Board of Trustees Meeting


Trustee Sally Vamvakias, Chair, convened the meeting.

1. Citizen Comment. A portion of the meeting is regularly set aside to hear citizen comments. Mr. Christopher Dorion spoke to the issue of the UM Retirement Community Proposal. He said he was opposed to the proposed site of the community because it would result in the loss of more University forest land and leave the way clear for possible urban sprawl.

2. Acceptance of Minutes. On motion made and seconded, the minutes for November 4, November 15, and November 16, 1998, were APPROVED as presented.

3. Chair's Remarks and Agenda.
   • Trustee Vamvakias reappointed Trustee John DiMatteo to a second term as Representative to the Board of the Maine Public Broadcasting, Corporation. His term will expire June 30, 2001.
   
   • Following are Trustee Vamvakia's remarks:

   "Later this week, the University of Maine System will begin planning for a System-wide inter-institutional conversation on "Educating for Life and Work in the 21" Century".

   "Among the few things that can be said about society in the future is that it will be a time of accelerating flux and change. In such a world, the ability to participate with any degree of comprehension will depend on one's knowledge of general principles, on habits of inquiry and analysis, and on suppleness of mind. Students who have learned how to learn, who know where to go for answers, who know how to access those answers, and who know how to understand and communicate ideas, will be in high demand. The challenge to faculty who must imbue such skills, while at the same time guiding students toward the most common knowledge in their field, will be ever present.

   "How do we do this? How do faculty do this? Is it what we should be doing and how we should be doing it for the future?

   "As a layperson, I can't provide the specifics. Which elements of the classics, humanities, arts or parts thereof will be beneficial? I can only imagine the parameters. Experience leads me to believe, however, that along with skilled teaching and a well-considered plan of study, spirited scrutiny, perseverance, and the realization that the status quo is vulnerable will be required. It will be costly
in time and energy. It will take imagination, openness and collaboration. It also
will offer the University of Maine System and its students the best hope of
adapting to a changing world.

“Ultimately, the challenge, as I see it, presented by this initiative is two-fold: 1) to
select the best liberal education has to offer—remembering that a liberal education
eludes precise definition; and 2) adapt this abstraction by describing the desired results.

"To be sure, the new millennium will provide many educational challenges just as
the current millennium has. This System-wide conversation relating to life and
work in the 21" Century may simply be the first and I, and the Board of Trustees,
look forward to updates as the plan progresses."


Chancellor MacTaggart thanked President Kalikow, her colleagues and the campus community for
hosting the Board Meeting. He then turned his portion of the agenda over to President Kalikow.

UMF. President Kalikow noted a brochure on the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges
(COPLAC), of which the University of Maine at Farmington is a member, and President Kalikow is
the current president. The mission of COPLAC is to provide superior liberal arts and sciences
education to their students. Accordingly, the member institutions provide their states with access to
high quality liberal arts education for students who would not otherwise have that opportunity.
President Kalikow has had the opportunity of visiting her sister institutions to learn how they are
implementing this mission. One of the things that COPLAC is doing is preparing the students for the
world of work, as opposed to being an "ivory tower". President Kalikow pointed out that most
students want and need to work while in school. UMF is providing academically related jobs on
campus to give students experience in real world employment. The students gain challenging work
experience, the campus gets needed work done, the program helps with retention, and the campus is
providing funds for students. This year UMF has put $100,000 into its student work initiative. Job
fairs are held at the beginning of the semester and students looking for employment discover a range
of opportunities open to them, discuss jobs with perspective employers and present their resumes.
Evaluations that President Kalikow reviewed at the end of the semester showed that both employers
and students are happy with the way the arrangement is working and want it continued. In
conjunction with federal work-study programs, internships, practica, student teaching, and service
learning, half of the student body has the opportunity for practical experiences connected with their
major fields or elaborating on other areas of interest they might have. It is hoped to increase the
funding in future years so that every student can have this opportunity every semester.

5. Improving Public Education in Maine. Trustee Vamvakias introduced J. Duke Albanese,
Commissioner of Education and ex officio member of the UMS Board of Trustees, who discussed
improving public education in the State of Maine.

Commissioner Albanese noted a handout entitled "The Good Stories and the Continuing Challenges"
which, he said, celebrate and mark the good things being done in education, but also indicates other aspects
that need work. Also circulated was a paper entitled Maine's Learning Results: The Guiding Principles,
which has its source in Maine Statutes. The Commissioner also pointed out a sampling of collaboratives
put together by the UMS Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. He said he found the list to
be impressive and highlighted the following University/K-12 Partnerships: Reading Recovery, Essential
Progress Service, National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, Secondary Education
Commission, Legislative Policy Research Institute, Maine Leadership Consortium, and the Maine Math
and Science Alliance. The Commissioner thanked the System universities for the success of the
partnership programs and noted that such affiliations are not often seen nation-wide.
The Commission on Secondary Education's report entitled "Promising Futures" developed a set of core principles that would allow students to have a successful educational experience. Those principles include a safe, respectful, caring environment; high universal expectations with a variety of learning opportunities; and understanding and actions based on assessment data. It is an attempt to elevate teaching and learning and a means to measure learning results. The hope is to take the high school experience to another level. In flushing out the core principles, the Commissioner stated that a successful educational experience promotes teacher practice which values and builds upon the contributions and the needs of each learner; uses equitable and democratic practices, and allows coherence among missions, goals, actions, and outcomes. He stressed the need for investing in good teachers who are "modern" in their methods and who involve students in applied learning. He also noted that leadership is a problem in Maine schools and that there is a critical need for development programs that encourage teachers to seek the principal and superintendent levels.

