

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Southern Maine
January 12, 2009

Academic and Student Affairs Meeting – Gorham Campus

Present: **Committee Members:** William Johnson, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee; Marjorie Medd, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee; Jean Flahive, Tamera Grieshaber, Krisandra Horn, and Lyndel Wishcamper. **Other Trustees:** Norman Fournier, and Victoria Murphy. **Chancellor:** Richard Pattenau. **Faculty Representatives:** Jerry LaSala, Terry Colby, Harold Jones, and Shallee Page. **Student Representatives:** Ashley Davis, Catherine Siegel, Charles Weiss, and Ross Wolland. **System Staff:** James Breece, Rosa Redonnet, and Kelley Wiltbank.

Absent: James Dowe, Susan Gendron, Charles Johnson, Barry McCrum, Paul Mitchell, Wayne Newell, and Charles O’Leary.

Trustees William Johnson and Marjorie Medd called the meeting to order. Trustees Johnson and Medd thanked the faculty and student representatives who are members of the Academic and Student Affairs Committees for their time, leadership and ideas. They also thanked the students who presented at the poster session during the reception on Sunday evening.

University of Southern Maine Update. University of Southern Maine President Selma Botman presented an update on USM focusing on institutional change at a time of budgetary constraint, and what they seek to do at USM regarding student success, data collection, budgetary concerns and strategic planning. President Botman shared some of the success stories of USM students.

Academic Year Calendars. Dr. James Breece, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the 2009-2010 academic calendars for the seven Universities and the Law School. Two universities have a winter session and several have a summer session as a way to meet students’ needs.

Trustee Flahive raised the concern that not all campuses observed Veterans Day as a holiday. Trustee Horn commented that this was an issue that she discussed with the student representatives and all of the student representatives agreed that all campuses should observe the day as a holiday and no classes should be held. The Chancellor, Trustees, and Presidents agreed that this matter was of serious concern and should be addressed.

Annual Report on Degrees Conferred (2007-2008). Dr. Breece provided an overview of the annual report on Degrees Conferred for 2007-2008. UMS awarded 5,610 degrees during the 2007-2008 academic year with over 74% conferred at the baccalaureate level, over 6% at the associate level, almost 17% at the masters level; and just over 2% at the doctorate level. UM and USM conferred 70% of all degrees with UMA at 10%, UMF at 8%, UMPI at 5%, UMFK at 5% and UMM at almost 1.5%. Over 62% of the degrees were awarded to women and 38% to men. The three most popular disciplines are education, health professions and business and management. Over the past thirty-nine years the University of Maine System has conferred 177,658 degrees.

Fall 2008 Retention and Admissions. Dr. Breece explained the Fall 2008 Retention and Admissions Reports. The Admissions Report shows that in Fall 2008, 20,133 first-time, first-year and transfer students applied for admission to the UMS, a 2.3% increase over last year’s 19,671. Of those, 15,594 were accepted, a 3.7% increase from the Fall 2007. A total of 6,448 students

enrolled, a 3.4% increase from 6,327 students the previous year. UMS out-of-state student applications increased by 400 students, 6.5% from Fall 2007 and acceptance increased by 423 students or 9.7%. There has been a slight decline in the number of transfer students which is primarily out-of-state students. There is a steady increase in the in-state student transfers. The overall enrollment rate is 60%.

The Retention Report shows that nearly 70% of Fall 2007 full-time, first-year students returned in Fall 2008, consistent with the retention rate of previous years. Just over 71% of Fall 2007 in-state student returned in Fall 2008. Of the 669 out-of-state entering students in Fall 2007, 399 returned in Fall 2008, a 60% retention rate. At this point in time, the transfer students are not included in the retention data.

The Committee discussed the percentage of male and female students enrolling in the UMS. Dr. Breece commented that the male and female retention rates are similar; however 62% of degrees conferred are awarded to women and only 38% to men. This means there are far fewer males enrolling than females. The Trustees agreed that this was a serious issue that needs to be addressed. Ms. Rosa Redonnett, Executive Director for Student Affairs, commented that this is a national issue and there has been a great deal of dialog between the K-8 and K-12 communities about encouraging more male students to have aspirations for higher education.

Student Financial Aid Report FY2008. Dr. Breece commented on the Student Financial Aid Report for FY2008. The total financial aid continues to grow with a total of \$220 million from all sources. The total number of students receiving financial aid also continues to grow even though the UMS has flat enrollment. The sources of financial aid consist of \$121.8 million or 69% in federal funding, \$39 million or 22% in university funds, \$7.7 million or 4% in state funding, and \$8.3 million or 5% in private funding. The types of financial aid include work-study at 3%, scholarships/waivers/grants at 44%, and loans are 53%.

The average student aid packages from FY2004 to FY2008 have seen work study decreasing from 11% to 9%, scholarship from 23% to 20%, loans reduced from 25% to 23%; family contributions have increased from 24% to 32% in the four year period.

Dr. Breece commented that student recruitment has become more difficult and costly. Out-of-state students are the most difficult to recruit and retain. The UMS retention rates have not significantly moved despite best efforts. Some people look at this as an opportunity and some people feel the UMS retention rates are at the highest rate obtainable. Even with the flat retention rates, the UMS is at an all time high of awarding baccalaureate and master degrees. Associate degrees are on a planned decline.

Trustee Wishcamper asked if benchmarks and targets could be included in these reports so the UMS could do comparisons and measure the progress. Dr. Breece commented that graduation and enrollment benchmarks will be established for each campus as part of the Chancellor's new Action Plan.

A Discussion of the 21st Century Student. Ms. Redonnett introduced the discussion of the 21st Century Student. If one compares the "student profile" found at University of Maine System institutions versus that of the student of 5 years ago or 10 years ago, it is clear there is a very different and varied picture in terms of characteristics, backgrounds and support needs. This is due

to societal factors, Pre-K through 12 academic and developmental preparation and ever-changing expectations of those who seek higher education.

At the universities of the UMS, one is much more likely to see students of varied age, culture and heritage. The student at a UMS university campus, center or site is much more likely to require an increasing array of support services in greater numbers than was the case with her or his predecessor; support in the areas of mental health and personal development, accommodation around physical and learning challenges and assistance with specific and general academic preparation are all more often the norm than the exception. Today's student is much more likely to communicate electronically and, in fact, may be more comfortable receiving their education in such a manner. Continuing financial constraints lead to stressors regarding success for our students and require those students to work, at least part-time, and more often than not, full-time in order to pay for their education.

Assisting the 21st Century Student in balancing challenges and support in a holistic manner is the primary focus of the student and academic affairs officers at each University of Maine system campus, center and site. The changing profile of students and their needs gives student affairs officers the opportunity to be creative, responsive and agile.

Mr. Craig Hutchinson, Vice President for Student and University Life at the University of Southern Maine, provided a case-study based presentation to update the Trustees on the varied preparation, needs, and aspirations of UMS's ever-changing populations of learners and what student affairs officers are doing to ensure "student success".

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk