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December 11, 2023

To: Karen Purdue, Regent

Cc: Pat Pitney, President  
Paul Layer, Vice President  
Matthew Cooper, General Counsel  
Brandi Berg, Executive Officer

From: Jennifer Ward, Faculty Alliance Chair

Re:  Process compliance in executive session

On November 9, 2023 in the afternoon toward the end of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting, President Pitney made the following motion for an executive session:

"The Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents goes into executive session to discuss matters the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse impact on the finances of the university, matters which by law are required to be confidential, and to receive legal advice regarding accreditation, litigation claims, and legislative strategy. This motion is effective November 9, 2023."

Despite the fact that I serve as an ex officio member on this committee I was excluded from the private session. This is concerning because the committee proceeded to discuss matters relevant to faculty governance (especially accreditation) without the benefit of faculty voice and background knowledge at the table.

I am asking that you review your policies, procedures, and Alaska statute with General Counsel and

- a) determine whether your committee was compliant with all regulations in the process followed for moving to executive session,
- b) determine a way to include all your committee members in topical discussions listed on your agenda,
- c) in cases where faculty governance participation may not be appropriate due to a sensitive nature that they not be discussed in a committee where faculty governance has been invited to participate.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee is the one forum for faculty to provide input and support to the Board in an official capacity. My aim is to make the process thoughtful, appreciated, and compliant with law and BOR policies and regulations.