

**University of the Arctic Conversation with the Provost**  
**Tuesday, February 18**  
**Key themes from report outs**  
**Compiled by the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs**

**Conclusion**

UARctic provides many opportunities, including networking within UAA and between many international institutions. There is a high interest in UARctic opportunities at UAA, yet the opportunities are not widely known.

**Outreach**

It will be important to find ways to share information with faculty, staff, and students about current activities and collaborations at UAA, as well as future opportunities. There are several related activities already happening on campus, e.g. the formation of the Arctic Research Group and the Aleutian Chain Working Group.

How can we better share UARctic information and opportunities more broadly at UAA? Several ideas were suggested, and include:

- Identify a lead contact for UARctic and a centralized collection of resources;
- Hold regular meetings of a group (or subgroups) within UAA to generate activity and interest;
- Schedule a UAA UARctic outreach week;
- Utilize social media for local networking and announcements;
- Share information in venues such as the Multicultural Center's weekly meetings;
- Create a database for faculty research interest and expertise in Arctic issues. This would give faculty interested in collaboration an easy way to find colleagues to work with. The database could also be used to find co-instructors for courses, or coordinate courses with similar themes.

**Possible Opportunities and Activities to Explore**

**Teaching and Research:** Information is particularly desired in regards to forming new thematic research areas, as well as collaboration opportunities for Arctic coursework and programs, such as co-teaching and collaborative programs.

**Curriculum:** More arctic issues and policy courses are recommended. Perhaps there could be an Arctic focused graduate program. Students have expressed interest in more courses on Arctic policy and Arctic studies.

**Students:** Students are interested in networking, research and study abroad opportunities. There is interest in cross-cultural exchanges for students between Greenland, Canada, US, Russia, and Sami

(Scandinavia) areas. Perhaps virtual exchanges could be held prior to actual exchanges, to help students prepare.

**Indigenous Populations and Programming:** There is interest in opportunities for indigenous populations at UAA. Indigenous groups could be targeted for opportunities such as the North2North Exchange. Perhaps UAA's Native Studies Conference could be held internationally.

**UAA Active Involvement:** UAA might host:

- A UArctic Conference or UArctic Week;
- Virtual conferences or sessions about various arctic topics;
- A two-week field trip around Alaska to look at permafrost and glaciers, which are more accessible here than in other arctic nations;
- A participatory action resources workshop in circumpolar health.

### **Challenges**

The biggest challenge will likely be funding. UAA might look for focused ways to move ahead and for strategic funding opportunities through University of Alaska statewide, Federal, and State initiatives.