Chancellor's Budget Update: Nov. 20, 2023

Last month, UAF hosted the first *in-person* budget forum since 2020. At this forum, Vice Chancellor Julie Queen, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Anupma Prakash, and Director of Financial Aid Ashley Munro gave updates on the FY24 budget outcomes, the current FY25 budget status, and opportunities for engagement. If you were unable to attend, a recording of the event is available on my communications website. The following is an update of the topics discussed at the forum as well as information on how you as a UAF employee can get involved in the budget process.

UAF FY25 State Budget Request:

The UA Board of Regents recently met in Anchorage and approved the FY25 UA Operating and Capital state budget request. This request will go forward to the Governor for consideration in early December, and we will see what is supported in the Governor's initial budget shortly thereafter. UAF's budget request is packaged as part of the UA System request, ensuring collaboration across the UA System and highlighting the strengths and unique missions of each university.

In addition to the UA compensation increases requested at 2.5% for employees and fixed operating costs, UAF is requesting a \$2.5 million operating budget increase to support essential university academic program capacity and student service enhancements. As part of this, we are requesting funding to support student wellbeing, specifically for student mental health and counseling support, an investment in student retention and strategic enrollment initiatives, international recruitment and graduate student support, investments in faculty support in various areas including Indigenous leadership, humanities and social sciences, and support for academic excellence to meet emerging industry needs. A link to the UA budget request is available here.

Although there is not a UAF Athletics request in this budget, UAF also put forward an initiative to enhance UAF's competitiveness and excellence in athletics via support for D1 Nanook Hockey and scholarships focused on gender equity. This item under consideration is part of a larger strategy to identify a possible state matching program for funding raised through athletics at UAF and UAA that will likely evolve as the legislative session gets underway.

In the capital budget, we have requested \$20 million to support our goal of achieving R1 Research status and \$10 million for Year 3 of the UAF Drone Program. Additionally, UA is pursuing a deferred maintenance and modernization strategy, which, if funded, will begin to remediate this long-standing issue across UA for the next several years.

These budget developments are pivotal in our continued efforts to provide an excellent education and serve our community. We are committed to responsible financial management and strategic investments to ensure a thriving future for our university.

FY24 State Budget Legislative Outcomes:

In the FY24 state budget (the budget year we are in now), UA secured \$19.6 million for employee compensation increases, of which \$9.4 million was allocated to UAF. This funding included a 2.75% employee compensation increase for FY24, effective July 1, 2023. This is one way UA is supporting a well-rounded compensation package for our hard-working employees, in addition to making improvements in the form of flexible benefits options and educational incentives, such as the tuition waiver and educational attainment program.

In the FY24 capital budget, UAF was provided with \$2.5 million in receipt authority to pursue a potential partnership with the Fairbanks North Star Borough in support of renovating the University Park Building into a new UAF Childcare Center. Although this is not direct funding, it allows UAF to receive funds that will help contribute to a larger renovation project. Another \$2.3 million has been allocated to UAF for deferred maintenance through the State of Alaska Office of Budget and Management. These critical funds will ensure that our facilities remain safe and functional. In addition, UAF received significant support for capital research and workforce training initiatives. This includes \$10 million for the UAF Drone Program's second year of a five year plan, and \$500,000 in support of Alaska food security and independence through the Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Extension.

Other updates for this fiscal year include successfully simplifying our budget process by returning UA to a single state appropriation and the renewing of TVEP vocational funding, which demonstrates the continued support for workforce development in the region. And although some of our fixed costs and academic program requests were not fulfilled, we will continue containing costs as much as possible, reallocate where necessary to cover fixed costs increases, and advocate for critical academic and program investments in the FY25 budget cycle.

Getting Involved:

The Planning and Budget Committee, co-chaired by Vice Chancellor Queen and Provost Prakash, plays a pivotal role in shaping our budget. The PBC is composed of representatives from across UAF, including Governance delegates. This committee reviews proposals for state funding requests, evaluates recommendations from Strategic Enrollment Planning teams, and considers Tuition and Fee Committee recommendations in a budget context. The committee then recommends funding for well-developed proposals with a high return on investment. An RFP for FY26 budget requests was issued in early November, kicking off planning for the next budget cycle.

As a UAF employee and community member, there are many ways to get involved in our budget process. Advocacy tools and tips, including sample advocacy letters and UAF points of pride can be found on the Chancellor's website. The University of Alaska Office of Government Relations website also has information for individuals who want to advocate on a local, state and Federal level. As an advocate, the most important thing is to tell your story and share why UA matters to you. Thank you for choosing UAF.

Dan White, chancellor

Governor's proposed FY25 budget supports strategic investment in UA

Dec. 14, 2023

Dear University of Alaska Community,

Governor Dunleavy released his FY25 budget proposal today. It partially funds key Board of Regents' budget priorities, including compensation, fixed cost increases, and progress toward UAF achieving Tier 1 research status. The Governor's budget office has emphasized both his commitment to working with us and his support for UA. We appreciate those commitments, and the support the budget provides for our high-quality academic, workforce development, and research programs that empower Alaska and Alaskans.

The budget released today represents a starting point for budget discussions in Juneau next legislative session. It does not yet include funding for deferred maintenance, which is among the Regents' highest priorities. These needs are critical. As the legislative session gets underway, we will continue to work with the Governor and Legislature to advocate for these priorities. For budget details, see the Office of Management and Budget FY25 documents. You can also view a comparison between the budget released today and the Regents' original budget request here.

Budget Summary

The operating budget funds some of the Regents' priorities included in their November budget request:

- \$6.1 million in state funds to support negotiated compensation increases for faculty and staff. This is about \$8.6 million less in state funds than the Regents requested to cover those increases. UA remains committed to providing competitive total compensation packages, including employee benefits, across the system, and will work with the Governor and Legislature to be able to do so.
- \$4.5 million in state funds to cover unavoidable fixed cost increases. This is about \$4 million less in state funds than the Regents requested to cover rising property insurance premiums, cyber security, and utility costs. Again, we'll work with the Governor and Legislature to reach a solution.

The budget also holds tuition rates flat for FY25. While these rates may rise in future years, maintaining affordability and accessibility for our students remains a top priority.

