

June 16, 2016

From: Samuel Gingrich, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

To: John Stalvey, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Cc: Alberta Harder, Chair, AA Program Review Committee  
Timothy Carlson, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Prince William Sound College  
Sheri Denison, Associate Professor of English, Matanuska-Susitna College  
Patricia Fagan, Associate Professor of Languages, Anchorage  
Jesse Mickelson, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Kodiak College  
Casey Rudkin, Assistant Professor of English, Kenai Peninsula College  
Talis Colberg, Director, Matanuska-Susitna College  
Alan Fugleberg, Director, Kodiak College  
Dan O'Connor, Prince William Sound College  
Gary Turner, Director, Kenai Peninsula College  
Susan Kalina, Vice Provost, Academic Affairs

Re: AY16 Cyclical Program Review: Associate of Arts General Program

I have reviewed your commendations and recommendations to the Associate of Arts (AA) degree faculty, as well as the Program Review report, submitted by the AA Program Review Committee.

The Program Review Committee consisted of faculty members from all five UAA campuses:

Timothy Carlson, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Prince William Sound College  
Sheri Denison, Associate Professor of English, Matanuska-Susitna College  
Patricia Fagan, Associate Professor of Languages, Anchorage  
Alberta Harder, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Anchorage, Committee Chair  
Jesse Mickelson, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Kodiak College  
Casey Rudkin, Assistant Professor of English, Kenai Peninsula College

The report outlines several areas of strength, concern, opportunity, and challenge. Strengths include increased enrollment; the degree's role in providing a broad, liberal education; and its importance in meeting the needs of a particular student population. Concerns include the lack of a seamless transition and overall success in the transition from an AA to a baccalaureate degree, student understanding of the degree's value; and student preparation. The report lists three recommendations: the development of a single AA assessment plan, the addition of the new MATH GER (MATH A115) course, and the creation of an AA advisory committee.

In my view the Committee's recommendations do not go far enough to address the disconnect between the AA requirements and the Bachelor of Arts requirements, which can result in delayed



graduation and additional student expense. The Committee's recommendation to update the catalog to include the new MATH GER (MATH A115) is an important step, but it does not address the other alignment issues, which are outlined in the Committee's report. In order to best serve UAA students, the AA program should move quickly to create a true transfer degree. Students graduating with the AA should fulfill all GER requirements, with the exception of the Capstone. Appropriate curricular and other changes should be made in AY17, and a follow up Program Review will be scheduled for AY18.

I want to join the dean in thanking the faculty for the collaborative effort of this all-campus review, and, in particular, I want to thank Dr. Harder for chairing the process. The report is an excellent starting point for next steps in creating a seamless pathway for the AA students.

**Final Decision: Continued Review** (Program is required to address specific issues and to undergo another review within the next two academic years.)