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**2015 ACADEMIC PLANNING
DOCUMENT**

We are in challenging fiscal times and it appears that the situation will become increasingly challenging in the coming years.

Early in the year Provost Gingerich asked the Academic Deans to start considering guiding principles to provide direction for the decisions to be made. This group expanded to include Campus Directors and Faculty Leaders in the Spring

The Original Challenge

Develop a document that describes the University five years from now with significantly fewer financial resources.

Difficult decisions will be made in the coming year by University and College administrators,
With or Without This Document

Provost Gingerich wanted the Academic Deans and Campus Directors (the decision makers) to involve the campus academic communities in the discussion to make sure that everyone can contribute and so that everyone understands the basis for coming choices and decision.

Time Line

- Early 2015: Initial Discussions by Academic Deans
- Spring and Summer 2015: Campus Directors and Faculty Governance Leaders brought in to the discussion
- Early Fall 2015: Discussion taken to the Colleges and Community Campuses
- October 2015: Discussion in the Faculty Senate
- Mid October 2015: "Finalize" the document

The current version of the resulting document is titled:

Guidance for Academic Decisions in Climate of Declining Budgets, AY2016-17

Preamble

"The purpose of this document is to provide UAA with a **coherent rationale for making the difficult resource decisions** required during a time of decreased funding. These decisions must be driven by UAA's academic mission and **by the need to continually invest in strategic initiatives**. These academic decisions will determine shifts in support and service areas."

Document Basis

- UAA Mission
- UAA 2017 Strategic Plan
- Shaping Alaska's Future
- UAA Core Accreditation Themes
- Anchorage Campus Prioritization
- College and Campus Missions
- National trends in higher education
- Local and Regional workforce demands
- Cultural and Economic landscape of Southcentral Alaska

Implementation of UAA Mission

To implement its mission, the University of Alaska Anchorage:

1. Prepares students to be:
 - Proficient in 21st century skills (literacy, numeracy, collaboration, problem solving/critical thinking, cultural competence),
 - Employees with the technical and employability skills needed by Alaskan industries,
 - Professionals ready for employment, licensure, advancement and leadership in Alaskan business, industry, non-profit, and governmental agencies in Alaska, and
 - Educated, active, and engaged citizens.
2. Strengthens the institution to be a:
 - Center for research, scholarship, and creative activity,
 - Cultural hub of Southcentral Alaska and the state,
 - Leader in Alaska's developing role in the Arctic, and
 - Leader to support the work of the state.

Institutional Core Themes

1. Teaching and Learning
2. Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity
3. Student Success
4. UAA Community
5. Public Square

Emphasis Areas

- Arctic Issues
- Indigenous Cultures
- Sustainable Communities, Environments, & Economies
- Local, Regional, & International Location

Program Areas

- Health Sciences
- Professional Programs
- Career & Technical Education
- Liberal Arts & Sciences

Additional Considerations

- Mission Alignment
- Student Demand
- State Priorities

Unit Specific Considerations

1. Provide access to higher education,
2. Support certificate or degree programs,
3. Produce research, scholarship, and/or creative work,
4. Attract internal and external partners that enhance program offerings and student learning, and
5. Create active, engaged, and well-rounded citizens prepared for the 21st century.

What Can You Do To Help?

- Review the document and tell us
 - Does this document outline processes that are built from the Institutional Core Themes and the other planning documents listed? How so? How do you think that this document will be effective in guiding decisions?
 - Are the Focus Areas identified in the best interest of the University and the people we serve? Do they need alteration? If so, how?

What Can You Do To Help?

- Does this document adequately focus the direction of the institution? Why?
- Will this document will be effective in guiding decisions? If not, what can be done to sharpen the focus?
- Do you have other comments?