March	23,	2016
	
	
Dear	Colleagues:
	
	
I	trust	you	all	enjoyed	some	much	deserved	rest	and	recovery	over	spring	break	and	are	ready	
for	the	sprint	to	the	end	of	the	semester	and	the	beginning	of	a	new	life	for	thousands	of	our	
students.	Thank	you	for	all	you	do	for	our	great	university!
	
	
It’s	a	good	thing	that	most	of	us	are	focused	on	the	important	work	of	making	sure	our	students	
are	doing	well	in	their	classes	and	are	safe	on	our	campuses,	our	research	and	creative	activities	
are	creating	new	knowledge	and	inspiring	innovation,	our	buildings	and	IT	systems	are	
maintained	and	secure,	our	bills	are	paid,	and	everything	else	we	do	on	behalf	of	our	
community	and	state	is	on	track.
	
	
At	the	same	time,	many	of	us	are	working	hard	on	the	university’s	budget	and	planning	for	the	
unfortunate	likelihood	that	our	state	funding	will	be	reduced	for	the	third	year	in	a	row.	This	
work	involves	several	streams	of	activity:
	
	
1.
 Budget	advocacy	and	contingency	planning
	on	the	campuses	and	at	Statewide;
	
2.
 Statewide	Transformation,	a	project	that	seeks	to	more	cost	effectively	align	Statewide’s	
administrative	work	with	that	of	the	campuses;	and,
	
3.
 Strategic	Pathways,	the	framework	we	are	using	to	strengthen	how	we	meet	Alaska’s	
many	needs	for	higher	education	during	these	tough	fiscal	times.
	
	
I	would	like	to	take	a	few	minutes	to	update	you	on	all	three	of	these	important	bodies	of	work	
so	that	you	are	well	informed	and	share	my	confidence	that	our	university	will	become	stronger	
than	ever.	I	close	this	letter	with	a	request	for	your	help.
	
	
FY2017	Budget
	
The	operating	budget	from	the	state	for	the	current	fiscal	year	(FY2016)	is	$350	million.	For	the	
coming	year	(FY2017)	the	Board	of	Regents	requested	$377	million	in	operating	funds	along	
with	a	separate	request	of	$34.8	million	in	one
-time	capital	funds	for	completion	of	the	
engineering	building	at	UAF,	$50	million	for	deferred	maintenance	and	$50	million	for	annual	
renewal	&	repurposing	sustainment	funding	across	the	university	system.	The	lion’s	share	of	
our	request	for	more	operating	funds	is	for	salary	and	benefit	costs	increases.

Th ese budget scenarios require us to become mo re cost effective. The less money we get from

the state the more we will need to cut. In order to honor our commi tments for salary and

benefits cost increases we will require even deeper cuts. Under the Governor’s budget, we had

Pathways and other issues that are on your mind. Specific information about the time and

l ocation for these meetings will be coming from your campus.

April 11

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University of Alaska Southeast

Ap ril 14

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University of Alask