

# UA-Coordinated Effort to Develop Higher Learning

COLLEGE—A comprehensive planning system for public higher education is being implemented by the University of Alaska as part of its own planning program.

Comprehensive planning would incorporate findings from all sectors of Alaska concerned with the several aspects of providing post-secondary education including vocational-technical programs, according to Dr. William R. Wood, UA president.

He said the comprehensive approach is essential to determine which sectors of the public and

education units of the state should carry out certain programs.

Last week the UA's Campus Planning and Development Committee of the Board of Regents reviewed the proposal for comprehensive planning.

"There is nothing new or startling about this program," Wood said, "however, it does mean that for the first time there will be a coordinated effort to develop higher education programs with advice from not only educators but from industry, pro-

fessions, business, labor, and the general public.

Wood said a bill before the State Legislature for a \$50,000 appropriation to aid planning for higher education could be a great help to such a comprehensive planning effort.

He said that as soon as preliminary information about planning is gathered, the university will conduct a series of seminars around the state this summer to obtain information from various advisory groups and citizens about the kinds of programs re-

quired by the people.

"We must establish a planning process," said Wood, "which draws on the expertise not only of faculty members, students, administrators and the university's regents, but also from public advisory groups. This way we can determine what programs and processes are needed to meet the expanding educational needs of the state."

Without the comprehensive approach, it is quite difficult for the education sectors of the state to know what each is doing, Wood said.

"This could lead to duplication of programs and competition for funding when there should not be any," he said. "Largely, it means you're working in the dark."

The various sectors of the university system, including the community colleges at Anchorage, Kenai, Kodiak, Matanuska-Susitna, Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan, have advisory citizens' groups which work with administrators to plan for programs and facilities. These and other advisory sources would be utilized to develop comprehensive planning.

"This way you can tailor academic programs to fit area needs," Wood said. "That's tanta-

mount to deciding needs for personnel, space, and equipment for carrying out programs."

The comprehensive approach would also mean that all areas concerned with higher education would be involved and not solely the state university.

Meanwhile, UA is approaching the time for its next two-year planning report expected to be ready during October. This report is part of a continuing series started in 1959 following an extensive study of higher education in Alaska by Stanford University under a grant from the Ford Foundation.

The university instituted its own planning program at that time and has continued to make reports every two years.

It is in these reports, which include information about anticipated growth of the university system, that plans are made for expansion of programs and facilities.