engaging in dialogue with University Administration officials, President Stacey Lucason signed Resolution #15-12 - Save Tanaina CDC: Shaping Future Seawolves following its passage by the USUAA General Assembly.

Since 1979, UAA has maintained a lease agreement with the Tanaina Child Development Center (TCDC), allowing them to utilize space in the Wells Fargo Sports Complex for their operations. TCDC is a licensed 501(c)(3) organization that provides pre-kindergarten care and educational development to Anchorage residents. TCDC is legally independent of the University, but is housed on the UAA campus and has a particular mission to serve the young children (18 months - 5 years) of UAA students, staff, and faculty. The children of other members of the Anchorage community are also welcome as capacity allows.

“UAA has had an incredible relationship with Tanaina over the last 35 years,” Lucason said. “This symbiotic partnership has benefited countless students, staff, and faculty, as well as created future Seawolves.”

On January 27, UAA Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Bill Spindle informed TCDC that the University was terminating the lease agreement for the Wells Fargo Sports Complex, and requiring the organization to vacate the premises by May 1, 2015.

“Tanaina has proven its value as an integral part of the UAA community, and deserves an ongoing relationship with the University,” Senator David Diaz, the sponsor of the resolution, said in a statement. “In a state where pre-kindergarten child care services are at a premium, UAA and the wider Anchorage community cannot afford to lose this valuable asset.”

In addition to requesting clarity and information from UAA Administration, the resolution urges the University to “reaffirm [its] partnership with the TCDC and engage in long-overdue expansion of the program, in order to best serve UAA Students and the campus community.”

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USUAA, the Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage, is recognized by the University of Alaska Board of Regents as the governing body for students enrolled at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The purpose of USUAA is to represent the interests, needs, and welfare of all students within the campus community and to supplement and complement education on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus. USUAA provides for the expression of student opinion and interests to the community at large and works to protect the rights of all University of Alaska Anchorage students.