

'Academic Development Plan'

FAIRBANKS — The University of Alaska's "Academic Development Plan" — in preparation for more than two years — has just been published and approved in principle by the university's Board of Regents.

The 411-page publication, first of its kind developed for the university, describes in detail its purposes, organization and programs.

On assuming the presidency of the institution in 1973, Dr. Robert W. Hiatt called for development of the long-range plan. In his inaugural speech he said that "no good university can exist unless it contains within itself a sense of purposiveness which is shared by all who make up the university community. It must know its nature, it must know its purposes, it must know the needed means and it must have a plan which relates means to purposes..."

Hiatt directed that the plan be prepared by the university community itself rather than paid consultants from outside the state. He appointed a 14-member Academic Development Plan Committee to coordinate this effort and named Dr. Charles E. Behlke, dean of the School of Engineering at Fairbanks, its chairman.

In giving its approval to the plan last week, the Board of Regents also commended those of the university community who had a hand in its preparation.

Following the small initial printing, some 2,000 copies are to be printed, and the plan will be made available to the public through the state's libraries.

In the foreword to the "Academic Development Plan," Hiatt writes:

"Those experienced in planning for an institution of higher learning know full well that such efforts resemble an art far more than a science. Under the very best of conditions the findings, projections and recommendations produced by such planning can be but approximate."

"The large number of variables involved, and the awareness that the next decade will

bring many developments in the academic programs of the University of Alaska Statewide System not now planned for, characterizes this plan as a 'strong guide, but not a route map'..."

"To insure that the plan continues to be a dynamic instrument for wise growth, rather than the dead hand of the past, continual revision will take place. This is important not only for appropriate updating of data and program improvements, but it is necessary to achieve equitable treatment over time for all program elements..."

"Among the many features of this plan, one which pleases me most is that it was developed by university faculty members, administrators and professional support staff from several units of the system who will have the responsibility for staying and making it work. This is not to

denigrate past studies that have been done by 'outside' experts and local committees when the system was far less developed than is now the case..."

"Important is the fact that the actual working document which should guide our growth be finally a product of those who know Alaska and its university system and who have a real stake in the future of this institution..."

among other topics.

"Since we're trying to make this information available to as many Alaskans who are interested, we are asking sporting goods where hunting and fishing licenses are sold to help out by putting them out where customers can take one," Burris said. "This should make it more convenient for people to get them."

Persons who are unable to obtain a copy from their local sporting goods store may pick them up by mail or in person from any Fish and Game office," Burris said.