

**Transcription: Governor Dunleavy Remarks to UA Board of Regents Meeting  
7/30/2019**

The University is an integral part of the fabric of the State. As I've mentioned on several occasions, I'm a graduate of the University of Alaska, I've taken courses at every campus, I've been in the State since 1983, I have two daughters that take courses and are in degree programs with the University... and I've worked very closely with the University as a contractor with the Department of Education, as well as worked for the University of Alaska statewide. I have nothing but the greatest admiration for the University and where it can go.

We certainly have a budget problem, a fiscal problem, this is no secret to anyone. The University has been the beneficiary of funding over the years- in some cases increased funding at pretty good levels. Some of us are still living in a belief that we have \$85-\$95 per barrel oil, which we don't. This is no secret to most Alaskans when we look at reports such as the Fischer report, the MacTaggart report—the Legislature itself over the past several years has been having discussions about how the University can prepare for the time that funding levels would be less than optimal and those days are here.

So, we reduced the budget in the February 13<sup>th</sup> budget that we rolled out and this has caused quite the conversation in the State of Alaska, there is no doubt that I'm not understanding that. It's a conversation that needs to happen. Over the last couple weeks we've been in conversation with University officials themselves, as to how we can partner to come up with a step down approach to get the University to where it needs to be funding-wise, but also help the University in this process with time and funding so the University can adjust to this new funding reality with regard from the State.

The game in Juneau for many decades is a result of oil money and has been: 'see how much funding we can get for our services and our programs.' And that's understandable. The University needs money to be able to provide the programs that Alaskans need.

One of the other areas that we haven't focused on and often times don't talk much about, are the outcomes. This is a real opportunity for the University to have a real look in the mirror – which we all should, all of our systems should, everything we do with government should. As to whether we could do better, better by faculty, better by researchers, better by the students taking courses at the university for their education. I don't think there's going to be any disagreement that some of our outcomes could be a lot better. There's no doubt about it. I've talked with folks at every level of the university and everyone agrees to this.

My office has been and will be fully prepared to work with the University on an approach that can get the University focused in a direction that lowers its overhead and increases its outcomes, especially for its students and faculty engaged in research and teaching.

We're willing to continue these conversations. Bills were passed yesterday that put the issue of the budget back in my hands, and I'm hoping that over the next few days, as a result of discussions that have occurred over the past two weeks, that we can come to an understanding in how we can help the University get to the point where it needs to be in order to be one of the best universities in this country – certainly one of the best universities dealing with Arctic issues and issues of the northern latitudes, in areas such as science and engineering and some other issues we wrestle with internally in the State of Alaska. I think the University could be on the cutting edge of being a partner in solving some of these issues and educating Alaskans.

With that, I want to thank you for the opportunity. We stand ready to work with the University so we come up with a partnership and a plan to get us from point A to point B – point B being where the outcomes we expect any system to deliver – we're focused on those outcomes and also the resources to get us to that eventual outcome. I wish you luck.

I'm hoping that the Regents and the administration accept this offer and we get working together sooner than later so Alaskans know that we have a university system we can all be proud of.