

# Commission favors UAA accreditation

The Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges has voted to reaffirm the accreditation of the University of Alaska Anchorage.

"In a very real sense, the University of Alaska Anchorage is a new university, now in its third year of operation," said Dr. N. Edd Miller, chairman of the Evaluation Committee, in the introduction to the report.

Miller added that the original five colleges, which now comprise the University of Alaska Anchorage, had each been previously accredited by the Northwest Association.

In September, a 16-member evaluation committee from the Northwest Association visited Alaska. Their report was reaffirmed by the full Com-

mission on Colleges meeting in Las Vegas recently.

UAA was praised for the positive approach it took during restructuring and for the leadership taken by administration, staff, faculty and students as UAA implemented the restructuring changes.

The accreditation report includes a list of recommendations that the university needs to work on to fully meet Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Colleges' standards. The university's FY 92 budget request addresses many of these recommendations.

Recommendations in the report include the following:

- UAA library collections, staffing and physical facilities were singled out

by the report as needing more funding support at all sites, specifically saying: "The needs of the Consortium Library are critical to the success of these disciplines, and indeed, the university itself. Progress in the library must be a high priority."

- The report found a "definite, almost alarming" shortage of teaching, laboratory, office and library space throughout the university and recommends that the university give high priority to providing additional classroom, laboratory, library and office space.

- Under the subject head of educational Programs and Instructional Staff, the report indicated a great need for more full time teaching faculty in nearly every academic area.

Special efforts should be made to continue to foster the recognition of vocational education as a vital component of the UAA mission.

In the area of Student Services, the Accreditation report indicates that UAA is giving greater attention to the needs of minority students, to developing enrollment management strategies and to increasing the rate of retention among first year students, and states that these items should remain a high priority on the University's agenda.

In addition, the report acknowledges the administration's recognition that the absence of a comprehensive health education program and the availability of traditional student health services is a "serious deficiency" at UAA.