

UAF, TVCC would be merged in major reorganization plan

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Facing unprecedented revenue reductions of more than \$60 million over a two-year period, the University of Alaska must undergo a major reorganization, increase tuition and, possibly, eliminate athletic programs at the NCAA level, according to UA President Donald O'Dowd.

O'Dowd recommended the reorganization efforts today in a speech

to the school's statewide assembly in Anchorage.

Under the reorganization, the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and Tanana Valley Community College would be merged into a single institution. The University of Alaska-Juneau would be restructured as an undergraduate college and its pupil/teacher ratio increased from one teacher for 10 students to one teacher for 15. And the university's five major administrative units would be reduced to three

major administrative units, saving the statewide system some \$5 million.

Those were just a few of the changes O'Dowd recommended in his speech at the university's Anchorage campus, a campus he proposed to merge with Anchorage Community College and which would also absorb the Matanuska-Susitna and Kenai Peninsula community colleges.

O'Dowd said the university reorganization is the result of the drop

in the price of oil and in state revenues. He said the university has been ordered to cut its budget by more than \$60 million, or 35 percent, in a two-year period. In spite of the cuts, the university's first priority must still be that of delivering quality education to Alaskans, he said.

"The present (university) structure has merit and it certainly delivers a lot of good educational services," O'Dowd said. "However, it has one major limitation—it is a

very expensive way to deliver education."

To reduce that expense, O'Dowd envisions major organizational changes for all the university's campuses.

"The University at Fairbanks would establish a college to serve rural Alaska which would deliver bachelor of arts courses to the smaller communities in rural and Native settings," O'Dowd said. Under this recommended structure
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Budget cuts, oil drop force O'Dowd to act

The University of Alaska statewide system has been hit with unprecedented revenue cuts, requiring a massive reorganization of the institution's administration, curricula, programs and fees.

Following are the events that led UA President Donald O'Dowd to make today's recommendations for restructuring the university.

- The 1985 state Legislature reduced statewide budget for FY 1986 (which began in July 1985) by 4 percent or \$7 million.
- In 1986, oil prices dropped,

and the university's FY 1987 budget (which into effect this past July) was reduced another \$15 million.

- This year, the governor ordered the university to pare its FY 1988 budget by another \$10 million.

- Additional new costs to the university, such as increased insurance premiums, reduced the budget by another \$8 million.

- Late last August, the governor requested the university cut an additional \$21 million from its FY 1988 budget.

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