

Letters from Here and There

U of A defends Barrow actions

November 11, 1976

Dear Editor:

Recent news stories telling of irregularities in the operation of the University of Alaska extension center at Barrow failed to point out that the university began looking into this situation last July and since then has taken appropriate steps, including contacting the District Attorney's Office in Fairbanks, to set it straight.

The enclosed copy of my letter to the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education outlines the action taken by the university since last July, when irregularities were first suspected at Barrow. I urge you to publish it as a letter to the editor, in the interest of giving the public a balanced account of this unfortunate matter.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Hiatt
President
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska

November 9, 1976

Alaska Commission on
Postsecondary Education
Pouch F - State Office
Building
Juneau, Alaska

Attn: Mrs. Banfield, Chairman

The Commission's resolution regarding the University's extension program at Barrow and the follow-up news article in the Anchorage Times are somewhat surprising actions in view of the fact that the entire Barrow matter is under investigation by several State and federal law enforcement agencies. Perhaps the Commission is unaware of the actions taken by the University which might have assuaged its concern and made unnecessary this item on its agenda. The following information highlights University actions thus far:

Mid-July: University Internal Auditor sent to Barrow for in-depth audit of the Extension operation

29 July: Audit completed and return to Fairbanks

30 July: Report on audit to the President

30 July: Richard Ivey, Barrow Extension Coordinator, suspended for irregularities

4 August: Contact made with District Attorney's Office (Pat Gulluffen), Fairbanks, with offer of all information available and assistance needed, for certain irregularities appeared to be illegal.

15 August: Student records frozen as evidence uncovered that course records may have been faked and teachers improperly paid.

17 August: Ivey appointment terminated. He left State.

Upon Ivey's departure all Extension Office records in Barrow were impounded by the State Troopers in Barrow, and are still held by them.

Richard Ivey's records submitted to our Registrar's Office for payments to teachers are impeccable. Student registrations are in order; course fees were collected, recorded and submitted properly. During the Spring semester all these ac-

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