

Coalition of Student Leaders
2025 Yukon Drive
P.O. Box 757780
Fairbanks, AK 99775



208 Butrovich Building
(907) 450-8040
ua-sygov-coalition@lists.alaska.edu
alaska.edu/governance/student-coalition/

February 25, 2019

Dear Legislators:

Please find enclosed Resolution 2019-04 In Extreme Concern of the Proposed FY 20 UA Funding passed by the Coalition of Student Leaders at its February 18 meeting.

Students at all University of Alaska campuses are extremely worried about Governor Dunleavy's proposed FY20 budget. The Coalition felt compelled to draft this resolution in order to clearly express its position on cuts to university funding.

The Coalition consists of elected student government leaders from each UA campus with an active student association. It functions as an advisory group to the University of Alaska president and administration on systemwide student affairs issues including but not limited to tuition and fees, financial aid and scholarships, residence life, minority and rural student services, student grievances, student tools and resources, and student employee relations. Any actions taken by the Coalition solely represent students and their perspectives.

The Coalition of Student Leaders will hold its annual legislative conference and fly-in March 16-19 in Juneau. We hope to meet with you and further discuss our commitment to high quality education in Alaska and how the University can best serve Alaska in the future.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this resolution or if you have any questions for the Coalition.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Nick Bursell

9458D5A246FB4B4
Nick Bursell, Chair
Coalition of Student Leaders
University of Alaska

[enclosure]



Coalition of Student Leaders

Resolution AY2019-04 In Extreme Concern of the Proposed FY20 UA Funding

- Whereas,** On February 13th, 2019, Governor Dunleavy proposed a budget allocating \$193 million to the University of Alaska (UA), a reduction of around 41% to the current budget, the largest cut over the 100-year history of the UA system; **and**
- Whereas,** The University of Alaska system receives over one-third of its annual funding from state appropriations; **and**
- Whereas,** Over \$195 million has been cut from the university over the last five years, which has resulted in increased tuition costs, a 15% reduction of staffing (a loss of about 1,200 jobs), the elimination of 50 academic programs, and a \$1.2 billion backlog of deferred maintenance; **and**
- Whereas,** The uncertainty from continual cuts has been damaging to the morale and efficiency of the University of Alaska and has led to a loss of credibility to gain enrollment numbers, resulting in losses to tuition - another large portion of the UA budget; **and**
- Whereas,** These proposed cuts will result in even further losses of programs, jobs, and necessary maintenance, as well as closures of campuses, significant raises in tuition, and major long-term consequences to the economic development of the State of Alaska; **and**
- Whereas,** Multiple UA students cite competitive tuition costs, convenience, and desire to be in Alaska as reasons they chose to attend a UA institution; **and**
- Whereas,** Students and Alaskans will be forced to seek outside educational options, and potentially lose the opportunity to seek a post-secondary education in their home state; **and**
- Whereas,** Several current legislators are UA graduates, and Governor Dunleavy ran a campaign platform that highlighted a background in education; **and**

Whereas, The extensive UA alumni network continues to contribute to and support the wellbeing of the State of Alaska; **and**

Whereas, Statistics from the Alliance for Excellent Education provide a direct link to lowered crime rates with the increase in value for education; **and**

Whereas, UA is home to nearly 31,000 students and voters; **and**

Whereas, UA student efforts and future prospects hold one of the main long-term solutions to the State of Alaska's financial problems; **and now therefore let it be**

Resolved,

The Coalition of Student Leaders stands in opposition to the proposed budget, and declares it a threat upon the cause of education and the future of the State of Alaska; **and**

Be it Further Resolved,

That the Coalition of Student Leaders stands in support of the UA Board of Regents' proposed budget, and encourages that Alaskans not be forced to choose between locations that value their education and growing futures; **and**

Be it Further Resolved,

That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to the offices of Governor Dunleavy, Senate President Cathy Giessel, Speaker of the House Bryce Edgmon, Senate Finance Committee Co-chairs Bert Stedman and Natasha von Imhof, and House Finance Committee Co-chairs Neal Foster, and Tammie Wilson and Vice-Chair Jennifer Johnston.

Statement of Purpose: To express the concern of the Coalition of Student Leaders regarding the proposed FY20 UA Funding.

This resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0 on the 18th of February 2019.

DocuSigned by:

Nick Bursell

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Nick Bursell, Chair, Coalition of Student Leaders

February 20, 2019

Date