

UA regents OK \$161 million budget

by Steve Pilkington

for the *Tundra Times*

The University of Alaska Board of Regents recently approved a \$161 million budget for Fiscal Year 1989, which they will take to the Alaska Legislature for approval this spring.

The budget request represents a 9 percent increase over last year's budget.

The regents met Sept. 17 and 18 in Fairbanks and postponed changing the current university tenure policy, as well as changing student tuition.

The board discussed tenure policy because new university faculty members, those brought into the four-year institutions from the two-year campuses, may not be able to get tenure under current policy.

During the recent meetings, University of Alaska President Donald O'Dowd recognized the need for new policy, but also said that those faculty members currently unavailable for tenure may have to increase their education level before they can be considered for university tenure.

The faculty members who would be required to have more education to receive tenure appealed to O'Dowd on the basis of equity, claiming they would face more hardship earning their tenure than their university counterparts. They also said their years of teaching in community colleges should be counted toward their qualifications for tenure.

"Seeking a higher level of education to fill a role is not a hardship," O'Dowd told faculty members. "It might be considered a privilege to fur-



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ther your education."

The board agreed there was a need for change in the current tenure policy, but supported O'Dowd's suggestion not to grant any exceptions to policy at this time.

The board, during the meetings, also considered the need for changes in student tuition which would take effect next fall, but postponed any decisions until its next meeting scheduled for November.

University of Alaska Anchorage Chancellor Marvin O. Looney requested an interim tuition fee be used in Anchorage next spring. Tuition fees for state residents are currently about \$40 per credit hour at the UAA and \$35 for the Anchorage Community College, and Looney stressed the need to "standardize" the current fees.

Looney predicted that any new spring tuition, which would be a single fee for all students, would most likely fall between the current \$35 or \$40.

"We'll need to have the full board meet on that in order to have the paperwork ready for students by early registration," said Ann Parrish, president of the Board of Regents.

The bulk of the recent meeting was spent discussing the board's FY'89 Operating and Capital Budget requests. The board approved an

operating budget request of \$161.1 million, a 9 percent increase over last year's budget.

Roy Huhndorf, a regent from Anchorage, said before the meeting that he could foresee no problems in the state's acceptance of the budget.

The regents' next meeting will be Nov. 19 and 20 in Anchorage.
