Administrative Services
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

GOVERNANCE REPORT

September 2026

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

Ryan Buchholdt, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services (VCAS)
Administrative Services

Employee Spotlight: Edi Daniel, Fiscal Technician, Office of the Bursar

Edi Daniel is the steady force that helps hold the Accounts Payable team together, consistently managing the office's highest volume of payments with exceptional accuracy, reliability, and professionalism. She strengthens the entire office by anticipating needs, assisting colleagues without being asked, and attending to the essential behind-the-scenes work that keeps operations running smoothly. Whether guiding departments through payment issues or reassuring vendors awaiting significant payments, Edi combines expertise, responsiveness, and genuine care to support UAA's mission every day.

Edi was the recipient of the 2026 Bill Rose Memorial Service Award, honoring Administrative Services employees who consistently demonstrate exceptional performance, exemplary customer service, professionalism, and meaningful contributions to UAA's Mission, Aspirations, and Core Competencies. Congratulations Edi!

Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) 2026 Economic Luncheon Report

According to AEDC, the Anchorage economy that is stable but under strain from a shrinking working-age population, continued outmigration, rising housing costs and an overall cost of living 28% above the national average. Although major military investment and continued growth in healthcare, logistics and construction offer significant opportunities, workforce availability—not job demand—is the city's central economic constraint. The 2026 report highlights UAA's vital role in preparing and retaining workers, particularly through healthcare, aviation, engineering and construction-management programs, while identifying continued gaps in nursing capacity and the skilled trades. These findings reinforce the importance of supporting accessible education, workforce-aligned programs and partnerships that help students remain and build careers in Alaska. Read the full AEDC report.

Board of Regents Update

University of Alaska (UA) Board of Regents

The next Board of Regents (BOR) meeting will take place on September 2nd and 3rd in Juneau, Alaska and via live stream. The agenda includes major systemwide priorities related to academic programs and student success, finances and budget planning, facilities and land management, and progress toward UA's strategic goals. The board will also receive updates from university leadership and governance representatives and consider routine policy and administrative matters.

There are two budget items we are tracking:

- **8.a – UAA Budget and Capital Priorities:** UAA's FY28 priorities focus on strengthening enrollment, advising and student-success services; expanding connections between community campuses and bachelor's programs; and attracting more out-of-state students. Capital proposals include $17 million for critical deferred maintenance, expanded student housing, planning for a new child care facility, an Alaska Native Gathering Space, and investments in workforce and dual-mission programs.

- **8.b – Student Support and Tuition:** UAA students received $60.1 million in financial aid during 2024–25. The proposed AY28 tuition structure would replace course-level rates and surcharges with clearer program-based pricing, generally resulting in modest changes for resident students and substantial reductions for former nonresident rates; the board will consider approval in November.

Committee Update – Planning and Budget Advisory Committee (PBAC)

The first meeting for the semester is scheduled for September 14th, 2026. An update on this committee will be available in the October report.

Change of Retirement Account Venders

UA Human Resources (HR)

UA is consolidating its retirement plan vendors to Fidelity and TIAA, affecting approximately 651 employees with accounts through American Funds, Vanguard, Voya/ING, Lincoln, or Corebridge/VALIC. The change is intended to simplify investment choices, reduce fees, eliminate paper-based contributions, and provide employees with better access to retirement education and dedicated support. Employees with an account through a vendor being discontinued should watch for guidance from UA HR, confirm which plan and vendor they use, and contact UA Benefits at ua-benefits@alaska.edu or (907) 450-8242 before making changes; options for grandfathering some current Lincoln and Corebridge/VALIC participants are still under consideration.

CAMPUS SERVICES (CS)

David Weaver, Executive Director
Event Services, Alaska Airlines Center, Campus Housing, Seawolf Dining, Seawolf Store, Parking

UAA Housing is at capacity again this fall with 791 students living on campus this year – up 4.2% from fall 2024!

UAA and the Alaska Airlines Center will host a cadre of local, state, and national dignitaries for the USS Ted Stevens christening ceremony reception on October 2nd.

Shuttle service has resumed this fall with three shuttles in service, and regular routes to the Aviation Complex at Merrill Field.

This fall, an incredible 49% of faculty within all UAA Anchorage-based courses adopted course materials with no cost to students!

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE (EE)

Ahmbra Austin, Director
Employee Experience

Longevity Gifts and Reception

Longevity gifts are being processed for 2025 and 2026 longevity awardees. All awardees will also be invited to join us to celebrate their individual milestones at a reception in Cuddy Hall on Friday, September 11 from 3–4 pm with gift and pin pickup immediately following.

Employee Meal Plans

In collaboration with Seawolf Dining, EE has worked to offer employees the option to purchase meal plans through payroll deduction. We plan to market this opportunity to employees as a joint effort and hope to host one breakfast and one lunch meetup at Creekside for participants each semester.

Farmer's Market

UAA and Providence are co-hosting the third annual UMED Farmer's Market. The market has been a success so far this year and continues to see growth with local vendors and shoppers in the community.

Employee Mixer

The first employee mixer in the Varsity Sports Grill will be Thursday, September 17. Please plan to join!

FACILITIES AND CAMPUS SERVICES (FCS)

Chris McConnell, Associate Vice Chancellor
Facilities and Campus Services

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to extend a warm welcome back to our students, faculty, and staff. The appearance of termination dust on the surrounding mountains serves as a reminder that winter is approaching and seasonal conditions will soon return to campus.

With increased activity across campus, please remain attentive to pedestrians, particularly students, as well as the wildlife that frequently traverse our roadways and walkways. As temperatures begin to drop and conditions become more challenging, take the necessary precautions to ensure your safety, including the use of traction devices when icy conditions arrive.

If you observe any facilities-related concerns, maintenance issues, or space-related needs, please contact the Facilities Business Office at 907-786-6980. Our team will ensure your request is directed to the appropriate department and help connect you with the right resources.

Thank you for your continued commitment to maintaining a safe and welcoming campus environment. Best wishes for a successful and productive semester.

Facilities Space Planning Committee

Since the last Shared Governance update, the Facilities Space Planning Committee reviewed and recommended support for two proposals that were subsequently approved.

- Engineering & Science Building Rooms 210 and 216
  The committee reviewed and supported the proposal concerning the planned use and configuration of ESH Rooms 210 and 216.
- UAA Solarium Naming Proposal
  The committee reviewed and supported the proposal to formally name the UAA Solarium.

The committee is also reviewing a proposed Art Administrative Policy, which remains under consideration.

The Facilities Space Planning Committee meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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, targeting 26/27 winter break.
North Hall	21-0032	NORTHH Elevator Modernization	Project re-activated and is undergoing a design refresh, targeting 26/27 winter break.
Willow Lot	A22125	UAA CW Emergency Phone Repairs	One emergency phone remaining near housing, exploration of underlying electrical issues ongoing. Schedule TBD.
Consortium Library	A23082	UAA Alaska Leaders Archives	Construction in progress. November 2026 completion target.
Aviation	A25038	UAA TRC Hanager Doors	Design is complete; cost proposal received, pending funding.
Consortium Library	A26001	UAA LIB ARC Gallery Alterations	Project under construction, target September 2026.
Student Housing	A26014	UAA Residential Campus Expansion	Statement of Requirements (SOR) approved by the board, pending funding.

Building Name	Project Number	Project Name	Status Notes
Consortium Library	A26018	UAA LIB Boiler Replacement	Project under construction, October 2026 completion target.
Residential Campus	A26034	UAA MAC 1-6 Exterior Repair	Preliminary assessment complete, cost estimates provided, repairs tentative for Summer 2027.
Admin Utility Building	A26048	UAA EHS Central Accumulation Area	Project is in the planning/design phase.
Student Union	A26050	UAA SU 112/113 Drain Line Repair	Underground drain failure under design for near-term temp repair followed by a long-term solution. Near-term this fall, long-term target Summer 2027.
Aviation	A27001	UAA AVC Boiler Replacement	Boiler original to the facility has a cracked section and requires replacement, project under design.

FINANCIAL SERVICES (FS)

Brian deZeeuw, Director
Financial Services: Financial Systems, Office of the Bursar, Accounts Payable/Travel, Wolfcard

Argos (Financial Reporting dashboards) has rolled out with the first two dashboards: PI Grant information and Travel information. More dashboards will be coming in the near future.

The Finance page on UAOnline has been greatly expanded to include links to various sites and projects such as Travel, Touchnet, Argos, and Procurement.