



Dear UAA Community,

The recent directive from the Board of Regents has brought up questions about freedom of speech and academic freedom.

While change brings questions and concerns, I assure you these actions have not altered our pledge to uphold our students, faculty and staff right to freedom of speech, nor the academic freedom of our faculty and students. Both UAA and the BOR acknowledge, affirm and espouse the right of freedom of speech is guaranteed in the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Alaska.

Additionally, here are some important updates:

- Jan. 21, 2025: [White House Executive order](#) 'Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity' issued (status: has an injunction), followed by other EOs (see [UAA Government Relations website](#) for more updates).
- Feb. 14, 2025: U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, '[Dear Colleagues Letter](#)' that provided a Feb. 28 deadline for implementation of directives (this letter was not enjoined with any executive order).
- Feb. 21, 2025: [BOR motion](#) that the universities' websites and electronic or print material representing each university, no longer refer to "affirmative action," "DEI" nor utilize the words "diversity," "equity," "inclusion," or other associated terms.

Please reach out to me or other university leadership with any questions regarding these updates or the BOR directive.

Sincerely,

Provost Denise Runge

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Denise K. Runge'.

Denise K. Runge
UAA Provost



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