



## **United Academics is committed to good faith bargaining!**

Dear Colleagues,

This morning, University of Alaska President Pat Pitney sent an email to the UA community stating that the University administration and United Academics have reached impasse in negotiations and that the Board of Regents gave the president the authority to implement the administration's last best offer.

United Academics strongly disagrees with the unilateral decision to declare impasse and the authorization to implement the last best offer. We believe that negotiations are ongoing. In fact, a mediation session is on the schedule this Wednesday 18 May with a federal mediator. We are ready and prepared to continue negotiations. In addition, we have only had two mediation sessions and for the university to end mediation and negotiations prematurely is extremely disappointing.

The UA administration's sudden urgency seems disingenuous because they dragged their feet for five months, most notably keeping the monetary articles on their side of the table for 3.5 months. By pushing this false narrative, they are trying to divide us by making us believe that we have to make very quick decisions or get nothing.

Once we reach agreement with the university administration, they are required to request funding and approval from the Legislature whether during the regular session or as a supplemental budget. Although reaching agreement and receiving legislative approval during the regular session is preferred, it in no way precludes an agreement with substantive monetary provisions approved via a supplemental budget request. Don't be misled; we stand strong together.

The university administration's statement that United Academics' proposals harm university research is unfounded. Providing all our bargaining unit members with raises and benefits, being paid for the work provided, and having more job security will strengthen research at UA.

We continue to be committed to good faith negotiations and to reaching a joint agreement on a fair and competitive collective bargaining agreement for all United Academics bargaining unit members.

In solidarity,

Abel Bult-Ito  
President United Academics AAUP-AFT Local 4996

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United Academics Local #4996 (UNAC) is the bargaining unit that represents all non-adjunct, full-time faculty at the University of Alaska. UNAC is an affiliate of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

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