

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine System
July 13, 2009

Committee of the Whole - Academic and Student Affairs Meeting

Present: **Trustees:** Marjorie Medd, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee; Eleanor Baker, James Dowe, Jean Flahive, Norman Fournier, Barry McCrum, Paul Mitchell, Victoria Murphy, and Lyndel Wishcamper. **Chancellor:** Richard Pattenaude. **Faculty Representatives:** Harold Jones and Shallee Page. **Student Representatives:** Rebecca Dyer, Summer Meredith, and Charles Weiss. **System Staff:** James Breece, Rosa Redonnett, and Kelley Wiltbank.

Absent: Susan Gendron, Tamera Grieshaber Krisandra Horn, William Johnson, Kevin McCarthy, Wayne Newell, and Charles O'Leary.

Trustee Marjorie Medd called the meeting to order.

Academic Program Proposals. Dr. James Breece, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, reviewed the three academic program proposals.

The University of Maine at Farmington proposed the conversion of an existing concentration into two new academic majors. The Interdisciplinary Studies, Concentration in International Studies Degree will be converted to a B.A. in International and Global Studies and a B.A. in Political Science. This change is guided in part by a program review of the major by an outside reviewer, and the new majors are in line with disciplinary standards for International Studies, comparisons with USM campuses and regional and national Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges. The programs are being created in response to increasing demand, and will rely upon existing resources.

The University of Maine at Presque Isle proposed the conversion of a concentration into an academic major. The A.A. in Liberal Studies Concentration in Communication will be converted to a A.A. in Professional Communication. This change responds to the suggestions and needs of the professional community, and the program will rely upon existing resources.

On a motion by Trustee Baker, which was seconded by Trustee Murphy, the recommendation was forwarded to the consent agenda for action.

UM Aquaculture Research Institute. Dr. Breece explained that the University of Maine proposed the creation of the Aquaculture Research Institute. This Institute will conduct research targeted at improving the efficiency, profitability, and sustainability of existing and emerging aquaculture in Maine and the nation. The aquaculture industry is one of the fastest growing food sectors in the world, and the state has targeted aquaculture as one of seven technology centers for state investment and R&D growth. As the aquaculture industry in Maine grows, the Institute will provide the mechanism for providing sound science to inform strategic and policy decisions throughout the state. The Institute will also coordinate the aquaculture research activity at UM and nurture increased participation of existing faculty engaged in related research.

The Center is fully funded by MEIF funds that have been set aside specifically for its support. It is anticipated that this Center will increase the number of state, federal and private grants; increase the

number of graduate students in aquaculture-related areas; and increase the growth, diversity and sustainability of Maine's aquaculture industry.

Trustee Dowe recused himself in the discussion and motion for the UM Aquaculture Research Institute because of a potential conflict of interest. He was not present during the presentation and discussion.

On a motion by Trustee Fournier, which was seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the recommendation to the consent agenda for action.

UMF Reorganization. Dr. Breece explained that the University of Maine at Farmington seeks endorsement of its proposed reorganization plan. The plan was a result of the budget process over the past year and was used as the basis for the personnel and budget reductions. The major changes proposed include the elimination of the two-college structure and replacing it with nine coordinating departments, curricular councils and affiliated faculty. Eliminating the component colleges will allow UMF to more effectively bring the academic departments together under a unified mission as a public liberal arts college.

The changes are revenue neutral, but the changes will allow for cost savings in the future. They have been undertaken to: reduce fragmentation; improve communication and collaboration; emphasize the commonality of UMF's liberal education mission; and focus administrative attention on critical matters such as improvements in retention and graduation rates.

On a motion by Trustee Murphy, which was seconded by Trustee Baker, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the recommendation to the consent agenda for action.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk