

U of A accused of lack of minority hiring

By Harry McFarland
The Associated Press

JUNEAU — the University of Alaska on Friday was accused of not hiring Alaska Natives and other minorities, and a UA official acknowledged the number of Native employees does little to dispute the accusations.

UA executive vice president Dr. Sherman Carter said 11 Natives are employed among the system's 203 administrators. He said 22 Natives are among the system's 860 faculty. In the UA professional ranks, such as accountants, the university has 18 Natives among 375 employees.

"Those numbers are nothing for the university to be proud of," Carter said, "but we're trying to hire more Natives."

Rep. Jerry Ward, R-Anchorage, and Carla Timpone, a member of the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women, made the charges during a House Finance meeting. The allegations were part of testimony supporting a measure (HB231) that extends the life of the women's commission to 1987. The bill was approved by the committee.

Ward said he had been written by a UA staff member charging that only two Alaska Natives are at the uni-

versity system's faculty and administrative levels. He said the rest of the Natives are maintenance personnel.

Ward said he has been informed of at least 80 Natives who have repeatedly applied to UA, but have been rebuffed.

"We're getting ready to give the university \$150 million to a system that says it

wants the right things done," Ward said, "but then they don't."

But Carter called the accusation irresponsible, and said if a list of people were forwarded to UA, the charges would be investigated.

Ward said a complaint was filed with the Alaska Human Rights Commission about the

UA discrimination four or five years ago, but no one has been prosecuted.

Timpone told the committee that "if you look at the history of UA hiring practices, you find a significantly miniscule number of minorities and women."

She said it was hard to obtain information out of the UA

personnel system.

The hiring problem first came to the attention of the women's commission during a teleconference last fall, she said.

Asked why no one has filed discrimination complaints Timpone said that a person would have to be in the system to have a complaint.