The FY25 capital budget focuses on projects to jumpstart future growth and success:

• \$10 million in state funds to support the University of Alaska Fairbanks' (UAF) goal to achieve Tier 1 (R1) Research Status. UAF currently ranks as an R2, within the top 7% of U.S. universities in research achievement. Attaining R1

- status would place UAF within the top 4% of U.S. research universities and have wide-ranging positive impacts on UAF, the UA system, and Alaska's economy.
- \$5 million in state funds to support ACUASI's drone research and development capabilities. ACUASI continues to be a national leader in drone testing and research, and these funds will support their ongoing projects.
- \$2.2 million in state general fund match for the Alaska Railbelt Carbon Capture & Sequestration Project at UAF This was included in our original budget request, but was conditional on receipt of a Department of Energy (DOE) grant. UAF received that grant, so the funds cover the required state match.
- \$1 million in state funds for Alaska Energy Data Storage and Access Revitalization Project These funds will support a recommendation from the Alaska Energy Security Task Force and are a priority of the Governor.

Multiple years of fiscal stability have resulted in strong enrollment growth, increased competitively funded research, and growing public confidence in our university system. Alaskans understand that UA empowers Alaska, and the programs and community connections at UAA, UAF, and UAS are focused on meeting the overwhelming workforce needs statewide. We'll continue working with the Governor, Legislature, and the Board of Regents to maintain our positive trajectory, and build a sustainable future for our University and state.

Thanks for all you do to help our students achieve success.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season,

Pat Pitney President University of Alaska



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DATE: May 24, 2024

TO: Anupma Prakash, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Julie Queen, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Nettie La Belle-Hamer, Vice Chancellor for Research

Charlene Stern, Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community & Native Education

Owen Guthrie, Vice for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Theresa Bakker, Interim Executive Director of University Advancement

Nickole Conley, Chief of Staff

FROM: Daniel M. White, Chancellor

RE: FY25 Budget Planning Guidance

As we have discussed in Core Cabinet, this memo serves to document our FY25 budget planning scenario prior to the conclusion of the Alaska Legislature and Governor's regular budget process.

To date, based on UA budget guidance, we are assuming the full UA compensation appropriation, to include the graduate student workers contract, will be retained in the FY25 operating budget.

Our fixed cost increases are estimated at \$10 million moving into FY25, which is below the amount that would be allocated to UAF, even if maintained in the Governor's final budget. For this reason, our FY25 planning scenario must include a reallocation specifically targeted to central fixed costs, in addition to a smaller reallocation for strategic investments.

Among a few other items, the operating budget also contains funding to help UAF achieve R1 research status, made up of \$5.4 million in base unrestricted general fund (UGF), \$12.5 million in one-time funds from the Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF), and \$2.1 million in UA receipts (total \$20 million). This shows an excellent commitment to UAF's research mission and strategic goals, which we hope will be retained in the FY25 final budget.

The capital budget contains one UAF high priority facility modernization project which was supported by the Legislature at \$10.5 million. Additional investments include ACUASI (\$10 million), an ACEP energy storage project (\$1 million), and funding and match requirements for an Alaska Railbelt Carbon Capture and Sequestration research project. I will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

As part of UAF's FY25 operating budget planning, I ask that all VCs, with some exceptions, target a 3.7% unrestricted fund (F1) reduction. This includes the Troth Yeddha' Rural College. I ask that the VCRCNE target a 1.6% F1 reduction for all community campuses, because these campuses cover many of their own fixed costs and will continue to do so. This is a substantial

part of addressing the fixed cost increases, noted above. The other strategies include increasing enrollment and developing new revenues.

Although some critical fixed costs increases are currently funded in the Legislature's proposed operating budget, our planning scenario does not yet include an increase in this category. If this changes in the final budget approved by the Governor, we may revisit this planning approach.

Another remaining and significant cost is still uncertain at this time, related to a shortfall in UA staff benefit recovery that occurred between FY23 and FY24. The impact of these staff benefits increases, if fully applied to FY25, is \$9 million across UA. It is possible that UA will be able to negotiate a solution to spread these costs over a three-year timeframe; however, until that is known, UAF is projecting the full impact of these costs will be absorbed within unit/department budgets in FY25. This will mean most units could feel a total impact of roughly 5% on unrestricted funds (a combination of the 3.7% reallocation + higher than usual staff benefit rate increases), which will vary by unit/department. If this situation changes, UAF will consider additional adjustments to increase the reallocation as necessary.

I have asked that VC Queen apply the reallocation as follows:

- \$4.5 million will be directed to central fixed costs.
- \$2 million will be directed to strategic needs, including but not limited to modernizing the student experience which may include facility improvements, student success or enrollment/retention initiatives, and compliance areas including athletics.

VC Queen will provide details on the amounts provided to you for reallocation, so the adjustments can be processed. If you would like to make any adjustments to the application within your management areas, please provide those adjustments to VC Queen or Jason Theis, Director of Finance and Accounting.

Thank you for all that you do for UAF.

Cc: Amanda Wall, AVC Financial and Business Services Jason Theis, Director, Finance and Accounting Briana Walters, Director, Management and Budget

Budget Update: FY25 State of Alaska budget and FY24 Federal Appropriations

July 2, 2024

Faculty and staff,

The governor released the final FY25 State of Alaska budget at the end of last week, followed by a message from President Pitney sharing information about how this year's budget will impact the UA system. I want to share a little more about how UAF fared and how we understand our path forward.

Of the \$331.3 million appropriated to the UA system, UAF received \$164.2 million. This funding makes up approximately 33% of UAF's overall estimated budget, with the remainder largely coming from federal receipts for sponsored projects and research, and tuition and fees. We appreciate the state's commitment to provide funding that allows us to invest in critical programming and projects for the State of Alaska. We feel that this budget is a demonstration of the state legislature's and governor's confidence in UAF.

UAF received funding for many of our top priorities, including our goal to achieve R1 research status, TVEP workforce program support, compensation increases and fixed costs. While we did not receive funding for all of our requests, I am confident we can work together to ensure UAF's critical programs and initiatives continue to receive support. To this end, UAF is reallocating internally in FY25 to address some fixed cost items and to consider modest investments in strategic initiatives.

Operating budget and compensation increases

The UA system received state funds to support a planned 2.5% compensation increase for FY25. Of this, \$8.3 million will come to UAF. These increases for faculty and staff recognize the critical importance of our employees. Thank you for all you do to keep the university running every day. The funding will also cover the new graduate student wages negotiated by the union this spring. The new contract will go into effect on July 1.

The UA system received over \$8.4 million to address rising fixed costs that will support cybersecurity, insurance premiums, and facilities maintenance at UAF and across the universities.

The Alaska Center for Energy and Power will also receive \$200,000 in one-time funding. This is a strategic investment in shaping a more sustainable and resilient energy future.

R1 budget request

I am very happy to share that we will receive an investment in our pursuit of R1! The \$12.5 million allocation in the governor's budget is one-time funding from the Higher Education Investment Fund. This funding is a critical step to achieving our strategic goal of R1 for UAF. And while \$12.5 million is not everything we asked for, this gives us the funding we need to get started and the opportunity to demonstrate success. With those two things, we can work out with the state on the remaining funding that we need to get the job done.

