

September 21, 2021

President Pitney, Chancellor Parnell, and UA Negotiation Team,

This morning the University of Alaska drew a hard line on eliminating the endorsement of the longstanding standard definitions of Academic Freedom and Tenure contained in the [1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure](#) and its subsequent revisions in 1970 and 1999.

The University of Alaska negotiators stated that while they support Academic Freedom and Tenure, they did not want to be held to a standard definition of the terms.

Without adequate definition, there is no way to enforce a concept, and Academic Freedom and Tenure become subjective and, indeed, subject to relitigation every time they come up in the context of the university.

The removal of standard definitions is unacceptable and amounts to the abolition of Academic Freedom and Tenure, whose concepts require firm definitions and rules by their very nature.

Using fundamental Academic Freedom and Tenure as a negotiating piece, especially while swearing up and down that this is not what the university is doing, drastically decreases our credibility as an academic employer at a time when retention of top faculty is already an issue.

UA should immediately cease and desist on its attempts to abolish Academic Freedom and Tenure by removing references to their definitions from the CBA.

Signed,

Name	Title	Rank
<u>Erik Carlson</u>	<u>Metadata Librarian</u>	<u>Associate Professor</u>
<u>Lorelei Sterling</u>	<u>Head of Access Services</u>	<u>Associate Professor</u>
<u>Lauren Wallace</u>	<u>Metadata and Cataloging Librarian</u>	<u>Assistant Professor</u>
<u>Rebecca Moorman</u>	<u>Head, Technical Services</u>	<u>Associate Professor</u>
<u>Gwendolyn Higgins</u>	<u>Archivist</u>	<u>Assistant Professor</u>

Jennifer McKay	Nursing Librarian	Associate Professor
Arlene Schmuland	Head, Archives & Special Collections	Professor
D'Arcy Hutchings	Instructional Design Librarian	Associate Professor
Ruth D. Terry	Business & Government Information Librarian	Associate Professor
Sigrid Brudie	Interim Head, Alaska Medical Library	Associate Professor
Julianna Braund-Allen	Reference & ARLIS Management Team Librarian	Professor
Micah Muer	Information Literacy and Instructional Technology Librarian	Associate Professor
Anna Bjartmarsdottir	English Librarian	Associate Professor
Mike Robinson	Head, Library Systems	Professor
Jane Fuerstenau	Library Director, Kenai Peninsula College	Professor
Ralph Courtney	Reference & Social Sciences Librarian	Professor
L. Christine Ericson	Electronic Resources Librarian	Associate Professor
Jodee Kuden	Head, Collection Development	Professor