

**Board of Regents**  
**Meeting of the Full Board**  
January 15, 2021  
Zoom Conference

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

**Full Board Actions**

**1. Approval of Resolution of Support for the University of Alaska Land Grant Conveyance**

**PASSED**

"The Board of Regents approves the resolution of support for the University of Alaska Land Grant Conveyance. This motion is effective January 15, 2021."

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska plays a vital role in educating students from the state and around the world and conducts invaluable research; and

WHEREAS, efforts to provide land grants for higher education in Alaska have reached back over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska, although a land-grant institution, is a land-poor land grant institution, due to historical anomalies that prevented it from receiving the full benefit of those land reservations and land grants which Congress and the Alaska Territorial Legislature intended for it, and due to Congressional assumptions in the Statehood Act that the remaining unfulfilled land grant expectations of the University could be fulfilled by converting prior land reservations to land grants and/or by allowing then new State of Alaska a large general selection of public lands; and

WHEREAS, the land selection rights embodied in the Alaska Statehood Act reflected in part congressional recognition that the state would need the land to support its government and programs, and the Congress assumed that the State of Alaska would in turn devote some of the land or the income from it for the use and benefit of the University of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislatures attempted to implement this Congressional expectation in 2000 and 2005 with the enactment of legislation to remedy

WHEREAS, contrary to the expectations of Congress in the Statehood Act, the Alaska Supreme Court in 2009 held that the State of Alaska could not, acting unilaterally, devote land or the income from it for the use and benefit of the University; and

WHEREAS, the result of this ruling was that the University had to reconvey lands to the

WHEREAS, all but one (Delaware) of those 49 states that received federal land grants for their universities received more land than the University (noting that the University of Hawaii, while not receiving land, did receive \$6 million in 1960 in lieu of Morrill Act lands, an amount roughly equivalent to \$53,000,000 in current dollars); and

WHEREAS, an academically strong and financially secure state university system is a cornerstone to the long-term development of a stable population and to a healthy, diverse economy in the state; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the state and the University of Alaska that the university take ownership of a significant and substantial portfolio of income producing land in order to provide income for the support of public higher education in the state; and

WHEREAS, fulfilling the intent of these past Congresses and Alaska Legislatures to complete a permanent land endowment for the University of Alaska consistent with the Alaska Constitution will require a joint effort by the federal and state governments to establish a land grant that is "required by the federal government for state participation in federal programs," as specified under art. IX, sec. 7, Constitution of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS,

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2. **Approval to Reinstate Men's and Women's Alpine (downhill) Skiing at the University of Alaska Anchorage**

**PASSED**

"The Board of Regents approves reinstatement of men's and women's alpine (downhill) skiing at the University of Alaska Anchorage. This motion is effective January 15, 2021."