R1 status will help UAF gain global recognition for our research strength, increasing our ability to attract top-tier faculty, staff and students. R1 will also make UAF more competitive for external funding and reduce the percentage of our overall budget that is reliant on state funding. Becoming R1 will have a positive effect on student enrollment, research advancements and the Alaska economy.

So that we could hit the ground running, in the past year we distributed 57 awards to support Ph.D. students in completing their degree, and we opened another round of applications that we can now award with the state's investment. This is very exciting news for UAF and for the state of Alaska.

Thank you to Rep. Will Stapp and the Interior delegation for championing this initiative. We appreciate Governor Dunleavy for awarding these critical funds as an investment in Alaska's future. Also a big thank you to all of the students, employees and community members who advocated for R1 this legislative cycle. Congratulations!

Capital budget

In addition to R1 funding, UAF also received allocations in areas of research excellence and in support of critical facilities modernization and maintenance. Key economic development projects for mariculture, critical minerals and heavy oils research and development funded in a prior state budget were extended to continue the excellent research progress. Additional capital investments include:

- The Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration will receive \$6 million in funding. While this is not the full amount requested, ACUASI will continue to advance the field of unmanned aircraft and drone technology and contribute to a growing industry in the state.
- ACEP will receive \$1 million in capital funding to develop and implement a long-term data governance strategy that underlies the Alaska Energy Data Gateway.
- The Alaska Railbelt Carbon Capture and Sequestration Project will receive a total of \$2.22 million in capital funding and \$8.88 million in federal receipt authority. UAF and its project partners submitted an \$11.1 million proposal to the United States Department of Energy to conduct a CO2 storage complex feasibility assessment.
- UAF will also receive \$5.25 million in support of facilities deferred maintenance and
 modernization projects. Each of these improvements contributes to the student
 experience and we appreciate the support from the UA Regents, President Pitney, VP
 Rizk and Director Hutchison, the Interior delegation, and Governor Dunleavy for enabling
 this work. The UA system and UAF will continue to work on a long-term facilities
 modernization strategy in the coming years.

Federal funding update

The state capital budget gave UAF the ability to receive \$5.6 million in congressionally directed spending for UAF's child care center. Secured by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, this will allow UAF to renovate and repurpose a portion of the Old University Park facility for children of UAF employees and students. The expanded child care facility helps UAF become a competitive

employer and promotes family-friendly services to support our workforce and community. I am deeply appreciative of Sen. Murkowski's leadership on this issue.

Sen. Murkowski also supported a federal increment for design for the Troth Yeddha' Indigenous Studies Center. This investment will help UAF continue to raise philanthropic and other funding to support the construction of this new, world-class facility and bolster one of UAF's fastest growing academic programs. Other successful FY24 federally supported programs/projects include:

- Arctic coastal mapping
- Alaska radiocarbon research and development
- Forecasting development of Arctic maritime and permafrost conditions
- Ocean-ice-atmosphere observation (PISCES)
- Preserving Alaska Native culture, knowledge and history (Rasmuson Library)
- RISE-UP Initiative
- Suicide prevention on OCONUS installations
- USArray

Our thanks to Executive Director John Latini and Denae Benson for their hard work in Washington D.C. with our federal delegation to make this funding a reality.

Moving forward

In the coming months, the Office of Management and Budget will be working on the FY26 budget items proposed by UAF employees and vetted by the UAF Planning and Budget Committee. I will consider the FY25 budget outcomes and prioritize these new requests with my core cabinet before submitting a request to President Pitney in August, along with a tuition proposal. Select UAF items may be incorporated into the UA FY26 budget request that will be presented to the Board of Regents in the fall.

I want to express my appreciation to UAF fiscal employees for their hard work to close out and restart the fiscal year as we move from FY24 into FY25.

restart the fiscal year as we move from F124 into F125.	
Thanks for choosing UAF.	

—Dan White, chancellor



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September 23, 2024

TO: Anupma Prakash, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Julie Queen, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Nettie La Belle-Hamer, Vice Chancellor for Research

Charlene Stern, Vice Chancellor for Rural Community and Native Education

Owen Guthrie, Vice for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Tom Hough, Executive Director of University Advancement

Nickole Conley, Chief of Staff

FROM: Daniel M. White, Chancellor

RE: FY25 Strategic Investment Allocations

This memorandum outlines my FY25 UAF strategic investment decisions and includes general fund (GF) base funding. UAF continues to stabilize critical and core functions with a specific focus on new revenue generation, faculty support, compliance and safety areas. Investments to support increased enrollment and student success align with Strategic Enrollment Plan (SEP) recommendations. High priority program requests that were part of the FY25 Planning & Budget Committee (PBC) process and State of Alaska operating budget request, but were not appropriated funding, were also considered.

Chancellor's FY25 Strategic Investments (Internal Base Reallocation)				
Cabinet Level	Department	Description	GF Base	
Chancellor	Athletics	Athletics Structural Support	\$900,000	
Provost	CBSM	CBSM Economics & Healthcare Mgmt.	\$140,000	
Provost	CEM	CEM Energy Resource Engineering	\$70,000	
Provost	CFOS	CFOS Marine Policy	\$70,000	
Provost	CLA	CLA Asst. Professor Communications & TA Support	\$100,000	
Provost	CNSM	CNSM Biology & Wildlife	\$70,000	
VCSAEM	VCSAEM	Student Services & Enrollment Marketing	\$380,000	
VCRCNE	CTC	CTC Public Safety Coordinator	\$60,000	
VCAS	Nanook Tech Svcs	Nanook Tech Svcs Stability	\$70,000	
VCAS	OGCA	Grants & Contracts Support	\$70,000	
EDUA	University Relations	Nanook Mascot & Media Support	\$70,000	
		Total UAF FY25 Investments	\$2,000,000	



UAF Financial and Business Services will distribute the funding for the investments listed. Recipients should contact the Office of Finance and Accounting (OFA) to provide an org/fund to facilitate this transfer at their earliest convenience.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me or Vice Chancellor Queen.

cc: Amanda Wall, Associate Vice Chancellor Financial and Business Services
Jason Theis, Director, Office of Finance and Accounting
Briana Walters, Director, Office of Management and Budget





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January 10, 2025

TO: Anupma Prakash, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Julie Queen, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services

Charlene Stern, Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community & Native Education Owen Guthrie, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

Laura Conner, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research

Tom Hough, Executive Director, University Advancement

Nickole Conley, Chief of Staff

FROM: Daniel M. White, Chancellor

RE: 60-Day Hiring Delay

The most recent UAF financial management report (dated October 2024) submitted by the Office of Finance & Accounting (OFA) indicates that unrestricted fund balance (UFB) projections for UAF are approximately \$3M lower than expected based on recent years' data. To meet the annual UFB budget management targets set by the UA system, I am recommending a mid-year adjustment to manage costs across UAF.

