

Date: January 31, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Denise Runge, Dean

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

Program/s in this review: Construction Management (AAS, BS)

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): American Council for Construction Education

Campuses where the program is delivered: Anchorage

Members of the program review committee:

- Joel Condon, Director
- Brian Bennett, Professor
- Darryl Jordan, Assistant Professor

Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role The Construction Management program is tightly aligned with the mission of UAA and CTC. The program meets a clear workforce need, preparing Construction Managers for a substantial state wide industry with companies that are largely headquartered in Anchorage. It complements, but also fills an important gap between, related UAA degree programs in Engineering and in Business. The program's graduates are employed in the industry at very attractive salaries; the majority remain in Alaska and continue to build their careers here.

Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity Demand for the program has remained relatively stable over time, while both efficiency and productivity have risen. The faculty, in their review, note that the CM program has experienced a modest decline in number of majors (and thus in graduates) but state the rate of that decline mirrors the overall enrollment declines that UAA has experienced. In fact, the decline for CM majors is 33% (from 174 in 2013 to 116 in 2019). UAA's overall decline has been 22%, so the CM program has seen a larger decline than UAA. However, CM programs nationwide tend to see some decline during periods of economic recession, and growth during periods of economic growth, and the numbers at UAA seem to reflect that trend. With careful scheduling, a reduction of one full time faculty position, and excellent support for student progress, the program has managed to improve its efficiency and productivity even while dealing with a modest enrollment decrease. Although not yet entirely self-sufficient, the program has made steady progress and now brings in \$219.4 tuition dollars per SCH at a cost of only \$279.7 for a ratio of 78.4, well up from 67.1 in 2015. For Fall 2019 and Spring 2020, the program has enrolled 190 (duplicated) headcount across 14 course sections, for an average class size of

13.6, slightly down from last year's average of 15.7. Overall, the program is utilizing its capacity fairly well, while managing its costs.

Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success Quality, as evidenced by program accreditation, as well as industry involvement and hiring of graduates, is high. The program currently holds accreditation by the American Council for Construction Education. The program has made several improvements in scheduling and with its recent move from University Center to main campus has strengthened its connections to both faculty and students in related programs. Other recent improvements are the continued expansion of high impact teaching practices, and revised scheduling and course sequencing. These efforts, especially those centered around student success, are beginning to bear fruit. Data show that the average age of CM graduates hovers around 30, with the majority of students taking between 6 and 8 years to complete their degrees. While the number of CM majors has declined by more than the decline in overall UAA enrollment, the number of CM majors completing degree requirements has remained steady. Additionally, the average number of credits per degree has declined. Furthermore, student performance in CM and AET courses is high and aligns with course grades seen in other areas such as Business.

Program Duplication / Distinctiveness Duplication: both UAS and UAF offer related Associates degrees. The UAS degree is in Construction Technology and is much more geared to the trades. The UAF degree is in Construction Management. The content and learning outcomes of most of the UAF courses is aligned with UAA's courses, which facilitates opportunities for these students to continue on to the BS degree at UAA. Distinctiveness: UAA's programs are distinctive in three ways. UAA offers the only accredited program with both the AAS and BS accredited by the American Council for Construction Education. UAA offers the only bachelor's degree. The BS is the preferred degree as evidenced by student enrollment patterns and according to industry representatives on the program Advisory Board. The UAA program is the only one which now offers at least half of its courses online, with a goal to be 100% online by 2022.

Commendations and Recommendations Commendations: The program is commended for its ongoing efforts to develop its courses for online delivery in an effort to better accommodate working students' schedules. Further, program faculty are commended for their ongoing efforts to incorporate numerous high impact teaching practices into their courses. Recommendation: The program will need to be vigilant about course scheduling to ensure it maintains productivity and efficiency.

Decision *Continuation:* Program is successfully serving its students and meeting its mission and goals. No immediate changes necessary, other than regular, ongoing program improvements.