

MOTION:

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The UAF Faculty Senate moves to approve a Ph.D. in Indigenous Studies.

EFFECTIVE: Fall 2009 and/or  
Upon Board of Regents approval.

RATIONALE: See the full program proposal #20-GNP from the Fall 2008  
review cycle on file in the Governance Office, 314 Signers' Hall.

*Marsha Sousa*

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, UAF Faculty Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Chancellor's Office

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Chancellor's Office

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief Statement of Program:**

Alaska Native people constitute 18% of the Alaska population and are the fastest growing ethnic group within the state, making up nearly 25% of the K-12 student population. At UAF, Alaska Natives make up 16% of the student enrollment, but only 3% of the faculty. In May, 2007 UAF awarded a Ph.D. to the fourth Alaska Native to receive such a degree in the University's history. To begin to address these disparities, the UAF 2010 Strategic Plan includes the following goals:

- Increase Alaska Native enrollment in graduate programs by 50%
- Increase the representation and retention of women and minorities in staff and faculty positions
- Increase research programs that address the Arctic and its indigenous people
- Document and disseminate indigenous knowledge
- Generate innovative and useful applications of research that benefit the state of Alaska

The Ph.D. program in Indigenous Studies is intended to directly address these and most other goals of the UAF 2010 Strategic Plan by offering an advanced program of graduate study focusing on issues that are deeply rooted in Alaska's past and are destined to be an integral part of Alaska's future.

The proposed Ph.D. program in Indigenous Studies will draw and build upon longstanding academic and research capabilities at UAF. The program will offer an integrated course of advanced graduate study consisting of a common core curriculum that all students will complete, coupled with five thematic areas of emphasis from which students will choose a concentration:

- Indigenous Studies/Research
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Indigenous Education/Pedagogy
- Indigenous Languages
- Indigenous Leadership

3. To expand the pool of knowledgeable and highly skilled Alaskans who can assume leadership and technical positions with public and private sector organizations, including universities, school districts, social service agencies, Native corporations, tribal governments, and state and federal agencies in Alaska and beyond.
4. To provide a venue to sponsor state, national and international seminars, conferences, exchanges and comparative research programs that bring people together around issues of concern to Alaska, the circumpolar north, and indigenous people throughout the world.
5. To contribute to and tap into newly emerging bodies of academic scholarship that address the role of indigenous knowledge systems in fields such as ecological studies, natural resources management, health care, education, language revitalization, community development, social services, justice, and Native studies.
6. To achieve economies-of-scale that put existing university resources and capabilities to more effective and efficient use in addressing issues of concern to all Alaskans.



**VII. RESOURCE IMPACT**

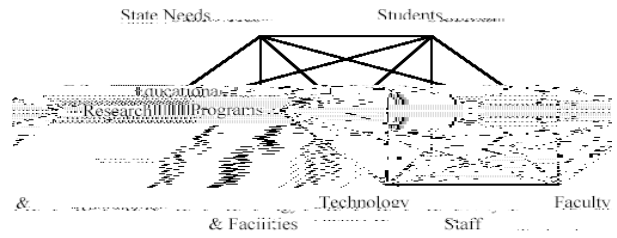
**A. Budget (Resource Category)**

Resources	Existing		New	
	College/School	College/School	College/School	Others (Special)
Total				
Regular Faculty	27	27	590,000	\$13,536
Admin. Faculty				\$3,100
Grad. Students				(headcount)
Instructional	800 sq ft OUP		2,600,000 sq ft	
Facilities	800 sq ft Brk			
(in sq. footage)				
	(sq. footage)	OUP/Brk/Gruen		
		Lab Spa		



**University of Alaska Board of Regents**  
Program Approval Summary Form

MAU: University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Title: Ph.D., Indigenous Studies



roles, including as university faculty members, where at UAF they currently constitute 3% of the faculty but 16% of the students.

Most often, upper-level expertise has to be imported from outside Alaska to fill advanced professional and technical positions in the state. Businesses, government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, policy institutes, Native organizations, academic institutions, and other groups in Alaska today need professionals who have competencies in a wide set of Indigenous issues, while also having the in-depth expertise in a specific problem area. The Indigenous Studies program strives to meet these needs by training professionals with analytical skills for understanding human resource problems and cultural sustainability issues.

### **3. What are the Student opportunities, outcomes and enrollment projections?**

The proposed Ph.D. program will draw and build upon long-standing academic and research capabilities at UAF to offer an integrated course of advanced graduate study consisting of a common core curriculum that all students will complete, coupled with five thematic areas of emphasis from which students will choose a concentration: indigenous research; indigenous knowledge systems; indigenous education; indigenous languages; and indigenous leadership. The specific skill set of the graduates will include quantitative analysis, scientific applications, qualitative research methods, research design and program management, along with broad conceptual frameworks for understanding the dynamics of social-cultural-ecological systems. Based on current staffing levels and resource commitments, the program will accommodate six new students each year for an average total enrollment of approximately 20 students spread over three to four years.

### **4. Describe the Research opportunities:**

Ph.D. candidates will participate in research activities across a variety of academic disciplines and applied fields at UAF and with an international network of partner institutions. They will be encouraged to engage in comparative studies with other indigenous peoples around the world and to focus their dissertation research on issues of relevance to Alaska and the Arctic.