Based on our regular financial monitoring, UAF's budget is largely driven by salary and benefits expenditures on unrestricted funds (Fund 1). Although UAF did receive partial support from the State in FY25, it was not enough to fully cover the anticipated cost increases plus fixed cost increases we expect.

I am asking that all units implement a 60-day hiring delay, effective January 13, 2025, on all unrestricted funded positions. This will apply to any position that becomes vacant or is vacant and has not been posted for recruitment and is funded fully or partially on unrestricted funds (Fund 1). Hiring delays will not apply to 100% restricted or externally funded positions (e.g. sponsored research activities, grants, contracts, private, corporate, other).

I delegate you to approve necessary exemptions from this 60-day hiring delay, at your discretion, for the following:



- Positions with partial unrestricted or Fund 1 support that must be filled to support a sponsored or externally funded effort/project (e.g. if a hiring delay may put the institution at financial or other risk),
- Auxiliary, Match Fund, or Recharge Center positions (e.g. funded by rates/external revenues), and
- Other unrestricted funded positions deemed mission-critical (including backfills, lateral transfers, or direct appointments).

This 60-day waiting period for unrestricted positions (prior to posting a vacancy for recruitment) is intended to generate approximately \$3M in savings this fiscal year. I will reexamine this hiring delay as conditions change. This budgetary control mechanism is intended for short-term use, and it will not replace other longer-term efficiency measures the university is and will continue to put into place.

VC Queen, AVC Wall, and OFA Director Theis will continue to gather information to update FY25 management report projections, including new revenue opportunities and adjustments to expenditures.

Thank you for your dedication to UAF.

CC: Memry Dahl, UA Chief Human Resources Officer Kim Washburn, UAF Sr. Human Resources Business Partner





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March 11, 2025

TO: Anupma Prakash, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Julie Queen, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services

Charlene Stern, Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community & Native Education Owen Guthrie, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

Laura Conner, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research

Tom Hough, Executive Director, University Advancement

Nickole Conley, Chief of Staff

FROM: Daniel M. White, Chancellor

RE: Budget Guidance - Actions Required by June 30, 2025 (end of FY25)

As you know, I implemented a 60-day hiring delay for unrestricted funded positions in January of this year, based on the projections available to me from the October 2024 financial management report submitted by the Office of Finance & Accounting (OFA). Thus far, this action is slowing UAF's unrestricted personnel expenditures, which is helpful to UAF in meeting our stated unrestricted fund balance (UFB) targets this fiscal year.

Based on the updated January 2025 reported figures, UAF still has more work to do to meet the <u>UFB guidelines</u>, which require all units to end the year with a positive balance between 2-4% of total revenues (not including Intra-Agency receipts). Exceptions must be reported, and units must be actively managing a plan for deficit recovery where any deficit is projected.

For this reason, and in light of a high degree of uncertainty at the federal level with respect to federal and other sponsored funding (which also helps UAF generate revenues to support facilities and administrative expenses), I am asking that each of you work with VC Queen and arrange a meeting for all units who are not on track to meet their targets to either curtail, delay, or cease expenditures before fiscal year end to meet stated targets (with minimal exceptions for critical items only, to include labor, travel, contractual services, commodities, and other operating budget needs). Action plans should be provided to OFA and built into future projections for the fiscal year.

Where units are likely to hit stated targets, please take actions to bolster those amounts (e.g. manage to 4% UFB or above) to assist UAF's overall liquidity. This will improve our ability to



manage through uncertainty for the remainder of the fiscal year in the likely event circumstances continue to change. Where expenditures can be delayed, reduced, or stopped (without increasing unnecessary cost or risk), please take those actions in the near term. Where actions require longer term adjustments or consideration of personnel actions, please work with UA Human Resources and your unit leaders, as per our usual procedures.

OFA will be increasing the number of management reports, moving from quarterly to monthly, in order to have the most up-to-date and accurate projections as we continue to monitor our financial health this year. The next report will be due March 18th (for February) and should include consideration of this guidance.

This budgetary control mechanism is intended for short-term use, and does not replace other longer-term efficiency measures the university is and will continue to put into place.

VC Queen, AVC Wall, and OFA Director Theis will continue to gather information to update FY25 management report projections, including new revenue opportunities and adjustments to expenditures.

Thank you for your dedication to UAF.

CC: Memry Dahl, UA Chief Human Resources Officer Kim Washburn, UAF Sr. Human Resources Business Partner Amanda Wall, AVC Financial & Business Services Jason Theis, OFA Director





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DATE: April 2, 2025

TO: Anupma Prakash, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Julie Queen, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services

Charlene Stern, Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community & Native Education Owen Guthrie, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

Laura Conner, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research

Tom Hough, Executive Director, University Advancement

Nickole Conley, Chief of Staff

FROM: Daniel M. White, Chancellor

RE: Unrestricted Travel Restrictions through June 30, 2025

Unrestricted Contractual Services & Commodities \$100K Review Requirement

Please allow this memo to serve as an update to my March 11th budget guidance. In order to support UAF's ability to achieve unrestricted unreserved fund balance (UFB) targets for FY25 and increase UAF's liquidity to manage the dynamic and uncertain Federal climate, the following financial controls will be implemented, in addition to others (e.g. 60-day hiring delay, reduced unrestricted discretionary expenditures) already in place, effectively immediately:

Travel

For the period April 2, 2025, through June 30, 2025, all travel requests on unrestricted funds must be approved by the cognizant Vice Chancellor. Only essential travel will be approved. Examples of non-essential travel include, but are not limited to, travel for professional development, conferences, or other activities that could be delayed or canceled without adding substantial institutional risk.

This does not apply to travel on restricted funds or sponsored travel for university business, unless otherwise limited by the funding agency or sponsor.

I will review this again in the coming months to determine whether this end-date is sufficient to meet stated targets or whether the restriction will continue into FY26 (July 1, 2025).

Amanda Lash, UAF Travel Customer Service Office (TSCO) Director, will provide Vice Chancellors a projected spend report with all unrestricted travel that has not yet occurred. Each



Vice Chancellor, in communication with the traveler and/or supervisor, may determine whether planned travel should be reevaluated.

Contractual Services & Commodities Operating Expenditures

For contractual services and commodities (supplies) and other similar operating budget categories using unrestricted funds, there is already guidance in place to delay, reduce or stop expenditures (without increasing unnecessary cost or risk), where possible to do so.

