

CONTACT

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To Whom It May Concern,

From its beginning as the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines in 1917, the University of Alaska has stood as a symbol of the belief that education is a public good, rather than a private good. Alaska has witnessed the benefits that have come as the University of Alaska Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Southeast have graduated many of the leaders in our community today. The University of Alaska provides higher education to Alaskans from all regions of the state and prepares them to enter the workforce.

Now, more than ever, UA is prepared to support the development of the State of Alaska. Proposed by UA President Jim Johnsen and the Board of Regents, UA's strategic investments listed below are advancing this mission and increasing the effectiveness of our educational programs.

1. *Contribute to Alaska's Economic Development*
2. *Provide Alaska's Skilled Workforce*
3. *Grow our World Class Research*
4. *Increase Degree Attainment*

We, as Alaskans, need to recognize and support this institution that started serving our community before we even gained statehood. I, and many other Alaskans, support the work of the University of Alaska and will continue to do so. **I urge you to advocate for the UA Board of Regent's proposed budget of \$341 million.**

Alec Burris
UAA Student Body President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alec Burris'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage

Resolution #18-07:

Regarding the University of Alaska Budget

SPONSORED BY: Alexandar Jorgensen, *Speaker of the Assembly*
Caleb James Berry, *Chief Financial Officer*
Shoya Watanabe, *Senator*
Joseph Longuevan, *Senator*
Clare Baldwin, *Senator*
Kelsey Hernandez, *Delegate*
Kohei Watanabe, *Delegate*
Christian Bullard, *Delegate*
Rose Kruger, *Liaison*

WRITTEN BY: Jamie Bagley, *Speaker Pro Tempore of the Assembly*
Teresa Wrobel, *Government Relations Officer*

ENDORSED BY: Alec Burris, *Student Body President*
Geser Bat-Erdene, *Student Body Vice President*
USUAA Finance Committee

DATE: February 16, 2018

WHEREAS: The University of Alaska receives approximately 40% of its funding from the State of Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: The University Board of Regents unanimously passed an operating budget proposal of \$341 million with a specific attention on investments in Alaska’s economic future; and,

WHEREAS: Governor Bill Walker proposes a University of Alaska operating budget of \$317 million, a \$24 million difference from the Board of Regents request; and,

WHEREAS: Benefits of full University funding include renewed support for the University of Alaska’s world class research capacity and the continuation of an affordable post-secondary education; and,

WHEREAS: The approval of the full Regents’ budget proposal will allow for strong support of strategic investment funds that allot over \$30 million towards enrollment, degree completion, providing for Alaska’s skilled workforce, and contributing to the State of Alaska’s economic development, ultimately diversifying revenue in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: Full funding will allow for the University of Alaska Anchorage to more effectively reach its UAA 2020 goals, which strive to attain student success, excellence, access, and affordability, showing that the requested funding works toward strategic priorities; and,

WHEREAS: The University of Alaska has endured a \$61 million cut over four years, despite full support in the past, leading to deductions that have affected the education and professional development of future Alaskans;

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED

The Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage fully supports the Board of Regents operating budget request of \$341 million; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

The Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage commits to advocating for full funding of the University of Alaska, so as to emphasize the importance of prioritizing post-secondary education in the state of Alaska.

PASSED BY A 11-0-0 VOTE OF THE USUAA ASSEMBLY

Alec Burr

Approved

Vetoed

February 18, 2018

Student Body President Alec Burr

Date