Board of Trustees Meeting


Trustee Donald McDowell, Chair pro tem, convened the meeting.

1. Citizen Comment. Citizen Comment is a time regularly set aside for input from the public. Ross Ferrell, Kerry Sullivan, F.R. Vance, S. Patricia Benson, and Tom Trim spoke to low employee morale among professional staff due to prolonged contract negotiations and perceived inequitable treatment by System administration.

2. Acceptance of Minutes. The minutes for November 12 and 13, 2000, were accepted as written.

3. Chair’s Remarks and Agenda. Trustee McDowell thanked USM President Richard Pattenaude and the campus community for hosting the Board of Trustees meeting. He also thanked Chancellor Terrence MacTaggart for having Dr. James Mingle speak on technology in the market place at the Academic Affairs Committee and the Ad hoc Technology Committee meetings earlier.

   Trustee McDowell then recognized Trustee Judith Andrucki who spoke about the passing of David Gregory, who was a professor at the University of Maine School of Law from 1972, and who died on December 10, at the age of 59. She asked that Professor Gregory be remembered as a teacher “par excellence” whose skills in the Socratic method are legendary among his former students and colleagues.

   Trustee McDowell ended his remarks by reminding the Board the Legislative Session has started and that work on the budget is imminent and since the budget is the ultimate policy statement of any organization, one has to look toward a rewarding experience in Augusta.

4. Chancellor’s Remarks and Agenda. Chancellor MacTaggart thanked President Pattenaude for a well done session and asked him to convey his thanks to his co-workers. He remarked that while the Board meeting held no big policy issues, it concentrated on information such as Dr. James Mingle’s comments on technology in the market place, and what the Chancellor considered an extraordinary presentation on K-12 education both from the establishment and then the products of the establishment, some very impressive students. He also spoke to the dedicated and capable employees who were present at the meeting and said he hoped contact resolution could be reached in the near future. He then handed out a more detailed description of The Maine Idea, including the kind of resources that it will take to achieve each of its components. Dr. MacTaggart said he would not go into it in detail, but asked the Board to review it in case they were asked to comment on the initiative in greater depth.

   As has become the custom during the Chancellor’s Remarks, the Chancellor asked each President to speak about items of interest at their campuses.
UMFK. President Charles Lyons reported that construction has begun on the Northern Maine Center for Rural Health Sciences and the Northern Aroostook Center for Technology. The Campus is processing their first two new degree programs in five years for Board consideration in July--Public Safety Administration and Electronic Commerce. Under the direction of Professor Wendy Kindred, there will be a conference on women’s issues entitled Clean Clothes and Dirty Linen: The Fabric of Women’s Lives. Dr. Lyons praised Professor Kindred for taking the leadership role on campus and in the community. The university has received a $200,000 gift, the second largest gift in the history of the campus. One hundred fifty thousand of that money will be put to the $200,000 match from the Legislative Appropriation for the new building. The other $50,000 will be taken to totally reequip the fitness center in the sports center, focusing primarily on aerobic equipment as the campus contribution to the System effort at health promotion. Dr. Lyons said the “system” nature of the campuses comes out when needed, i.e., USM staff has been doing on-site consult with UMFK’s cardiac rehab program, which has been going very well. The same staff will come back to help with the purchase of the new aerobic equipment.

Regarding the Centers, Dr. Lyons reported that all nine Centers from around the State have been involved in lengthy self-studies in an accreditation model, which has just been completed leading into five-year plans. Dr. Lyons said that, in particular, they want to know what markets they are in, those that they want to get out of, and what markets they are not in and would like to be. At Dr. James Breece’s invitation, Dr. Lyons will share with the Chief Academic Officers and the University Presidents, and the Board at a later date, any themes that may emerge from those discussions. The Centers have been restructured, including reporting relationships, operations, and some new marketing initiatives.

And finally, Dr. Lyons reported that a second set of 125 Osher Scholarships have been awarded, which, in combination with the Osher Foundation, the Governor and the Board, means that 275 people will be enrolled at System universities who would not have otherwise been able to attend.

UMF. President Theo Kalikow said the campus opened to very high enrollments and is enjoying a high student retention rate from first semester to second semester. The administration has involved the Campus in a lot of discussions about being a “laptop” university--wireless, universal access. It will be moved forward to try on a pilot basis for next Fall if external funding can be found. Three building projects are under discussion with the Campus: the Education building with funding coming from the Legislature (hopefully) and private funding; an addition to the Health and Fitness Center, which is needed because of heavy use by the community; and the final project comes with money from an anonymous donor, who is interested in helping the Campus build a performing arts center. The final project is in the preliminary planning stages. Since the project will come to the Board for approval, Dr. Kalikow wanted to give them the news early. She said funding will most likely be on the community participation model that has been used successfully with the capital campaign done jointly with the Farmington Public Library. She pointed out that the Health and Fitness Center is another example of cooperation with the community that has done well by both the university and the town.

UMM. President John Joseph reported that his Campus has received a significant gift from the Libra Foundation, which has allowed them to go ahead with the Childcare Center. The Center is in the final planning stage and it is hopeful that it will be in use by Fall. All of which means, that the administration must turn its head toward fund raising. Dr. Joseph spoke about the laptop mobile computing task force. He explained that there is a task force, which he chairs, with representation from each of the seven institutions and which is staffed by Julian Haynes from the Chancellor’s Office. The task force is trying to get a “snapshot” of the trends, implications and nuances of mobile computing, not from ten thousand feet, but from several miles out. They are looking at eight other institutions around the country that are relevant to the consideration of the UMS, and there is discussion about what each institution within the System is doing. Dr. Joseph said the University of Maine at Farmington is very committed to the concept and a number of other
institutions are looking at it very closely. The task force is also interviewing with two major corporations--IBM sent three executives to meet with them, and Dell Computing is also scheduled. The task force is looking at infrastructure issues, implications of what the System should anticipate, and whether or not institutions, all or in part, have some kind of mobile computing commitment. Also being reviewed, is what kind of central support might be needed, wireless and thin client networks that would allow students who use older or inexpensive computers to use the same software that is available on more expensive models. The task force is to report back recommendations for the System to the Chancellor early in February.