Any unrestricted procurement over \$100,000 will now be subject to Vice Chancellor approval before processing through Procurement & Contract Services, Facilities Services, or similar contracting or payment offices/mechanisms.

OFA will continue to monitor monthly management reports and provide projection updates to me and VC Queen. The next report will be due April 15th (for March).

This budgetary control mechanism is intended for short-term use, and it will not replace other longer-term efficiency measures the university is and will continue to practice.

Thank you.

CC: Amanda Wall, AVC Financial & Business Services
Jason Theis, OFA Director
Amanda Lash, TSCO Director
Kara Axx, UA Chief Procurement Officer



FY25 Federal Appropriations Request and Funding Outcomes (UAF only)				
FY25 fiscal year: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025				
UAF Project Title	UAF Contact Name	Туре	Requested Amount	Final FY25 Funded Amount
Enhanced Air Force Weather	Mike West	Plus Up	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -
National Coastal Mapping	Erin Trochim	Plus Up	\$ 15,000,000	\$ -
Pathfinder Arctic	James Morton	Plus Up	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -
Poker Flat Upgrades	Bob McCoy	Plus Up	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
Resilient Autonomous Sensing in the Arctic	Cathy Cahill	Plus Up	\$ 10,500,000	\$ -
RISE-UP	Peter Webley	Plus Up	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 7,000,000
Improving Salmon Counting with Drone Maritime Lidar	Michael Roddewig	Earmark	\$ 1,991,403	\$ -
Suicide Prevention for Rural, Remote, Isolated, and OCONUS Military Installations	James Morton	Plus Up	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -
Tsunami Risk Reduction in Alaska	Mike West	Plus Up	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -
USArray	Mike West	Plus Up	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
Cover Crop and Grain Variety	Jodie Anderson	Plus Up	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000

Chancellor's Budget Update: Nov. 21, 2024

UAF hosted the annual Chancellor's Forum on the Budget on Oct. 29th, 2024. At the forum, Vice Chancellor Julie Queen, Vice Chancellor Owen Guthrie, and Director of Office of Management and Budget Briana Walters gave updates on the FY25 budget outcomes, the current FY26 budget status, FY27 funding opportunities, and proposed tuition rate changes for fall 2025. If you were unable to attend, a recording of the event is available on the UAF YouTube page. The following is an update of the topics discussed at the forum, outcomes from the recent Board of Regents meeting, and additional information about the budget process.

UAF FY26 State Budget Request

The UA Board of Regents met in Fairbanks earlier this month and UA recently communicated and <u>approved the FY26 UA Operating and Capital state budget request.</u> Some highlights of the request are detailed below.

Operating Budget

Employee Compensation & Fixed Costs

The University of Alaska (UA) System submitted a compensation request that includes increases for employee groups as included in collective bargaining agreements, and a 2.75% wage increase for unrepresented staff. Faculty contracts (United Academics or UNAC and United Academics Adjunct or UNAD) expire in FY25, and negotiations for FY26 are in progress. Once a tentative agreement has been reached with each group, a state funding request will be made through the appropriate legislative process. Updates on the negotiations are available here.
UA-wide fixed cost increases are also included to help UAF with the rising costs of existing infrastructure requirements (e.g. utilities costs, maintenance and repair), and contractual services (e.g. IT software annual cost increases, custodial services).

Enrollment and Economic Growth

In addition to compensation and fixed costs needs, a \$2.5 million operating budget was approved to help UAF with essential recruitment and retention initiatives as well as for graduation support and economic development for Alaska. Specifically, this includes funding to support strategic enrollment marketing, student advising support, enrollment initiatives in new or growing target markets, technology enhancement, and campus safety.

Athletics

The BoR also approved a \$2.5 million initiative to enhance UAF's competitiveness and excellence in Nanook Athletics. This request ensures a stable operating base for the Athletics program and continued gender equity with scholarships. UAF will continue to earn revenue through the Athletics program, seek and strengthen corporate partnerships and sponsorships, and expand Name Image Likeness (NIL) opportunities for student-athletes. This approval was coupled with a \$2.5 million initiative for UAA Athletics.

A link to the approved operating budget is available here.

Capital Budget

In the capital budget, the BoR approved UAF requests:

- \$18 million for Seward Marine Center infrastructure and shore side ship support (pending a National Science Foundation award for a new dock for the Sikuliaq;
- \$7.5 million of continuation funding to support our goal of achieving R1 Research status;
- \$14 million for Year 4 of the UAF Drone Program;
- \$10 million for energy transitions, carbon monitoring and research compliance;
- \$5 million for agriculture and food systems security research; and
- receipt authority to address increased non-state revenue generation.

Additionally, UA will continue to pursue a deferred maintenance and modernization strategy with the legislature and Governor to ensure our facilities help support UAF's enrollment goals and modern student needs.

A link to the approved capital budget is available here.

Operating and capital requests will go forward to the Governor for consideration, and the Governor will release his initial budget in mid-December. The legislative session begins in January and typically concludes in late spring. The final budget is typically released in May or June.

Tuition Rate Changes Effective Fall 2025

UA proposed modest increases of 3 percent across the board to all resident tuition rates and 5 percent to nonresident rates. The BoR approved the rates at their November meeting. These rate increases are effective Fall 2025. UAF continues to focus on increasing financial aid and scholarships available for students.

Get Involved

Budget planning for FY27 has begun. FY27 begins July 1, 2026 and ends June 30, 2027. The Planning and Budget Committee, co-chaired by Vice Chancellor Queen and Provost Prakash, plays a pivotal role in shaping our budget. The PBC is composed of representatives from across UAF, including Governance delegates. This committee reviews proposals for future state funding requests, evaluates recommendations from Strategic Enrollment Planning teams, and considers tuition rate changes in a budget context. The committee then recommends funding for well-developed proposals with a high return on investment to the Chancellor for consideration. An RFP for FY27 budget requests has been issued, kicking-off planning for the next state budget cycle.

<u>Strategic Enrollment Planning</u> (SEP), chaired by Vice Chancellor Owen Guthrie, is in its seventh year. SEP has been instrumental in shaping the trajectory of our institution, and your contributions have played a crucial role in its success. Faculty and staff are invited to <u>submit proposals</u> focused on increasing student enrollment, retention and student success.

Both PBC and SEP proposals must demonstrate strong return on investment and are due January 31, 2025.

As a UAF employee and community member, there are many ways to get involved in our budget process. Advocacy tools and tips, including sample advocacy letters and UAF points of pride can be found on the Chancellor's website. The UA Office of Government Relations website also has information for individuals who want to advocate on a local, state and Federal level. As an advocate, the most important thing is to tell your story and share why UAF matters to you.

Thanks for choosing UAF.

