

James R. Johnsen, Ed.D.
President
Butrovich Bldg, Ste. 202, 2025 Yukon Drive
P.O. Box 755000, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5000
Phone: (907) 450-8000; Fax: (907) 450-8012
Email: ua.president@alaska.edu
www.alaska.edu



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 24, 2017

To: Board of Regents
Coalition of Student Leaders
System Governance Council

From: James Johnsen, President 

Re: Tuition Adjustment Notice AY2019 (Fall 2018 and Spring 2019) and AY2020 (Fall 2019 and Spring 2020)

For the last month I have attended listening sessions at the universities to hear directly from students about our planned tuition increases. I also solicited student input via an online feedback form. The discussions and communications have been forthright and insightful. I have learned a lot and appreciate our students' frankness and courage as they express their concerns, as well as their inspiring aspirations for their education.

I thank the Coalition of Student Leaders and all the student government leaders who helped arrange and then participated in those sessions. As I shared on more than one occasion - this level of increase keeps UA's tuition below the average published in-state tuition and fee prices at public master's and public doctoral universities, thus ensuring affordability and access for our students.¹ It is also aligned with our record over the last several years of meeting budget reductions much more through cost reduction than tuition increases.

Alaska continues to face severe economic challenges, which negatively impact the University of Alaska's (UA) budget. As a result of declining state investment in the university, we must continue to reduce costs and increase revenues, including tuition, if we are to maintain and continuously enhance our high quality in teaching, service, and research.

Last year, with the prospect of an even greater reduction to our general fund allocation, I was prepared to request that the Board of Regents amend the AY2018 tuition rates to commence in Spring 2018. That increase would have been on top of a tuition increase that had already been

¹ Trends in College Pricing 2016, College Board.

implemented that Fall. However, with an allocation of just over \$317 million and after consulting with the Chancellors, I decided not to pursue the mid-year tuition increase.

Looking ahead at the possibility that state support may not improve in the coming years, in order to provide a top quality education to our students, I propose an increase to tuition for AY2019 and AY2020. The proposal will be to increase tuition by 5% per year. (Pursuant to the Board’s directive that all lower division be the same across the UA system, tuition at Kodiak College and Prince William Sound College will increase by 10% in AY2019 and 9.5% in AY2020 in order to reach parity with our other community campuses across the state.)

While university tuition is low compared to our peers and to other universities in the western states, I recognize that our tuition for certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs is high. This imbalance contributes to our low college going rate in Alaska. To provide some relief to students in selected CTE programs, grow enrollment, increase completion, and meet the state’s workforce needs, I will seek an additional \$1.0M in state support to be used toward a 25% reduction in tuition rates in eligible programs. This tuition discount would be provided in CTE programs that include, for now, all occupational endorsements and undergraduate certificates. This plan is not without some risk; if the state does not provide the requested funds, the university will need to reallocate resources to meet this commitment.

This table provides approved AY2018 and proposed tuition rates for AY2019 and AY2020.

	Approved	Proposed	
	AY2018 Fall 2017 and Spring 2018	AY2019 <i>Fall 2018 and Spring 2019</i>	AY2020 <i>Fall 2019 and Spring 2020</i>
	Tuition Rates increase 5% for all rates	<i>Tuition Rates increase of 10% for KOC and PWSC and 5% for all others</i>	<i>Tuition Rates increase of 9.5% for KOC and PWSC and 5% for all others</i>
Lower Division:			
<i>PWSC</i>	185*	<i>204*</i>	<i>223*</i>
<i>Kodiak</i>	185*	<i>204*</i>	
<i>All Others</i>	202	<i>212</i>	
Upper Division	244	<i>256</i>	<i>269</i>
Graduate	466	<i>489</i>	<i>513</i>
Non Resident	513	<i>539</i>	<i>566</i>

Prince William Sound College (PWSC) and Kodiak College (KOC) will move to the same lower division tuition rate as all other UA campuses within two academic years. *