January 4, 2011

To: University of Alaska Community

From: Faculty Alliance

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We are submitting for your comment a major re-drafting of UA’s Academic Master Plan (AMP) for Spring 2011-Fall 2015. This draft is organized around five major goals, with associated objectives and activities. The goals are broad, outcome-oriented, and related to the mission of the University and the MAUs. The objectives under each goal are intended to be measurable, attainable, and positive. The activities are specific tasks to carry out the objectives.

Two sets of documents guided this draft. First, the mission statements of UA, UAA, UAF, and UAS were used to identify major goals. Second, we relied heavily on the previous draft (#28) of the 2011-2015 AMP that was submitted to the Board of Regents in September 2010. From that draft we refined the goals, then extracted objectives and activities. We did not, of course, extract everything from AMP 28. Specifically, we did not use content that we identified as policy, process, or material for a strategic plan rather than an academic plan. In various places we also filled in (noncontroversial, we believe) objectives and activities that were not spelled out in the previous version, as the new structure of the document revealed gaps. Nonetheless, the previous version is, in our opinion, a very important document because it crystallizes many of the procedures that UA’s Statewide Academic Council will use when evaluating proposals for new or enhanced programs. In fact, we suggest that AMP 28 be retained for the next five years and called the Statewide Academic Council’s Operating Plan (SACOP).

The following diagram captures the relationship between a strategic plan, a facilities plan, mission statements, SACOP and UA’s academic master plan. Typically, an academic master plan deals with (a) how a university produces, disseminates, and applies knowledge, (b) how it relates to the community, and (c) how it will respond to the current and emerging conditions affecting a university. Additionally, a university’s academic plan relates to and informs other planning efforts. A strategic plan anticipates longer-range challenges and opportunities over the next 10 to 20 years. Together, a university’s short-range AMP and long-range strategic plan should direct the development of its facilities plan, which supports implementation of the AMP and strategic plan.
We anticipate that stakeholders from UAA, UAF and UAS will be interested in commenting on seeing the current version before a newer version is submitted to the BOR. We are hoping to submit a newer version to the BOR by late January 2011 so BOR will have it for their February meeting.

Please submit your comments to alaskafaculty@gmail.com by January 15. We encourage you to share this letter, the draft AMP, and the email address with others who might have comments. All comments will be only be seen by members of Faculty Alliance and will be kept confidential.