-- Dan White, chancellor



Daniel M. White, Chancellor P.O. Box 757500 Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7500

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www.uaf.edu/chancellor/

DATE: June 2, 2025

TO: Charlene Stern, Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Julie Queen, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services

Laura Conner, Vice Chancellor for Research

Bryan Uher, Interim Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community & Native Education

Owen Guthrie, Vice for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

Tom Hough, Executive Director of University Advancement

Nickole Conley, Chief of Staff

FROM: Daniel M. White, Chancellor

RE: FY26 Budget Planning Guidance

This memo serves to document our FY26 budget planning scenario prior to the conclusion of the Alaska Legislature and Governor's regular budget process.

To date, UAF has implemented a series of <u>cost containment measures in FY25</u> to ensure we meet UA system-wide targets for the unreserved fund balance (UFB) by fiscal year end on June 30, 2025.

To start FY26, I will be maintaining the 60-day hiring delay, the freeze on non-essential travel and expenditures, and the cognizant Vice Chancellor-level (VC) review of procurements that exceed \$100,000 on unrestricted funds. As the Governor has also issued guidance implementing similar short-term strategies for other applicable state agencies, I am extending these UAF-internal measures through July as a prudent way to ensure UAF has adequate liquidity to manage the uncertain financial landscape. This UAF guidance will be reviewed again after the outcomes of the state budget process are known.

Based on UA budget guidance, we are assuming the current UA compensation and fixed cost line items will be retained in the FY26 operating budget. We remain optimistic that the Governor will maintain these critical fixed cost and compensation increments in his final budget. If this changes, we will revisit this planning approach and I will communicate any changes to you in revised guidance.

Our fixed cost increases are estimated at \$4 million moving into FY26, which is below the amount that would be allocated to UAF, even if maintained in the Governor's final budget. For this reason, our FY26 planning scenario must include a reallocation specifically targeted to central fixed costs, in addition to strategic investments.

While no additional funding was added to UAF's R1 initiative in the legislative budget, it is great news that it appears we will retain authorization to continue spending the R1 funds we received last year in support of increasing PhD graduates, faculty mentorship, and student



services. Unfortunately, all other UAF program requests, including additional one-time R1 funds, investments for enrollment and Alaska economic growth, and athletics operating increments, were not included by the Legislature for state appropriation in FY26.

The capital budget contains one UAF high priority facility modernization project, which was supported by the Legislature at \$5.6 million (lower than the requested \$12 million for this project). Assuming this allocation stays in the Governor's final budget, this amount will permit some facility modernization work. Unfortunately, it will not enable UAF to complete all three critical roofing projects specified within this request. This work will be adjusted based on the final capital budget outcomes.

It is encouraging to see that the Legislature's capital budget included \$53 million in receipt authority to support UAF's Troth Yeddha' Indigenous Studies Center fundraising campaign. This approval demonstrates the Legislature's commitment to UAF's fundraising efforts for the major construction project. Additional capital investments for GI/ACUASI, IANRE/Agriculture, ACEP/Energy, and CFOS/Carbon Monitoring were not included.

As part of UAF's FY26 operating budget strategy I am encouraging you all to do what you can to increase enrollment, develop new lines of revenue (such as IP licensing), and maintaining stringent cost controls. I also ask that all VCs target a 2.5% unrestricted fund (F1) reduction for strategic reallocation.

In addition, because the federal climate remains uncertain, we will also adjust the planning assumptions accordingly if there is a significant change in federal funding or facilities and administrative (F&A) rates. Information will be provided in these areas as it is available.

I have asked that VC Queen apply the FY26 reallocation as follows:

- \$2 million will be directed to central fixed costs.
- \$2.6 million will be directed to strategic needs, including but not limited to modernizing the student experience which may include facility improvements, student success or enrollment/retention initiatives, and compliance areas including athletics.

VC Queen has provided details on the amounts for reallocation. If you would like to make any adjustments to the application within your management areas, please provide those adjustments to VC Queen or Jason Theis, Director of Finance and Accounting.

Thank you for all that you do for UAF.

Cc: Amanda Wall, AVC Financial and Business Services Jason Theis, Director, Finance and Accounting Briana Walters, Director, Management and Budget



Daniel M. White, Chancellor

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DATE: July 11, 2025

TO: Charlene Stern, Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Julie Queen, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services

Laura Conner, Vice Chancellor for Research

Bryan Uher, Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community & Native Education Owen Guthrie, Vice for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Tom Hough, Executive Director of University Advancement

Nickole Conley, Chief of Staff

FROM: Daniel M. White, Chancellor

RE: FY26 Chancellor's Strategic Investments

This memorandum outlines my FY26 UAF strategic investment decisions applying unrestricted general fund (UGF or "base" operating funds). UAF continues to stabilize critical and core functions with a specific focus on revenue generation, enrollment and retention efforts, critical compliance areas, and campus safety.

Investments to support increased enrollment and student success align with the Strategic Enrollment Plan (SEP) recommendations. High priority program requests that were part of the FY26 State of Alaska operating budget request, but were not appropriated funding, were also considered.

Chancellor's FY26 Strategic Investments (Base Operating Reallocation – UGF)				
Cabinet Member	Department	Description	UGF Base	
Chancellor	Athletics*	Athletics Structural Support	\$1,000,000	
Chancellor	UR/SBO	Structural Support	\$175,000	
VCSAEM	VCSAEM*	Student Services, Enrollment Management	\$1,000,000	
		Structural Support		
VCR	VCR	VCR Support, Research Compliance	\$200,000	
VCAS	VCAS	Grants & Contracts Administration Support,	\$200,000	
		Financial Services		
VCRCNE	CIS	Operations & Program Support	\$25,000	
	_	Total FY26 UAF Investments	\$2,600,000	

^{*}Expectations for FY26 UFB will be provided to each unit.

UAF Financial and Business Services will distribute the funding for the investments listed. Recipients should contact the Office of Finance & Accounting (OFA) to provide a fund/org to facilitate the transfer at their earliest convenience. If you have questions please contact VC Queen.

CC: Amanda Wall, AVC Financial and Business Services Jason Theis, Director, Finance and Accounting Briana Walters, Director, Management and Budget





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University of Alaska Fairbanks

DATE: July 21, 2025

TO: Charlene Stern, Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Julie Queen, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services

Laura Conner, Vice Chancellor for Research

Bryan Uher, Interim Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community & Native Education

Owen Guthrie, Vice for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

Tom Hough, Executive Director of University Advancement

FROM: Daniel M. White, Chancellor

RE: FY26 Budget Planning Guidance – Extended Cost Containment Measures

In FY25, UAF implemented a series of <u>cost containment measures</u> to ensure we meet UA system-wide targets for the unreserved fund balance (UFB) by the end of the fiscal year, which was on June 30, 2025. I am pleased to report, UAF is closing out the fiscal year and expects to meet those targets thanks to the hard work you have done to reduce expenditures and increase revenues during this uncertain time.

