

**President Jim Johnsen**  
University of Alaska System  
[ua.president@alaska.edu](mailto:ua.president@alaska.edu)

**University of Alaska Board of Regents**  
c/o Board of Regents Chair, Sheri Buretta  
[ua-bor@alaska.edu](mailto:ua-bor@alaska.edu)

Dear President Johnsen and the University of Alaska Board of Regents,

As the UAS Sitka Campus Advisory Council (SCAC), we are committed to supporting UAS and the Sitka Campus in fostering student learning “enhanced by faculty scholarship, undergraduate research...creative activities, community engagement, and the cultures and environment of Southeast Alaska.” We especially wish to see UAS recognized as a *destination of choice* for students seeking academic programs & learning opportunities that integrate the environment and cultures of Southeast Alaska.

We honor the values of excellence, diversity, access, collaboration, sustainability & stewardship, and would promote these values systemwide.

We have been closely following discussions preceding the “Board of Regents' Amended Transformation Motion to study a structural option involving the merger of UAS and the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), and to produce a conceptual plan by October 15, 2020.”

In contemplating the Board of Regents’ motion, we share many of the same concerns expressed by the Juneau Campus Advisory Council and the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS). On June 3, CBS wrote a letter opposing any options that would eliminate UAS as a separate university within the UA system. You have heard similar concerns from communities throughout Southeast and from UAS partner organizations who treasure the university and the economic driver it represents for our region and our state.

It thus came as a disappointment to see the concerns of Southeast Alaska communities seemingly ignored and rejected when the motion to explore a structural option passed on a vote of 7-to-4 at the June 4, 2020 UA Board of Regents meeting. As we understand it, the Board of Regents later stressed that the motion was made, not to eliminate UAS, but rather to seek opportunities to strengthen & enhance the UA system in Southeast Alaska.

**The UAS SCAC respectfully requests** that the Board of Regents include us *at every stage* in the exploration of UA structural options and the study/conceptual planning

outlined in the Amended Transformation Motion of June 4th, as well as *any subsequent discussions and decision making* that affect UAS and the UAS Sitka Campus.

We hope to be actively and equitably involved in exploring the many options that we believe can meet the UA Board of Regents' larger goals for the UA system. We are committed to working with the Board of Regents and other community advisory councils to help craft a future for the UA system and UAS that will ensure access to a high-quality university education in our region through a separately accredited university that has existed for more than 30 years.

Sincerely,



---

Garry White, Chair  
On Behalf of the UAS Sitka Campus Advisory Council

cc:  
UA Board of Regents  
UAS Sitka Campus Advisory Council  
City and Borough of Sitka Assembly  
Sitka Tribe of Alaska  
Sitka School District