



Administrative Services

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

GOVERNANCE REPORT

March 2026

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

Ryan Buchholdt, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services (VCAS)
[Administrative Services Website](#)

DIVISION EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

RACHEL CHIANG, SENIOR FISCAL OFFICER FOR CAMPUS SERVICES

Rachel is exceptional at her work, having taught herself virtually every aspect of her role—and those of her team—while consistently approaching stakeholders with diplomacy, patience, and calm. She is a creative, humble problem-solver who meets even difficult or emotionally charged situations with respect, dignity, and kindness, especially in her support of student onboarding and HR functions. Deeply ethical and principled, Rachel demonstrates a strong commitment to transparency and accountability while championing innovative, cost-saving, and revenue-generating initiatives that benefit students. Simply put, she is the glue that keeps the complex and diverse programs within Campus Services running smoothly.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On Monday, March 2nd the House UA Subcommittee completed its work on the FY27 operating budget request. [The subcommittee recommended three increases above the Governor's budget request:](#)

- \$9.8 million in general fund for the compensation request. This fully funds the BOR compensation request for all employees.
- \$1.1 million for public safety (\$500K of this is for UAA)
- \$900K for student mental health (\$440K for UAA)

The recommendation is now with the full House Finance Committee. This is a key step in the process, with a lot more to go. Continued advocacy on behalf of UAA is needed.

On March 14 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm UAA is hosting the Anchorage Legislative Caucus townhall. This year's townhall will be in the Wendy Williamson Auditorium.

CAMPUS SERVICES (CS)

David Weaver, Executive Director

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Seawolf Dining and Catering partnered with the National Association of College & University Food Services to launch the fall 2025 Campus Dining Satisfaction survey.

- UAA received customer satisfaction rankings in several areas that were well above the national benchmark: cleanliness; service; atmosphere; and sustainability.
- Residential students ranked the freshness of our salad bar and quality of our pizza well above the national benchmark standard.
- Menu variety and freshness on the residential campus were two areas identified as areas of opportunity for improvement. This spring and next fall Seawolf Dining will focus on these:
- Begin twice monthly international cuisine nights (German cuisine on January 21st was very popular; Turkish cuisine on February 4th)
- Hydroponic gardens in the Commons grow over 100 pounds of produce each month for guests to enjoy. Produce includes several varieties of romaine lettuce; basil; and cilantro
- Weekly action stations remain very popular with residential students, and include a rotation of made to order omelets, custom paninis, craft pastas, and Mongolian BBQ.

Spring 2026 course material sourcing and delivery went very well:

- Timely faculty adoptions were excellent (92%!!!)
- Free bulk shipping occurred for 209 unique student purchases
- About 40 percent of all sections featured ZTC or OER selections.
- These successes came despite the Store's challenges of operating during a remodeling project within the Student Union, and having a key fiscal position vacant.
- Similar to past semesters, there were a small number of individual faculty and/or student issues that the Seawolf Store and Ambassador (3rd party vendor) teams helped solve. A comprehensive spring 2026 summary of issues and resolutions is included as an addendum.

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE (EE)

Ahmbra Austin, Director

[Employee Experience Department Website](#)

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- In collaboration with the Faculty Success office, UMAC, and IT, EE is working on registering UAA to participate in the 2026 Great Colleges to Work For program. Communications to employees will begin in February followed by a survey in March. We will receive reports over the summer and will announce results to the campus early in the fall semester.

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- UAA 101 and UAA 201 (new employee orientation) have recently been updated. UAA 101 will now be offered on Fridays four times per year—January, February, August, and September—in response to feedback about faculty availability. UAA 201 now includes a presentation from shared governance leaders, along with an expanded tour of East Campus.
- SPARK (formerly known as Staff Appreciation Day) will take place on May 15. This year’s theme is Science Fair, celebrating how science brings us together through shared curiosity and interests. Bike to Work Day will also be held that day, followed by the Bikes and Brews festival in the evening. While the event is primarily marketed to staff, faculty who are available and interested are warmly invited to join us.
- Longevity certificate and pin pickups are scheduled in the EE office. Communications have gone out to all employees being recognized. Selections have been made for gift items based on the employee feedback we received. Once pricing for the items and engraving has been finalized and approved, another communication will go out to campus announcing the items and to those who were recognized in 2025 to make their selections.
- The system office team has announced their required training session list for supervisors. EE is also developing a supervisor development series designed to build on that program, allowing participants to take a deeper dive into how the topics can be applied specifically within UAA’s culture. The goal remains to launch the program this fall.

