



Date: February 21, 2020
To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost
From: Karen Markel, Dean, College of Business and Public Policy
Cc: Dr. Lance Howe, Associate Professor and Committee Chair
Dr. Alex James, Associate Professor
Dr. Paul Johnson, Professor
Dr. James Murphy, Professor
Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

Program/s in this review:

BA in Economic

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):

AACSB

Campuses where the program is delivered:

UAA

Members of the program review committee:

- Lance Howe, Assoc. Professor & Committee Chair, UAA
- Alex James, Associate Professor, UAA
- Paul Johnson, Professor, UAA
- James Murphy, Professor, UAA

1. Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role

The BA program in economics is the only program of this type in the state. This program provides economics education. This program utilizes courses required for the BBA Economic program so no new resources are needed to deliver this curriculum. Faculty in this area provide opportunities for student research and support for graduate school. They also work closely with ISER to provide applied economics research. This is a flexible major that is pursued by students across UAA. This program is also tied to activities with the Vernon Smith Experimental Science Lab and an active seminar series funded through IFREE. Both the BBA Economics degree and the BA Economics benefit from active engagement and support through both sponsored research and

philanthropy. Faculty in this area also have been actively engaged to promote interest in the study of economics through new coursework and partnerships with ANSEP and Middle college.

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

The program is efficient with its flexible pathway toward degree completion. The program courses are highly productive and efficient with lower division courses having the highest efficiency. The research faculty in this area also produce high quality publications that bring international recognition to UAA. Coordination with ISER research projects also supports applied research for Alaska

3. Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success

As noted in the AY19 Program review by Interim Provost Stalvey, the program received a commendation and “continuation” finding. The provost noted in that review that “the program is serving its students and meetings its mission and goals. No immediate changes need other than regular, ongoing program improvements.”

4. Program Duplication / Distinctiveness

This is the only BA Economics program in the UA System and serves a unique group of students often who pursue graduate education and or applied research programs.

5. Commendations and Recommendations

The program is highly efficient, especially at the lower division course level. Efficiency could be improved through streamlining the schedule and course caps for upper division electives to better utilize full-time faculty.

6. Decision

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