

Date: February 2, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Denise Runge, Dean

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

Program/s in this review: Air Traffic Control (AAS)

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): none, but programs fall under certification requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Campuses where the program is delivered: Anchorage

Members of the program review committee:

- Sharon LaRue, Associate Professor
- Michael Moravec, Assistant Professor
- Paul Herrick, Director

Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role The program aligns well with the mission of both the CTC and of UAA. The program prepares its graduates to either seek immediate employment as an air dispatcher, or to continue on to the federal Air Traffic Controllers training program in Oklahoma City. The job demand for graduates remains high both in and outside of the state of Alaska. The program's courses and labs play an important supporting role for the AAS in Professional Piloting and the BS in Aviation Technology.

Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity

Demand for the program had declined precipitously, but it is poised for a rapid rise in enrollment within the next two years. During the review period, the number of majors declined from 93 in 2013 to just 16 in 2019, as noted in the review report, due in large part to external actions by the FAA that removed the previous admissions points for graduates of Collegiate Training Initiative (CTI) schools, such as UAA.

In December of 2019 after concerted effort by faculty, administrators, and university governmental relations staff, the preference was again restored. As noted in the report, the UAA program saw an almost immediate rise in program enrollment and interest. In 2019 the program realized only \$223.0 tuition dollars per SCH at a cost of \$351.3 for a ratio of 63.5%. With TVEP funding supporting a major overhaul of its simulation lab, there may be opportunities to lower instructional costs as well as costs to support the labs. Overall for the review period, the program evidences excess or unused capacity, and relatively higher costs.

Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success Quality, as evidenced by the CTI designation, and the success of graduates gaining entry to the federal Air Traffic Controllers program, is high. As noted in the report the FAA limits the information it will release about graduates, but anecdotal information from our graduates suggests they do exceptionally well in the Controller program. Those seeking immediate employment as dispatchers also report doing well and local employers report these UAA graduates are well trained. Recent improvement efforts in the labs and curriculum have the potential to positively impact the program as enrollment rebounds. The most recent retention data show that fewer than half of first year students were retained. Continued attention will be required.

Program Duplication / Distinctiveness Duplication: UAA has the only Air Traffic Control program in Alaska. Distinctiveness: UAA's program is distinctive not only in Alaska, but within the US; it is one of only 31 approved by the FAA for the Collegiate Training Initiative, and now boasts one of the most up-to-date training simulators in the nation.

Commendations and Recommendations *Commendations:* The program is commended for its proactive response to previous governmental actions that hindered its enrollment. The program is commended for its substantial efforts to upgrade and revise its labs and curriculum. *Recommendations:* The program should engage with the recruitment and admissions staff in efforts to recruit students, both in and outside of the state of Alaska. The program should review and revise its schedule to minimize the number of small enrollment courses. Finally, the program should proactively monitor the progress of enrolled students, consider any potential curricular revisions to remove barriers, and offer support as needed to ensure students can complete their degrees in a timely manner.

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