FACILITIES AND CAMPUS SERVICES (FCS)

Chris McConnell, Associate Vice Chancellor
[Facilities and Campus Services Website](#)

FACILITIES SPACE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Facilities Space & Planning Committee (FSPC) began the new year with several key action items and updates:

1. Library / McPeck Gallery Expansion – Space Request

The committee reviewed a proposal to repurpose Library Room 118 to support the expansion of the McPeck Gallery, with displaced IT storage relocated to SSB.

Key points:

- IT and Library both reviewed and endorsed the concept.
- The proposed approach reduces overall construction costs by eliminating the need to build new gallery storage.
- Planned modifications are minor and include creating a door connection, updating flooring, lighting, security, and ensuring appropriate emergency egress.
- Implementation is targeted for summer construction with fall semester readiness.
- Committee Recommendation: The committee expressed support for the proposal and raised no objections.

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2. Upcoming Items / Awareness Updates

FSPC was briefed on several items currently under development or pending administrative review:

- Green Fee Board – Bike Lockers:
Conceptual work continues; no decisions requested at this time.
- EIB Solarium Naming Request:
A naming proposal is being drafted and will proceed to administrative review.
- Honors College & Graduate School Space Request:
Both units have expressed interest in identifying a lounge or gathering space near the Learning Hub.

FACILITIES PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION – CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Building Name	Project Number	Project Name	Status Notes
West Hall	21-0031	WESTH Elevator Modernization	Project re-activated and is undergoing a design refresh for a potential summer 2026 construction.
North Hall	21-0032	NORTHH Elevator Modernization	Project re-activated and is undergoing a design refresh for a potential summer 2026 construction.
Willow Lot	A22125	UAA CW Emergency Phone Repairs	Cell connection still being resolved
Consortium Library	A23082	UAA Alaska Leaders Archives	Construction in progress. September 2026 completion target.
Ecosystem-Biomedical Health Laboratory	A24049	UAA EBL Generator Replacement	Field conditions resulted in a schedule adjustment work to continue into March 2026.
Social Sciences Building	A24059	UAA PSC Renovation	Project is complete and is in use by the program.
Aviation	A25038	UAA TRC Hanager Doors	Design is complete, pending cost proposal from term contractor and potential sole source procurement.
Consortium Library	A26001	UAA LIB ARC Gallery Alterations	Project under design, with alterations planned summer 2026.
Student Housing	A26014	UAA Residential Campus Expansion	Preliminary administrative approval received, conceptual planning underway, statement of requirements to be submitted to the BOR in February.
Consortium Library	A26018	UAA LIB Boiler Replacement	Back-up in place. Replacement of the existing boiler system under design, target Summer 2026.
Commons	A26020	UAA CMMNS Domestic Water Repair	Repair/replace water line that serves the dining facility, preliminary work complete, additional items identified and under repairs target complete March 2026.
Bragaw Office Complex	A26027	UAA BOC3 CHD Relocation	Support the relocation of the Center for Human Development from a lease facility to university owned space. Target completion March 2026.

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Building Name	Project Number	Project Name	Status Notes
Commons	A26033	UAA CMMNS Shuttle Stop Shelter	Project in the planning phase.
Residential Campus	A26034	UAA MAC 1-6 Exterior Repair	Project in the planning phase to repair siding on the main apartment complexes.
Campus Wide	A26035	UAA CW Exterior Light Repairs	Planning phase to repair roadway and pedestrian pathway lighting.

FINANCIAL SERVICES (FS)

Brian deZeeuw, Director
[Financial Services Website](#)

Procurement has started up their "Source to Pay" project (vendor is Jaggaer) which should help make procurement more efficient by providing an online marketplace to purchase from, a vendor portal, etc. Target date for completion is early 2027.