

Approved by the Committee on Governance and Funding Reform of The Faculty Senate of the University of Alaska Anchorage, April 25, 2019

Resolution to Investigate System Efficiencies and Governance at the University of Alaska

Whereas, on April 10, 2019 the Alaska State Legislature voted Twenty-Five to Thirteen to require the Board of Regents to “consider a plan to transition the University of Alaska from three separately accredited academic institutions into a single accredited institution with multiple community campuses” and to report on the feasibility of same by December 1, 2019; and,

Whereas, on July 26, 2016 Dana Thomas, former statewide Vice President for Academic Affairs, submitted an analysis requested by UA statewide on the possibility of moving from three separately accredited MAUs to single accreditation, which concluded that one accreditation would likely not improve education quality or result in significant cost savings but could, instead, add more layers of bureaucracy and limit local control; and,

Whereas, the current governance structure deprives the chancellors of UAF, UAA and UAS of requisite authority and limits local governance necessary to better align the three universities and community campuses with the job markets and needs of their regions; and,

Whereas, UA Statewide currently has 188 employees, an operating budget of \$55M and many administrative functions that are redundant, cause inefficiency and interfere with the better administration of the universities;

Now, therefore be it resolved,

That the respective Faculty Senates of UAF, UAA and UAS empanel a joint task force constituted by faculty, staff, students, and administrators chosen from the three universities and associated community campuses, and open to representation from the state legislature and executive branch; and,

That the joint task force consider alternative structures of governance and administration of the university system, and investigate models that would result in greater cost efficiency, stronger programs, and more effective collaboration of the three separately accredited universities; and,

That the task force presents their findings and recommendations by December 1, 2019.