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RE: Update on faculty contract mediation

May 6, 2022

United Academics (UNAC) – the faculty union – did not accept UA bargaining team’s “last best offer” for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement [CBA], and both sides have voluntarily agreed to federal mediation. The mediation will begin on May 9.

I am thankful for this positive step forward. As communicated during negotiations and again in my April 25 message, finding common ground and reaching final agreement before the legislature finalizes its budget is urgent. Unlike non-bargaining unit employees, the inclusion of the monetary terms of the contract in the legislature's budget is required to fund compensation increases for faculty and other employees covered by the collective bargaining agreements. Having a tentative agreement is a necessary step for inclusion.

With the legislative budget closeout expected in the coming days, time is running out. We are working hard to secure an agreement that provides faculty a modest and regular annual compensation increase and adheres to long-standing and fundamental CBA provisions that provide for successful operations of our university system. If you would like more information, visit the labor relations bargaining website.

With mediation, we are hopeful that we can move quickly to secure an agreement and submit our budget request to the legislature.

Sincerely,

Pat Pitney  
President, University of Alaska