In May, I extended these UAF-internal cost controls through July as a prudent way to ensure UAF had adequate liquidity to manage the uncertain financial landscape. Now that the State budget outcomes have been incorporated into FY26 start-up operations, several UAF leaders have asked for guidance beyond a month-to-month approach to improve planning for the academic year ahead.

The federal climate is still quite dynamic. Therefore, I have asked all deans and directors for planning scenarios, should a large-scale reduction or a significant change to facilities and administrative (F&A) rates go into effect. These planning scenarios are being submitted to VC Queen and will be shared with the incoming Interim Chancellor, Mike Sfraga.

Because the federal climate remains uncertain, and pending any future redirection from Interim Chancellor Sfraga, I am extending the cost containment measures already in place through FY26, i.e. a 60-day hiring delay on unrestricted positions, restricting non-essential travel, contractual, and commodity expenditures, and elevated approval by the respective VC for essential contractual services >\$100,000, when funded by unrestricted sources.

Moving forward, this UAF guidance will be reviewed at the discretion of Interim Chancellor Sfraga. Information will continue to be provided as it is available. Thank you for all you do for UAF.

CC: Amanda Wall, AVC Financial and Business Services Jason Theis, Director, Finance and Accounting Briana Walters, Director, Management and Budget



Friday Focus: 'Tis the season for snow and updates

Nov. 14, 2025

— By Julie Queen, vice chancellor for administrative services

As the snow is settling in and we are nearing the holidays (ready or not), I cannot tell you how excited I am to wax up my Nordic skis to hit the trails. For those who love the snow, now we're ready for more so we can put it to good use! Please keep an eye out for the upcoming <u>US Ski and Snowboard SuperTour</u> presented by the National Nordic Foundation. This is the highest level of Nordic ski competition in the country, and racers will spend a day on the new UAF Competition Trails on Dec. 6, 2025, for a classic sprint race. If you can't get enough, day two of competition will be held at the Jim Whisenhant Trails at Birch Hill. What a great way to showcase what Fairbanks has to offer for winter sports - I hope to see you there!

This week brings big news at many levels, and it is nice to share some updates, along with outcomes from the recent UA Board of Regents' meeting.

First, it is excellent to see the Federal government reopen. This is much larger than our university community alone, and it is so meaningful to Alaska and the nation to have things working again.

Next, the UA Board of Regents' meeting concluded in Anchorage last week with decisions on the FY27 university budget, fall 2026 tuition rates, and enrollment and retention initiatives, including a new housing development in the works for UAF students.

Regents approved the UA operating and capital budgets, prioritizing student recruitment and improving graduation rates, along with increased support for student mental health and wellness services, public safety improvements, and fixed cost increases. The package includes a 3% across-the-board salary increase for bargaining units with contracts, and 3% for non-represented staff. UA continues to prioritize addressing facilities maintenance projects system-wide, in addition to capital investments that may renew and replace aging UAF facilities, such as the Whitaker Fire Hall. UAF also secured support to request continued R1 funding to increase the number of Ph.D. graduates, along with other high-priority research initiatives in areas such as drones and critical minerals research and development.

Regents heard a presentation on a UA-wide <u>housing modernization plan</u> and included support in the UA Capital Budget request that, if approved through the State of Alaska budget process, would enable UAF to remove dated graduate student, employee, and family housing, replacing it with 75 graduate student apartments and a mix of roughly 30 single and double-bedroom townhouse units that could serve an estimate up to 250 students and affiliates (based on the occupancy of suites, efficiency units, and 1-bedroom and multi-bedroom units). This Phase I project is linked to UAF's broader enrollment and retention strategies and supports R1 research efforts. What an amazing step forward for UAF! If able to move forward, this project has the potential to reduce constraints in the Fairbanks-area housing market, meet UAF waitlist demand, and attract out-of-state and local students to a vibrant campus community.

Regents also approved a modest 4% tuition increase that will go into effect in fall 2026. UAF remains an affordable option for students seeking a high-quality education and is making additional strides to improve transparency on the total cost of attendance and the options for financial aid packages for students.

For more information about the budget, I invite you to join Interim Chancellor Mike Sfraga and me, along with a few of our friends and colleagues, at the upcoming Budget Forum on Nov. 20 from 1-2 p.m. in the Wood Center Ballroom. The event will also be streamed online on <u>UAF's YouTube page</u>. We look forward to sharing information and answering questions - in the midst of a highly dynamic time, there is always something great happening at UAF!

Friday Focus is written by a different member of UAF's leadership team every week.

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Chripma Plakash

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 20, 2024

TO: Daniel M. White, Chancellor.

THROUGH: Anupma Prakash, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, PBC Co-Chair

Julie Queen, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, PBC Co-Chair

FROM: Karen Mallette, Administrative Services Representative

Tom Hough, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Representative

Ellen Lopez, Academic Affairs Representative Nickole Conley, Chancellor's Office Representative

Anne Doyle, Rural and Community Development Representative

Sheena Tanner, Community and Technical College (CTC) Representative

Jeremy Kasper, Research Representative Abel Bult-Ito, Faculty Senate Representative Shannon Watson, Staff Council Representative Charlye Levine, ASUAF Student Representative*

RE: Planning and Budget Committee Proposal Ranking Summary

Last fall, Provost Prakash and Vice Chancellor Queen solicited proposals on behalf of the Planning and Budget Committee (PBC) for strategic investment including operational needs for consideration for FY26 state funding. Proposals are required to align with and support student success, UAF Strategic Goals, UA Goals and Measures and NWCCU standards. This year, deans and directors vetted proposals from their respective areas first and were permitted to submit their top two proposals to PBC for review and ranking.

A total of 48 proposals were received by UAF OMB and after dean and director vetting, 42 were reviewed by PBC during March, April and May. A summary is attached.

PBC assessed each proposal and ranked it on a blue, gold, and red scale, defined below.

- Blue: Excellent excellent proposal in all respects, merits high priority support or reallocation, and/or leverages existing resources to achieve results.
- Gold: Very good to good merits support, benefits are clear.
- Red: Some good ideas/needs further development needs additional context or maturity prior to investment.



The committee valued strong return on investment (ROI), proposals that support R1 efforts, graduate student support, high demand academic programs and compliance/regulatory improvements. Overall, the committee was impressed with the variety of needs and the quality of submissions; this is revealed in the committee's rankings.

