Governance Report
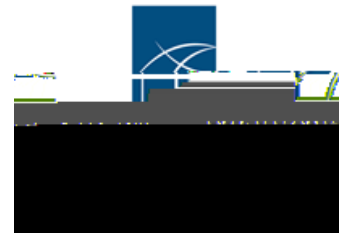
December 2015

Coalition of Student Leaders
Mathew Carrick, Chair

The Coalition of Student Leaders completed its annual fall retreat in Anchorage, immediately following the November Board of Regent's (BOR) meeting. Students from across the state came together to present testimony to the Regents on a wide variety of issues, ranging from tuition to Title IX. The next day, we discussed student issues, leadership development, and other such issues amongst ourselves and with visitors. We are especially grateful to University of Alaska leaders including President Jim Johnsen; Chancellor Tom Case; Vice President Dan White; Associate Vice President Chris Christensen; Chief Strategy, Planning and Budget Officer Michelle Rizk; and others who spent time listening to student concerns and sharing thoughts.

Following the retreat, we look forward to a productive year. We are delighted to have an engaged, thoughtful, and vigorous membership who will bring fresh perspectives and ideas to system governance.

This year, we're pleased to bring a few special projects forward:

- x We have reached the endowment goal for the Alaska Advantage Incentive Program, a scholarship initiated by a personal donation from former System Governance Executive Officer Pat Ivey and furthered by donations from student governments as well as individuals. Although it will be some years before the Coalition can begin offering scholarships from this fund, a committee has been established to raise funds that may be disbursed immediately.

- x We have formed a Community Campus Tuition Working Group to address questions over the ways that the University of Alaska administers the fee and tuition structure at community campuses and technical or vocational college units. The working group will compile research from outside sources, discuss the matter with internal University of Alaska personnel, and issue recommendations for moving forward. We hope that our efforts will help inform debates and lead to better outcomes for all students

- x Next February, students from across the state will be traveling to Juneau for the Legislative Advocacy Affairs Conference, where we will lobby for increased University funding from the Alaska legislature. We are dedicated to presenting a strong, professional front that will lead to concrete results. We believe that student efforts to lobby the legislature are vital to ensuring continuing University funding, and we will also be pursuing other lobbying options such as letter-writing campaigns.

We have an active Coalition, and over the next year we will be bringing forth more ideas, efforts, and

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toward a degree in economics with minors in mathematics and political sci. He also serves as the president of th

The Coalition of Student Leaders consists of student government representatives from the University of Alaska campuses and portrays the diverse scope of student affairs and needs. The Coalition promotes the educational needs, general welfare and rights of all University of Alaska students, and functions as an advisory group to the UA president and administration on student issues.

Faculty Alliance
Dr. Cécile Lardon, Chair

The changes in leadership at the statewide and university levels have had and will continue to have a

how best to do that. Engage these groups in a forward thinking conversation about how best to utilize our participation. We are an incredible resource; collectively we have the working knowledge of every aspect of university life and we share your dedication to the institution. Having staff, students and alumni participate alongside faculty ensures your committees have access to those most impacted by your decisions. It will most likely help with the number one complaint regarding slow turnaround on feedback from governance groups. We are often not fully informed about what is moving through the decision process such that receiving representative feedback is time consuming. If we are the committees or governance groups are naturally more plugged in, informed and in touch with what is happening and more readily able to comment. Though we are making improvements on this process, service on the BOR committees could greatly enhance decision-making and feedback.

The role of Alumni on SGC:
Except regarding the impacts on our alma mater's reputations and the esteem for our degrees, alumni are not directly impacted by the decisions of the BOR. Our role on SGC is often to provide the alumni context to the discussions of SCG. We have the student perspective through the lens of having made it to the other side. We are less in touch with the day-day understanding of running the university. However, we are an important voice for you to hear.

Alumni remind the institution of the core principles upon which the university was founded. The voice of alumni is often important to projecting a future that is true to the basic values of the institution, those principles that keep UA, UA. Alumni help institution leaders realize their hopes and aspirations for the university. UA graduates can provide multifaceted support to enhance and sustain the University's success by aiding it in the political arena, by assisting in acquiring the best and brightest students, by assuring ongoing visibility within the state and region, by developing career paths for graduates, by supporting an annual giving appeal, among many other ways. Alumni validate the mission of a university. In their roles throughout the state, country, and world, they are the living embodiment of what the UA produces as an educational "product." And in recent rhetoric of the leadership you are clearly counting on our help to make it through this budget season and o to our future of excellence.

We are the only governance group that does not automatically testify before the BOR. You have been fortunate to hear from an alumni relations director this past year because one of the alumni directors has been the chair of SGC. If I am not replaced with another alumni director, access to the alumni voice is not automatic at BOR meetings. In addition, each alumni association has a seat on the