

April 15, 2015

To: UAF staff and faculty

From: Provost Susan Henrichs

Re: Academic program review

Over the next week, UAF will be announcing that some degree and certificate programs will be discontinued or have admissions suspended. The discontinued or suspended programs will be only a fraction of what UAF offers, less than 10 percent of the total. Because these are lower-enrollment programs, only about 2 percent of UAF's students are enrolled in them.

If you speak with affected students, please reassure them that UAF will make arrangements for all currently enrolled students to complete their programs in a timely fashion. This is a responsibility that the university has when it admits students to a program and is required by our accrediting organization. That, in turn, means that most faculty and staff associated with the programs will not have immediate changes in their employment.

I am meeting with program faculty to discuss the teach-out process and other steps that will need to be taken. In cases of suspended programs, faculty may be asked to redesign programs or make other changes to attract additional students or reduce costs.

Within two weeks, UAF will contact affected students individually with further information and instructions. They will need to work closely with an advisor to develop a plan to complete their degrees or certificates.

The programs being discontinued or suspended were selected based on an extensive process of program review. The UAF Planning and Budget Committee recommended review of programs based on the following criteria:

- Being among the lowest enrollment programs of their type (certificate, associate, baccalaureate, graduate)
- Decreasing enrollment of more than 30 percent in the past five years
- Being among the lowest number of graduates in the past three years for programs of their type

The review process included a report provided by the program, in which they explained the value of the program to the university, the community, and the state; institutional data on enrollments, graduates, student demographics, faculty numbers and other factors; review by a faculty committee and an administrator committee; and a final decision by the Chancellor's Cabinet based on the program report and committee recommendations.

I regret that it is necessary to reduce the number of programs that we offer, but the pending, substantial reductions in funding from the state will force cutbacks across campus. We're making every effort to preserve academic programs, since they are at the core of the university's mission to educate our students.

Susan Henrichs

Provost