The committee additionally took a thoughtful approach to partial funding, making comments where some funding would be necessary, but in some cases, could be reduced to allow room for more proposals to be considered. This is based on the assumption that funding opportunities at the UA or State level will be very limited, and guidance from the UA System Office is not yet available for FY26. Proposals that received committee support at a reduced dollar amount are denoted with an asterisk * in the attachment.

- The majority of proposals were unanimously voted "blue" (23 out of 42 total), making them the highest category recommended for funding consideration.
- Nine proposals were ranked "majority blue" support, and received up to two gold votes.
- Six proposals were ranked "majority blue" support, and received up to four gold votes or a red vote, moving them down the list.
- Three proposals were ranked "majority gold".
- One proposal was moved to the capital request for consideration.

	Proposal	FY26	FY26	FY26
Proposal Rank	Count	BASE	ONE-TIME	TOTAL
Unanimous BLUE votes	23	\$6,119,982	\$250,198	\$6,370,180
Majority BLUE with up to 2 GOLD votes	9	\$1,865,911	\$108,500	\$1,974,411
Majority BLUE with up to 4 GOLD votes and 1 RED vote	6	\$1,086,603	\$21,455	\$1,108,058
Majority GOLD with up to 1 RED vote	3	\$95,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,295,000
Subtotal: All Ranked Proposals	41	\$9,167,496	\$1,580,153	\$10,747,649
Capital	1	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
Grand Total	42	\$9,767,496	\$1,580,153	\$11,347,649

Some proposals (4) were submitted through both the Strategic Enrollment Planning (SEP) and PBC processes. Vice Chancellor Guthrie shared ranked SEP proposals with PBC and while PBC did not rank SEP proposals, the presentation allowed PBC the opportunity to evaluate their merits and ask questions. PBC appreciates the SEP Committee efforts and endorses their evaluations and rankings. PBC also recommends that requests for new faculty hires associated with new academic programs that are in development or in planning, could be submitted through the SEP Committee to strengthen the ROI analysis regarding funding opportunities.

Separately, the Tuition and Fee Committee recommended tuition rate changes for fall 2025. The recommendation memo was shared with PBC as part of the larger context of planning and budgeting.

The committee looks forward to addressing any questions.

Appendix 4.D.2

^{*}Did not attend all meetings; therefore initial votes were not included in final rankings, and would not have altered final outcomes.

Anupma Prakash Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor 907-474-7096 907-474-1836 fax uaf-provost@alaska.edu www.uaf.edu/provost



Julie Queen Vice Chancellor Administrative Services (907) 474-7907 julie.queen@alaska.edu www.uaf.edu/adminsvc

UP

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2025

TO: Daniel M. White, Chancellor

THROUGH: Anupma Prakash, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, PBC &-Chair

Julie Queen, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, PBC Co-Chair

FROM: Karen Mallette, Administrative Services Representative

Stephen Phillips, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Representative

Bill Schnabel, Academic Affairs Representative Nickole Conley, Chancellor's Office Representative

Anne Doyle, Rural and Community Development Representative

Sheena Tanner, Community and Technical College (CTC) Representative

Franz Meyer, Research Representative Abel Bult-Ito, Faculty Senate Representative Shannon Watson, Staff Council Representative Paul Menke, ASUAF Student Representative

RE: Planning and Budget Committee FY27 Proposal Ranking Summary

Last fall, on behalf of the Planning and Budget Committee (PBC), Provost Prakash and Vice Chancellor Queen invited proposals for FY27 state funding, including requests for both operating and capital research needs. Proposals were required to align with and support student success, UAF Strategic Goals, mission fulfillment indicators, academic plan, NWCCU standards, and UA Goals and Measures (now known as Roadmap to Empower Alaska). Deans and directors vetted proposals from their respective areas first and were permitted to submit their top two proposals to PBC for review and ranking.

A total of 23 proposals were received by UAF OMB and include 19 operating (base) funding requests totaling \$6.1 million, and 4 capital research requests totaling \$32.7 million (one-time funding over a five-year period).

PBC convened during February and March to review and rank all proposals. A summary is attached.

PBC assessed each proposal and ranked it on a blue, gold, and red scale, defined below.

- Blue: Excellent excellent proposal in all respects, merits high priority support or reallocation, and/or leverages existing resources to achieve results.
- Gold: Very good to good merits support, benefits are clear.



 Red: Some good ideas/needs further development - needs additional context or maturity prior to investment.

The committee valued strong return on investment (ROI), proposals that support R1 efforts, critical staffing support, and safety initiatives. The committee was divided on the philosophy of hiring tenure-track versus term-funded faculty. Some members preferred tenure-track hires for the stability and long-term commitment they offer, while others favored term-funded positions due to their budgetary efficiency and greater flexibility.

The committee additionally took a thoughtful approach to partial funding, making comments where some funding would be necessary, but in some cases, could be reduced to allow room for more proposals to be considered. This is based on the assumption that funding opportunities at the UA or State level will be very limited, and guidance from the UA System Office is not yet available for FY27. Proposals that received committee support at a reduced dollar amount are denoted with an asterisk * in the attachment.

Overall, the committee was impressed with the variety of needs and the quality of submissions; this is revealed in the committee's discussion and rankings.

- Four proposals were unanimously voted "blue", making them the highest category recommended for funding consideration.
- Nine proposals were ranked "majority blue" support, and received up to two gold votes.
- Six proposals were ranked "majority blue" support, and received up to four gold votes or a red vote, moving them down the list.
- One proposal was "tied" with 5 blue votes and 5 gold votes.
- Three proposals were ranked "majority gold" with some blue votes.

Proposal Rank	Proposal Count	FY27 Operating	FY27 Capital Research	FY27 TOTAL
Unanimous BLUE votes	4	\$1,041,174		\$1,041,174
Majority BLUE with up to 2 GOLD votes	9	\$1,860,400	\$17,684,851	\$19,545,251
Majority BLUE with up to 4 GOLD votes and 1 RED vote	6	\$2,063,904		\$2,063,904
Tied BLUE & GOLD (5 blue and 5 gold)	1		\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Majority GOLD with up to 4 BLUE votes	3	\$1,100,000	\$5,000,000	\$6,100,000
Total: All Ranked Proposals	23	\$6,065,478	\$32,684,851	\$38,750,329

Vice Chancellor Guthrie shared ranked Strategic Enrollment Planning (SEP) proposals with PBC and while PBC did not rank SEP proposals, the presentation allowed PBC the opportunity to evaluate their merits and ask questions. PBC appreciates the SEP Committee efforts and endorses their evaluations and rankings.

Separately, the Tuition Committee will convene to consider tuition rate scenarios for fall 2026. Any recommendation will be shared with PBC as part of the larger context of planning and budgeting for awareness.

The committee looks forward to addressing any questions.