

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine at Presque Isle
May 18, 2008

Academic and Student Affairs Committees Joint Session

- Present:** William Johnson, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee (by phone); Marjorie Medd, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee; Norman Fournier, Tamera Grieshaber, Charles Johnson, Barry McCrum, Paul Mitchell, Charles O’Leary, Margaret Weston, and Lyndel Wishcamper. **Chancellor:** Richard Pattenaude. **Faculty Representatives:** Terry Colby, Harold Jones, and Shallee Page. **Student Representatives:** Ashley Davis, Kristen Cloutier, Charles Weiss, Kenneth Hoyt, Cynthia Nesbit, and Jeremy Logan. **System Staff:** Tracy Bigney, James Breece, Eduard Dailide, John Diamond, Tracy Elliott, Frank Gerry, Kelley Wiltbank, and Joanne Yestranski.
- Absent:** James Dowe, Jean Flahive, Susan Gendron, Krisandra Horn, Victoria Murphy, and Wayne Newell.

Trustees William Johnson and Marjorie Medd, Chairs, convened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

University of Maine at Presque Isle Update. President Donald Zillman provided an update on strategic planning and academic program review; the model UMPI faculty member; expanding resources; strengthening economic, social, and cultural connections with the community (Building a Stronger Aroostook County), and the world of the 21st century – green, diverse, and collaborative.

UMA RN to BSN Degree Program. President Allyson Handley explained the proposed creation of a RN to BSN degree program for UMA. This program is designed to enable associate degree-level registered nurses in the workforce to earn a baccalaureate degree and gain the knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors need to practice at a higher level of nursing. This program was created in response to the critical state need for baccalaureate nurses. The Committee had a lengthy discussion on the funding and logistics of the proposal.

On a motion by Trustee O’Leary, which was seconded by Trustee William Johnson, the Academic and Student Affairs Committees agreed to forward the recommendation to the consent agenda for action.

Maine Economic Outlook – 2008 and Beyond. Dr. James Breece, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, presented the Maine Economic Outlook – 2008 and Beyond. Dr. Breece discussed the external economic drivers, the current conditions, long term trends, and possible solutions. Dr. Breece reviewed the monthly total employment index for the US, New England, and Maine. Maine is lagging behind and this can be partially attributed to the decline in the manufacturing employment sector with a loss of 333,000 jobs since 1990, 34% of the workforce. The 2006 State rankings list Maine as 39th for personal income per capita, 44th in gross domestic product, and 47th for value-added activity. In Dr. Breece’s opinion the answer for Maine is to generate more high value-added economic activities. In order to accomplish this Maine needs to focus on entrepreneurial management; build R&D activities based on Maine’s natural resources; reverse the “brain-drain” to a “brain-gain”; develop a

skilled/educated workforce in critical areas; and have a strong higher education system based on partnerships with businesses, government, and non-profit organizations. If the percentage of Maine's population with a BA degree were to reach the New England average of 34% then Maine's economy would be 27% larger, and its value-added activities would match that of New Hampshire.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty
for J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk