



Resolution 20-02

A Resolution Opposing the Proposal to Merge the University of Alaska Southeast into Another UA University and Supporting Due Diligence on Making UAS the Administrative Home for Rural Community Campuses across the State

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) is an economic driver within Southeast Alaska, and a resource the region cannot afford to lose, downgrade, or diminish – particularly during these difficult economic times when state government employment, tourism industry, ferry system, and many defining aspects of our community and Southeast communities have been devastated; and

WHEREAS, the UAS is critical to educational opportunities in Southeast Alaska and is key to helping young people remain in the region as successful adults; and

WHEREAS, the UAS is vital to providing and maintaining a skilled, highly trained, workforce capable of working across Southeast Alaska's businesses and industries, harnessing the region's best economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, programs such as those offered through the Maritime Training Center, teacher accreditation program, and the certified nursing assistant program have been pathways to viable local employment opportunities for the residents of Southeast Alaska and are a critical component of the Southeast Alaska Economic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska's (UA) budget has been already been significantly reduced, UAS has proportionally reduced more staffing than any other Major Administrative Unit with the UA system, and will be reduced further over a three-year period, thereby already requiring changes to the University's structure, programs and personnel; and

WHEREAS, even if UAS were eliminated entirely, it would only save 7.6% of the UA general fund support, nowhere near enough to address the 10% budget deficit; and

2). Southeast Conference requests that the UA Administration consult and directly engage with Southeast Alaska communities before acting on any proposals of elimination, merger, or other significant changes to the structure of UAS.

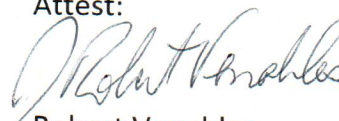
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southeast Conference Board of Directors supports and encourages the Board of Regents to conduct due diligence on making UAS the administrative home for rural campuses to achieve the stated goals of realizing UGF cost savings, the ability to ensure student access and affordability, opportunity to support the mission focus and the time and ease of implementation of said measures.

Adopted by the Southeast Conference on May 29th, 2020.

Witness by:


Alec Mesdag
President

Attest:


Robert Venables
Executive Director