UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

PROVOST SEARCH
LEADERSHIP PROFILE

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The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) announces a search for a new provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs (provost). The provost serves as UAF’s chief academic officer and provides leadership and oversight for UAF’s eight colleges and schools, its library, a research museum, and academic support programs.

The ideal candidate will be a principled, objective, transparent and empowering leader who can find creative solutions to challenging problems and is committed to the integration of teaching and research. The new provost is expected to assume office by July 2018 or as soon thereafter as is feasible.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provides leadership that inspires outstanding academic performance at UAF and professional advancement of faculty;
- Articulates a balanced vision of the value of teaching, research and service, guided by a clear understanding of UAF’s mission and goals;
- Leads institutional planning in academic areas and contributes to institutional planning for facilities, student services, and other areas that impact academic programs;
- Oversees academic program review;
- Coordinates and supports the activities of the deans, faculty and academic staff;
- Ensures that academic policies are effectively implemented and works with the Faculty Senate to improve and update policies as needed;
- Makes recommendations to the Chancellor on faculty tenure, promotion, and retention;
- Facilitates and encourages faculty development activities;
- Encourages and facilitates shared governance;
- Oversees institutional accreditation processes and oversees the preparation of other institutional performance reports;
- Works closely with other senior administrators at UAF and within the UA System to implement initiatives and facilitate and assess progress toward system goals;
- Serves as a member of the Chancellor’s executive team and acts as UAF’s executive-in-charge in the Chancellor’s absence; and
- Represents the university to diverse constituencies.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Established in 1917, the University of Alaska Fairbanks is the flagship of the statewide University of Alaska system. UAF’s range of people and programs is as diverse and dynamic as Alaska. Few other institutions in the country are as comprehensive in their educational mission – from workforce development through Ph.D. – and none can claim a geographic base as expansive as 360 million acres. UAF is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Many of its programs are individually accredited through national accreditation organizations.

UAF is a Land, Sea and Space Grant institution recognized as a world leader in Arctic research and classified as one of the “RU/H: Research Universities (high research activity)” in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. UAF has five major research institutes, a research museum with extensive collections drawn primarily from the circumpolar north, and more than 20 research centers and off-campus research facilities.
UAF provides outreach programs across Alaska, including the Cooperative Extension Service and the Marine Advisory Program for Alaska, with agents or specialists located in communities across the state. UAF is also home to a public broadcasting station serving the greater Fairbanks area and, via translator stations, smaller communities throughout northern Alaska.

Our 9,300 students hail from across Alaska, every other state, and 45 foreign countries. Of our students, 40% are enrolled as full-time students, 20% are Alaska Native/American Indian, 11% are graduate students, 53% attend a course at one of the community campuses (some also attend classes at the main Fairbanks campus), and 32% take at least one course online. The median age for full-time degree-seeking undergraduates is 21, and 72% of first-year students enroll direct from high school.

Academics

UAF offers approximately 145 degrees and 30 certificates in 115 disciplines. Students choose from a breadth of academic programs offering hands-on learning and undergraduate and graduate research opportunities.

- The College of Engineering and Mines offers degrees in civil, computer, electrical, environmental, geological, mechanical, mining, minerals preparation and petroleum engineering as well as computer science and engineering management.
- The College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences offers degrees in fisheries, marine biology and oceanography.
- The College of Liberal Arts is the academic home to UAF’s arts, humanities, social sciences and languages.
- The College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics offers degrees in atmospheric sciences, biology/wildlife, chemistry/biochemistry, geosciences, math/statistics, physics and veterinary medicine.
- The College of Rural and Community Development serves UAF’s community college mission with a focus on workforce development, career and technical education, and academic preparation for college. CRCD offers certificate, associate, baccalaureate and master’s degree programs statewide and is also an integral part of the doctoral program in Indigenous studies.
- The School of Education prepares educators to work in urban and rural Alaska and to work with K-12 students from many backgrounds, with a particular focus on Alaska Native languages and cultures.
The School of Management offers Bachelor of Business Administration degrees with majors in accounting, business administration, economics and emergency management; graduate degrees in business administration, resource and applied economics, and security and disaster management; and a doctorate in natural resources and sustainability.

The School of Natural Resources and Extension provides programs in education, research and outreach that address the science and management of the natural resources and agriculture of Alaska and the circumpolar North.

Research

As Alaska’s research university and America’s Arctic university, UAF is a national and world leader in climate change and Arctic research. With partnerships and collaborations throughout Alaska and globally, world-renowned researchers help drive innovation and discovery. UAF’s research enterprise is an economic engine in Alaska, with research expenditures of $129 million in FY16.

Major research units include:

• The Geophysical Institute focuses on geophysical processes from the center of the Earth to the surface of the sun and beyond. Specialized facilities address research, hazard monitoring, and the data needs of government agencies and research organizations. The institute is also home to the Alaska Satellite Facility, the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration and the Poker Flat Research Range, the only university-owned rocket range in the world.

• The Institute of Arctic Biology is dedicated to advancing basic and applied knowledge of high-latitude biological systems through the integration of research, student education and service to Alaska and the nation. IAB’s Toolik Field Station is a world-renowned Arctic climate change research station in the northern foothills of the Brooks Range. The institute’s major research programs include the Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, the Alaska IDeA Networks for Biomedical Research Excellence, the Bonanza Creek Long-Term Ecological Research program, and the Center for Alaska Native Health Research.

• The Institute of Marine Science is the home for research in oceanography and marine biology with special emphasis on Arctic and Pacific sub-Arctic waters. Research focuses on ecosystem structure and dynamics, the effects of climate change, oceanographic and ecosystem factors affecting Alaska fisheries, and applied research problems facing the U.S. Arctic offshore oil and gas industry and the state and federal regulators who oversee these activities. UAF operates the R/V Sikuliaq, an ice-
capable research vessel owned by the National Science Foundation. Commissioned in March 2015, the Sikuliaq is one of the newest members of the U.S. academic research fleet.

