



## UNAC CONNECTION

August 2020

This newsletter includes meeting notices, updates on union advocacy, opportunities for faculty input, and AAUP information.

### NOTICES

- **Special Election:** Our Secretary/Treasurer position is open. Watch for an announcement from the UNAC Elections Committee!
- **General Membership Meeting** - August 11, 2020 (Tuesday) [5:30pm-6:30pm AKD \(via Zoom\)](#)
- **Executive Board Meeting** - August 20, 2020 (Thursday) [9:00am-10:00am AKDT](#)

### PRIORITIZE THE ACADEMIC MISSION

- **Call for Hiring Freeze on Non-Academic University Administrator Jobs:** In order to place the focus on the importance of critical academic programs and support the academic success of our students (UNAC Constitution Article 2.1), it is essential for the University of Alaska System to place a hiring freeze on university administrator positions that do not directly support the academic mission of teaching, research, and service. Jobs that are essential to the academic mission include support staff for students, student services, faculty, research support, and other academic positions that directly contribute to education and learning. See attached letter to the Board of Regents which aligns with published 'UA Values' and requests consideration of this charge.
- **Internal Review of Governing Documents for Shared Governance Groups:** To provide clarity on the roles of our different shared governance groups across the University of Alaska System and consistent with United Academics' constitutional charge to 'sustain and enhance shared governance' (UNAC Constitution Article 2.5), UNAC has drafted a review of related governing documents to clarify alignment and identify overlap. The draft has been shared with the UNAC Representative Assembly, Faculty Alliance, and each MAU Faculty Senate President for comment/input as we seek to emphasize to university administrators and the Board of Regents the importance of joint decision making in all things related to faculty and academics.

## EDUCATE FOR THE COMMON GOOD

- **2020 AAUP Summer Institute:** [Rebuilding Higher Education as a Common Good](#) - August 4 (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

## BUILD THE FUTURE

- **Proposed UAS/UAF Merger:** On July 23, 2020 the Representative Assembly approved letters to the Board of Regents and our State Legislators regarding the process and approach to considering the proposed merger of UAS and UAF. See attached.

## HONOR OUR DIFFERENCES

- **Sealaska Heritage Culturally Responsive Education Conference (Aug 6-8):** This online conference will explore themes of equity and purposeful inclusion of culture in classrooms. Click [here](#) to register.

## MEMBER ACTION

- **Ethics Forms** - Please properly complete any of these [relevant forms](#) to comply with the Alaska Ethics Act (e.g. external activities).
- **Faculty Redeployment:** If you receive notice of non-retention, please complete this [form](#) (CBA Article 10.3).
- **Union Gear:** Once the semester gets underway, watch for a special welcome packet with a token of appreciation from UNAC.
- **Membership:** Meetings and elections are for dues-paying members. Please feel free to encourage others to [join](#).

## COVID UPDATE

- **Emergency Family Medical Leave (EFML):** If you would need to utilize the Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion Act (E-FMLA) for leave to care for your child because schools or other care providers are closed, please use this [form](#).
- **COVID-19:** If the pandemic has impacted your workloads, please contact your [Organizational VP](#) for guidance.

*This message is intended for dues-paying faculty members of United Academics.*

*If you have received this message in error, please contact [cyndewest@gmail.com](mailto:cyndewest@gmail.com).*