

## **UAF FY25 Cost Savings, Efficiency Efforts, and Revenue Generation**

UA Board of Regents' September 2025

UAF continually explores opportunities for cost containment and efficiencies as a usual part of managing operations. This list is not comprehensive. Actions taken in FY25 are helping to streamline workflows, improve the student experience, ensure timely and responsive processing, modernize critical infrastructure, and generate revenue to support operations, where possible.

### **Improving the Student Experience**

The following process improvement projects are in the implementation phase with estimated savings to be developed in FY26+:

- Student payment processes
  - Implementing earlier student payment reminders and automated Banner notifications
  - Coordinating with Financial Aid to identify eligible students before drop deadlines
  - Reducing manual staff work
  - Adding transparency to tuition costs and student fees
- Streamlining the path from prospective student inquiry to full enrollment
  - Integrating CRM data and reduced document handling delays
  - Improved conversion rates, lowered administrative costs, and enhanced student onboarding
- Admissions processing
  - Introducing digital transcript evaluation
  - Automating a number of manual processes related to an application for admission, reviewing transcripts, etc.
- Increased efficiency in housing applications, assignments, and meal plan selection
- Improved price transparency through standardized housing and meal plan rates
- Expanded campus value by offering guest housing for workshops, interns, and visiting faculty/staff
- Optimized resources through cross-department sharing and repurposing underutilized space

### **Academic Advising**

- Strengthened advisor effectiveness with comprehensive training and standardized roles
- Improved accuracy of advisor assignments in Banner
- Increased accountability with enrollment dashboards and defined caseloads
- Expanded student access to advising through express services, new website, and pre-advising automation
- Supported student success with more intentional transition processes

### **Financial Aid**

- Reduced processing time by automating federal file imports (1+ hour saved daily)
- Improved efficiency and consistency of scholarship processes for staff, committees, and students

## **Disability Services**

- Transitioned from Symplicity Accommodate to AIM software statewide (July 2025)
- Achieved cost savings of ~\$12K annually statewide (\$6K at UAF)
- Improved efficiency of accommodation processing across multiple campuses
- Enabled cross-campus staff support when key staff are unavailable
- Automated faculty notification letters for students with accommodations
- Implemented tracking for incomplete registrations
- Updated coordination with UAF Testing Services to ensure consistent, student-friendly accommodation testing
- Streamlined Title IX accommodation process with ORCA, improving student experience

## **Administrative Efficiencies**

- Tuition waivers streamlined for employees and full-time faculty. Beginning fall 2025, tuition waivers are automatically applied to benefit eligible employees and full-time faculty accounts. This change eliminates the need to process a form and reduces administrative barriers.
- Financial management reporting: Developed a web-based interface for the financial management reporting process that allows for simpler projecting, faster data entry, and eliminates both the need to email files and manually compile projections. An ongoing staff time savings of about 30-40% is expected. There is a possibility of adopting this reporting method system-wide, which would result in even more significant savings from this effort.
- The UAF Continuous Improvement Program (AKA Process Improvement Training Program or PIT Crew) manages roughly 15-20 projects of varying complexity led by trained facilitators who are UAF employees and volunteer to do this work. Projects include strategic planning, process improvement, and ad-hoc requests; demand for these services continues to increase. By facilitating these projects, it is estimated that UAF has saved roughly \$300K-\$400K in external consulting fees during FY25 alone, not including cost savings and efficiencies achieved within each individual project.

## **Facilities Efficiencies**

- CHP Efficiency: Adjusted cogeneration heat and power plant (CHP) turbine governor logic improving LP steam pressure control; increased summer power exports by 50-150% (from ~1-2 mW to 3-5 mW), generating an estimated \$200K in additional excess power sales, annually
- CHP Preventative Maintenance (PM) Program: Newly implemented preventative maintenance program for the CHP plant is expected to reduce reactive maintenance and emergency repairs by 10%, avoiding an estimated \$100K in annual unplanned maintenance costs
- Boiler 5 Improvements: Optimized NOx and SO2 control through MDC ash and air balance, cutting excess air use by an estimated 5%, which lowers emissions compliance risk
- Economizer Drain Valve Replacement: Replacement of leaking valves identified over the winter reduced water use by ~1 million gallons per month, saving an estimated \$130K per year
- Technology & Processes: AI tools and Bluebeam have reduced design review time by 15%, improving accuracy and preserving institutional expertise through updated design standards
- Facility Audit Team: New team reduced building assessment processing time by 25%, enabling faster and more accurate DM backlog updates. This efficiency supports better capital planning and our responsiveness to RFI's regarding DM&R on a building at a granular level

- Lease Savings: Reduced UAF's annual lease obligations by approximately 9,800 square feet, saving an estimated \$206K for FY26. Renegotiated lease terms lowered the cost per square foot, resulting in ongoing annual savings of about \$21.6K

### **Nanook Technology Services (NTS) Efficiencies**

- Software and Infrastructure Cost Savings: Management of several software subscriptions transitioned from UA OIT to UAF resulting in an annual cost savings of ~\$15K. Remaining subscriptions are under review to find more cost-effective options
- Registered Apple devices as University-owned with Apple through Apple School Manager, resulting in reduced waste and improved security
- Led advocacy for the removal of higher-tier support contract out of UA Microsoft licensing contract; savings of ~\$66K
- Streamlined Smart Classroom Operations: Centralized management of more than 60 learning spaces on the Troth Yeddha' campus—along with departmental oversight of an additional 100+ specialized teaching and meeting spaces—has reduced duplication of support functions and standardized equipment configurations
- Modernizing Infrastructure: NTS leverages mature open-source software, containerization, and existing server resources to create a lightweight infrastructure. This approach avoids expensive platform contracts like Microsoft, AWS, or Google and keeps operating costs low
- Enhanced Service Delivery: Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) support was expanded for the UAF community at no extra cost. Users can now get help from the NTS Service Desk, the 24/7 Canvas chat support, and the Center for Teaching and Learning's designer consultations

### **Research**

- Research institutes (ACEP, CEM/INE, IAB) collaborate and partner to implement cost saving measures, capitalize on shared experience and exchange knowledge across units
- International Arctic Research Center (IARC) Support Services developed and implemented a shared platform (Asana) for managing workflows between individual support teams, research faculty, staff, and students, to streamline communication, improve transparency, reduce duplication, and maximize efficiency in grant and task management
- Utilizing Google Suites, IAB automated monthly post-award budget summaries for researchers and principal investigators, reducing report preparation from one week to two hours. With built-in spending projections, researcher inquiries dropped, reducing the need for check-ins from monthly to quarterly.

### **New Revenues**

- Expanded Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSA), providing Ft. Wainwright specific services where UAF has expertise
- Secured a \$1.2M USDA DM&R grant for Chukchi Campus and a \$750K grant to expand Rasmuson Library archives