- The Institute of Northern Engineering advances expertise in energy production in the North, modeling and testing of mechanical systems, environmental engineering, hydrology, infrastructure, mining, and petroleum development. Research centers include the Alaska Center for Energy and Power, Alaska University Transportation Center, Mineral Industry Research Lab, Petroleum Development Lab, and Water and Environmental Research Center.

- The International Arctic Research Center helps Northern nations and communities understand, prepare for and adapt to the pan-Arctic impacts of climate change. Researchers work across disciplines and borders toward an understanding of the Arctic as a whole. Research centers include the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy, Alaska Fire Science Consortium, and Scenarios Network for Alaska and Arctic Planning.

Campus Life

Of the 6,000 students attending the 2,250-acre main campus in Fairbanks, approximately 20 percent live on campus. Unmarried undergraduate students choose from traditional dorm rooms, suites and apartment-style living. UAF also has apartments and small houses available for married students and families. UAF’s Eileen Panigeo MacLean House serves Alaska Native students from rural Alaska, giving these students the opportunity to live in a small community with a cultural focus to ease the transition to campus life.

Recreational opportunities for students range from casual pick-up basketball games at the Student Recreation Center to on-campus ice-climbing, backpacking expeditions in the Brooks Range, and sea kayaking alongside glaciers. On the intercollegiate level, UAF has 10 teams competing in six sports in NCAA’s Division II (basketball, volleyball, cross-country running and skiing, rifle, and women’s swimming). Men’s hockey competes at the Division I level, with home games drawing a dedicated crowd of Fairbanks-area families. Approximately 1,100 acres of largely forested land on campus provide recreation opportunities with miles of trails for cross-country skiing, running, walking and wildlife viewing.

The theater and music departments regularly offer some of the best shows in Fairbanks, with guest performers supplementing student performers and the symphony. Wood Center, expanded in 2014 through a private-public partnership, serves as a hub for student activities with the main dining facility, meeting space for student organizations, a bowling alley, a ballroom, conference rooms, multipurpose lounge areas and the UAF Pub.
LIFE IN FAIRBANKS

Fairbanks is Alaska’s second-largest population center, with almost 100,000 residents in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. While the borough is slightly smaller than the state of New Jersey, most of the population is concentrated in the cities of Fairbanks and nearby communities of North Pole, Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base. Fairbanks also serves as a regional hub for many Alaska Native communities in Interior Alaska.

Fairbanks’ climate is semi-arid, with just 11 inches of annual precipitation, most of that coming as snow. Temperatures can range from -40 degrees F in winter to 90 degrees F in summer, with low temperatures in January averaging 2 degrees F and highs in June averaging 70 degrees F. With low humidity and very little wind, the winter weather typically feels more moderate than the thermometer would suggest.

Fairbanksans are year-round outdoors enthusiasts. Cross-country skiing, snowboarding, skijoring, dog mushing, and snowmachining (or snowmobiling as they call it in the Lower 48) are popular winter activities. Fairbanks is located at the perfect latitude for watching the northern lights as long as it’s dark enough to see them (generally, late August through mid-April). In summer and fall, you’ll find Fairbanksans boating, biking, hiking, gardening, fishing, hunting and berry picking. Fairbanks is just a two-hour drive from Denali National Park and Preserve, one of the crown jewels of the national park system, and also provides easy access to public lands in the Alaska Range, White Mountains and the Brooks Range.

The arts thrive in Fairbanks. Most weekends offer multiple concerts, cultural presentations, dance performances, book readings, exhibits or theatrical productions. Fairbanks’ galleries feature a full spectrum of locally made arts and crafts, including works by local artists whose work has been featured in major galleries and museums outside Alaska.

On the practical side, Fairbanks has both an excellent public schools system and a state-of-the-art hospital. Nonstop flights to Seattle year-round and seasonal nonstop service to Minneapolis and Portland make Fairbanks easily accessible to the Lower 48 and connecting flights to international destinations.
QUALIFICATIONS

Minimum qualifications

- A record of intellectual scholarship and accomplishment sufficient to warrant the rank of full professor, with an earned doctorate or terminal degree in their discipline from an accredited university;
- A record of successful leadership at a dean/associate dean/vice provost level or similar academic leadership experience;
- Experience in strategic planning, program development, assessment, faculty development and personnel management;
- Financial management experience;
- Experience in fostering excellence in teaching, scholarship, research/creative activity, and public and professional service; and
- A demonstrated commitment to fostering campus diversity, equity and inclusiveness.

Additional preferred qualifications include:

- Knowledge of key and emerging issues and research in higher education;
- Success in working in a shared governance environment;
- Experience in accreditation;
- A record of community engagement;
- Experience in a wide range of degree programs, ranging from occupational endorsements to Ph.D. degrees;
- Experience with delivery of place-based education, distance education and educational technology;
- Experience in providing education to traditional and nontraditional students in multicampus and rural settings; and
- A demonstrated interest in Arctic and circumpolar issues.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Apply online at http://www.uaf.edu/provost/search/. Application review begins February 1, 2018; the position is open until filled. Application materials should consist of:

1. A substantive cover letter addressing required and preferred qualifications;
2. A curriculum vitae; and
3. A list of five references with full contact information. Applicants will be notified before references are contacted.

For a confidential discussion or to nominate someone for the position, please contact Douglas Goering, dean of the College of Engineering and Mines and search committee chair, at 907-474-7730 or djgoering@alaska.edu.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.

UAF photo credits: Cover photo of Nanook Nation welcome group by JR Ancheta; all other photos by Todd Paris.