

Introduced by:
Date:
Action:
Vote:

Long, Sprague
04/06/04
Failed
3 Yes, 4 No, 2 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2004-038**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA**

- WHEREAS,** the University of Alaska has been funded below the nationwide inflation standard of 5% for 14 of the last 19 years; and
- WHEREAS,** for the first time in its history, the university system has drawn the majority of college-bound students from Alaska high schools, with 55% of last year's college-bound seniors now on state campuses compared with only 40% just four years ago; and
- WHEREAS,** 80% of students who attend college in Alaska stay to work, raise families and contribute to Alaska's well being; and
- WHEREAS,** less than half of those who leave the state for college will ever return; and
- WHEREAS,** the university is forced to offer only two-thirds of the courses that peer institutions in other states provide; and
- WHEREAS,** the university's actions to ensure accountability and efficiency have saved the university and State over \$20 million; and
- WHEREAS,** the university doubles the direct dollars to Alaska that are invested by the state. In FY02 university revenues returned \$464 million on a State investment of \$201 million; and
- WHEREAS,** the return on the State's investment in research at the university is nearly 600%; and
- WHEREAS,** in FY02 one billion dollars in direct and indirect economic activity was generated by the university directly, for an effective rate of return close to 500%; and
- WHEREAS,** the university directly employed 7,000 Alaskans in 2002 with a total payroll of \$195 million; and
- WHEREAS,** among all public and private sector employers, the university is the single largest employer in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, an additional 10,000 Alaska jobs are directly or indirectly linked to university spending; and

WHEREAS, university students directly spend an estimated \$127 million in the Alaska economy; and

WHEREAS, university budget increases between FY99 and FY04 have averaged 5.04% per year, generating new general funds \$10.6 million less than required to cover salaries and fixed costs, and 35.9 million below the Board of Regents request;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Alaska State Legislature is urged to fully fund the University of Alaska, and that the Alaska State Senate is urged to join the Alaska House of Representatives in unanimously approving 15.8 million for the university as proposed in Senate Bill 283

SECTION 2. That a copy of this resolution shall be provided to Governor Murkowski, Senator Gary Stevens, Senator Thomas Wagoner, Representative Mike Chenault, Representative Paul Seaton and Representative Kelly Wolf.

SECTION 3. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS * DAY OF *, 2004.

Pete Sprague, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk