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Bill Jacobson

Stephen Lay, interviewer

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Bill Jacobson said the days of the floppy proposal is over. On occasion some people would throw together a proposal and may or may not get funded. Bill Jacobson is the proposal coordinator for the university. Stephen Lay said proposal writing takes time to be successful. Now with the tightening up of funding in general competition is going to be much stiffer. Jacobson said people are going to have to be sharper and get their details better. They are going to have to do a good selling job. One of the things he brings out in his seminars is the importance of the beginning of the proposal where the project is described. Lay said in the past grant funding has amounted to 70-80 percent of the research funding. Lay asked Jacobson if the recent cuts had an effect on the UAF research effort. Jacobson said they had not as yet, but he thinks they will to a certain extent. He said they do get some funding from National Endowment for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Arts. He said these two agencies will have about a forty percent cut in their funding. The National Science Foundation will have about a twenty percent cut, primarily in their education program. Some of the funding may be picked up through the state government. Lay said at some universities such as UAF writing proposals is serious business. Last year the university received more than thirty million dollars in grants and contracts. Almost 400 proposals were submitted in a wide range of disciplines and approximately one third were funded. Jacobson said nation wide he has heard twenty to thirty percent are funded and recently it has been closer to twenty percent. He said UAF is above the national average. He is pleased with UAF's record. With less funding available it is going to take more effort to receive research funding.

Stephen Lay reported on University of Alaska Fairbanks campus activities.