

**CONTACT**

Geser Bat-Erdene  
Student Body President  
University of Alaska Anchorage  
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February 25, 2019

Dear Governor Mike Dunleavy:

My name is Geser Bat-Erdene, I am a graduating senior majoring in Finance at the University of Alaska Anchorage and I am the UAA Student Body President. The Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage (USUAA) is the student government association on campus that represents the voices of over 17 thousand university students.

On February 15, 2019, the USUAA General Assembly has voted and passed the ***Resolution #19-06: In Extreme Concern of the Proposed FY20 UA Funding*** in response to the budget proposed by your office on February 13, 2019, that allocates \$193 million to the University of Alaska (UA), a reduction of around 41% to the current budget. We believe that proposed cuts will result in even further losses of programs, jobs, and necessary maintenance, as well as closures of campuses, significant raises in tuition.

We foresee that the reduction in budget will diminish the economic development and the ability for human capital to stay in the State of Alaska. Investment in education will lead to a more prosperous future for our state. Thus, we urge you to reconsider the UA Board of Regents' proposed budget.

Please feel free to communicate with me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Geser Bat-Erdene*

Geser Bat-Erdene  
UAA Student Body President  
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*The Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage (USUAA) is recognized by the University of Alaska Board of Regents as the governing body for students enrolled at the University of Alaska Anchorage.*



**Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage**

**Resolution #19-06: In Extreme Concern of the Proposed FY20 UA Funding**

SPONSORED BY: Alex Jorgensen, *Speaker of the Assembly*  
Legislative Affairs Committee  
Residence Hall Association

WRITTEN BY: Teresa Wrobel, *Government Relations Officer*

ENDORSED BY: Clare Baldwin, *Vice President*

DATE: February 15, 2019

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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: The University of Alaska Anchorage has recently increased the graduation rate by 6% within the last year, and the average student takes 10 semesters to graduate, the equivalent of five years, as well as confirmed UA graduates into the Anchorage community; 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: UAA is home to the majority of students in the UA system, with 17,962 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;

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THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

The Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage 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,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage 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,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY 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, Tammie Wilson and Vice-Chair, Jennifer Johnston.

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Passed by a **11-0-0** vote of the USUAA Assembly

Approved  Vetoed

*Geser Bat-Erdene*

February 15, 2019

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Student Body President Geser Bat-Erdene

Date