In summing up the impact of Promising Futures on the University of Maine System, the Commissioner said the State has increased expectations in the preparation of teachers; the focus is on content and pedagogy; changing practices in instructional assessment; an increased role for all System faculty in the preparation of teachers, not just in the College of Education; and increased professional development offerings for veteran secondary teachers. He said the State needs the help of the System in producing competent teachers and retaining veteran teachers.

At the end of Commissioner Albanese's presentation, Chancellor MacTaggart thanked him for the kind of leadership he is providing, in the schools and the kind of relationship he has supported with the University.

**Academic Affairs/Student Affairs Committees.**

6. **Review of Academic Program Planning.** Trustee Wickham Skinner, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs took the Committee through the program approval process. The Committee will be looking more closely in future at the program approval process to see how it can be kept centralized to avoid duplication on the one hand, but balance that with a more entrepreneurial, decentralized approach.

7. **Retention Efforts Within UMS.** Trustee Donald McDowell, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee reported that the Committee had heard an outstanding presentation by Ms. Rosa Redonnett and Ms. Susan Campbell from the University of Southern Maine on retention efforts within the University of Maine System. He said there is a significant body of research on the subject and the task of the Board is the implementation in those areas of retention where something can be done.

**Finance and Physical Plant Committees.**

8. **UM Retirement Community Proposal.** Trustee Gregory Cyr, Chair of the Physical Plant Committee, reported that the Physical Plant Committee will be meeting for further discussion of the UM Retirement Committee Proposal.

9. **Center for Life Long Learning, Phase II, UMM.** Trustee Prescott stated that the recommendation for Phase 11 of a capital campaign to raise additional funds for the Center for Life Long Learning at the University of Maine at Machias deserves the strong support of the Board and she praised President Nordstrom for his leadership; however, prior to becoming a Board member. Trustee Prescott reported that she had been directly involved in the fund-raising campaign for Phase I of the Center and her company has been advocating for a child care center to be included in Phase H. So that there would be no perceived conflict of interest on her part, Trustee Prescott requested that the record show that she would abstain from voting. On motion of Trustee Cyr, which was seconded, and with Trustee Sandra Prescott abstaining, it
VOTED: to authorize a $3.0 million capital campaign for Phase H of the University of Maine at Machias Lifelong Learning Center, and further authorize the construction of Phase Id at a cost not to exceed $3.0 million.

10. Consent Agenda. On motion of Trustee James Mullen, which was seconded, the following items were adopted as presented:

Honorary Degrees. The Board approved the 1999 nominations for honorary degrees as presented.

Establishment of Maine Agricultural Center, UM. The Board approved establishment of the Maine Agricultural Center at the University of Maine as described in the presented documentation.

Establishment of Center for Teaching Excellence, UM. The Board approved the establishment of the Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of Maine.

Establishment of Trout Rural Education Institute, UMM. The Board approved the establishment of the Trout Rural Education Institute at the University of Maine at Machias.

B.A., Financial Economics, UM. The Board approved establishment of the Bachelor of Arts in Financial Economics at the University of Maine.

M.A., Financial Economics, UM. The Board approved establishment of the Master of Arts in Financial Economics at the University of Maine.

Ph.D., Computer Science, UM. The Board approved establishment of the Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of Maine.

B.S., Environmental Safety and Health, USM. The Board approved establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Safety and Health at the University of Southern Maine.

Flowing Seawater Laboratory Project, UM. The Board authorized an increase in funding for the University of Maine's Darling Center Flowing Seawater Laboratory project from $425,000 to $1.0 million, with the additional funds being provided from University of Maine research funds.

Gift of Real Estate, Mount Vernon. The Board accepted, with gratitude, the generous donation by Helen Dickason and Herbert Mason of 112 acres of woodland in Mount Vernon, Maine, subject to an environmental assessment and approval by University Counsel, and further authorized the sale of the property with the proceeds benefitting the University of Maine at Farmington.

Center for Lifelong Learning - Phase II, UMM. The Board authorized a $3.0 million capital campaign for Phase II of the University of Maine at Machias Lifelong Learning Center, and further authorized the construction of Phase II at a cost not to exceed $3.0 million.

Revisions to Financial Affairs Policies. The Board approved the revisions to the Financial Affairs Policies.

Gifts, Grants and Awards. The Board accepted with gratitude all gifts, grants and awards listed under the date of January 25, 1999.

Appointments for Trustee Approval. The Board approved the appointments to positions at or above the level of Dean or equivalent as recommended by the Chancellor, as follows: Carol S.
11. **Information Items.** Trustee Vamvakias listed the following items which were included in the Board materials for information only:

- Academic Year Calendars
- Canadian Student Waives
- Year 2000 Progress Report (#IV)
- Annual Grants and Contracts Report
- Student Financial Aid Annual Report
- Board Agenda Calendar
- Summary of Current Statistics

12. **Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on March 21-22, 1999, at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

On motion of Trustee Vamvakias, which was seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Sandra F. Johnson for
Mary Ann Haas, Clerk