



Academic Affairs

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Dear Colleagues,

The self-study process that contributes essentially to UAA's reaffirmation of accreditation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) launched in the spring of 2016 and is well underway. This comprehensive endeavor is open and inclusive, with the intention of providing a full and honest assessment of our University's progress toward mission fulfillment as well as its potential to ensure sustainability into the future.

Our mission fulfillment is influenced significantly by our current environment and that environment is colored by Strategic Pathways, a current SW initiative that has potential significant implications for UAA.

After consultation with the NWCCU about how to address Strategic Pathways in our self-study report, it was recommended that we do so with an addendum report (approx 20-30 pages in length). Megan Olson has agreed to lead a committee to develop this report. I am inviting you to join her in this important endeavor to develop a report that describes our perspective on Strategic Pathways.

This committee -- the Strategic Pathways Addendum Report Committee (SPARC) -- will convene in January and complete its work by August 15, 2017. I acknowledge, as does NWCCU, that our addendum report will provide information up to that moment in time, but will not provide any conclusions as the Strategic Pathways process will continue for some time yet.

The group will meet for 1-2 hours each month and will draft a report outside of those meetings that depicts the essential elements of the Strategic Pathways framework, its timeline and the potential implications on UAA's mission.

Please reply to Betty Hernandez (bahernandez@alaska.edu) with your commitment to this committee responsibility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best in the New Year,

Sam Gingerich
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
Academic Affairs

Committee Membership

Megan Olson

Vice Chancellor, University Advancement (staff)

Fred Barlow

Dean, College of Engineering (staff)

Steve Rollins

Dean, Consortium Library (staff)

Paola Banchero

Associate Professor, Journalism & Communication Department (faculty)

Shawnalee Whitney

Interim Director, Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence (faculty)

David Weaver

Director, University Housing, Dining, & Conference (staff/alum)

Ryan Buchholdt

Business Manager, Facilities & Campus Services (staff/alum/student)

Kirstin Olmstead

Public Relations & Marketing Manager, University Advancement (staff)

Jonathon Taylor

Deputy Press Secretary, Office of Alaska Governor Bill Walker (alum)

Beth Leschper

Operations Manager, Chancellor's Office (staff)

Brett Rawalt

Graphic Artist, University Advancement (staff)

Johanna Richter

Vice President, USUAA (student)

Committee Support

Betty Hernandez

Senior Administrative Manager, University Advancement (staff/student)