USM. President Richard Pattenaude stated that it was a pleasure to have the Trustees on Campus to share the excitement of USM and what is happening there. He thanked the Board for their warm welcome to the students from the new music theater program who performed during dinner the night before. He also thanked his staff, in particular Karen Casey, the President’s Assistant, who worked hard to make it all happen.

Dr. Pattenaude reported that Professor Kim Cook, from Criminology, is now in Australia on a Fulbright. Dr. Pattenaude said she was a young, bright shining star in the faculty and he wanted to share that with the Board. USM has had record enrollments, with the largest Spring on record, and remains steady. He said it was good because it has helped the Campus absorb its unexpected energy costs. The dorms are full for the Spring semester for the first time in the history of the institution, which reaffirms the thinking about building a new residence hall. Dr. Pattenaude pointed out the architectural pictures in the hallway that illustrate the new BioScience Research Institute which will go out to bid this Spring. The Campus has just occupied the half million renovation to the engineering labs on the Gorham Campus, which allows the Computer Engineering concentration in the engineering field. Finally, USM is reaching the high point of a long-term planning effort on a number of things that the administration knew would come together simultaneously: the Board of Visitors Report, the Reaccreditation Report for USM’s ten year accreditation, the Facilities Master Plan, and within two weeks, Provost Joseph Wood will offer the first draft of USM’s Long Range Plan. The last Long Range Plan was offered in 1996. Dr. Pattenaude said the MFA degree on the current agenda is part of that plan. The university will be sharing with the Board the results of the planning process which should be in place by the end of the current semester. Dr. Pattenaude also mentioned that the Women’s Studies Program will be the recipient of Fulbright scholars from abroad. The Women’s Studies Program is led by Professor Luisa Deprez, USM’s Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees.

UM. President Peter Hoff reported that a copy of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station calendar had been distributed to the Board which, he said, illustrates the strong research work that is done at the University of Maine and the opportunities for undergraduate education. He noted in particular the phrase on the calendar which said “Enriching the Undergraduate Experience Through Research.” Dr. Hoff followed up on the presentation on K-12 education heard earlier on the System’s role in preparing teachers and supporting education across the State. He said that as a veteran of five state university systems across the country, he has observed that the flagship campus is not always deeply involved in teacher education. He said the University of California, even though very involved in research, and has a doctorate in education, educates very few teachers for the State of California. Dr. Hoff said that phenomena is not the case in Maine. Looking at the number of teachers across the State in K-12 education, more of them were educated by the University of Maine in Orono than any other institution in the country. Dr. Hoff stated that the University of Maine is serious about its part in educating teachers. He said there is a temptation to treat education elsewhere as a “cash cow”–to offer low-cost instruction and pass the savings along to other academic departments that felt worthy of money. UM took a look to make sure it was not doing that and found that of its five colleges, the College of Education and Human Development is actually the median college when it comes to investment per student credit hour speaking favorably for the support of teacher education in the budget. Finally, Dr. Hoff said that UM has established a task force on the preparation of teachers. The task force operates on the
premise that teacher education is a university-wide responsibility and not one left to a single college. For that reason, Dr. Stephen Norton, a Distinguished Professor, was appointed as chair of the committee. Dr. Norton is a Professor of Geology. The task force includes professors of education, as well as professors from the other four colleges, it includes in-service teachers, and people from the State Department of Education. Dr. Hoff said that the administration is looking hard to make sure that practices across the university in the preparation of teachers is up-to-date and the very best that can be provided. He said that one thing is for certain, the System is not preparing enough teachers of mathematics, science, foreign languages, and other key areas that the State needs. So, the task force will be looking at that issue as well as others. Dr. Norton’s task force will be reporting out within the next few months.

UMPI. President Nancy Hensel reported that enrollment is up again this Spring and is going in the right direction, with more full-time students and higher credit-hour generation. The Campus has spent the last year or so working on its integrated marketing plan, selecting a theme, and finding a niche for the Campus. The theme is “learning cultural adventures and outdoor adventures.” One of the outdoor adventures took students to Ecuador. The faculty have organized adventure weekends taking students various places to extend learning outside the classroom. Relationships are being extended with Canada. Two UMPI students took first and second place for the second time in the Maine Honors Program. UMPI faculty are doing more with undergraduate research in active learning and service learning internships. Dr. Hensel highlighted two building projects: the first being the Houlton Center, which is coming in within budget; and the other major building project, which was written up in the US Air and Space Museum Journal, is a large three-dimensional solar-system model that will run from Houlton to Presque Isle. President Hensel said that it was a wonderful project involving several of the local high schools, as well as several local towns. The Campus inaugurated its Woodrow Wilson Fellows Program last Fall, and there is a German Marshall scholar coming to Campus this Spring. The Campus hosted the Voices of the North Country Conference. Dr. Hensel said the Campus is working on health care issues, as well. Last Fall there was the President’s Fitness Walk which lasted until the weather prevented further participation. It has been followed by faculty and staff engaging in various fitness activities. The President said she will recognize those individuals who have participated consistently. The Campus has also started a project called “Earth Movers” which is a gardening club focusing on a variety of interests. Members of the organization have been planting a heritage garden for the Campus, which is filled with indigenous and low-maintenance plants. In terms of development, the Campus is in preplanning stages for their Health and Physical Education Complex. An employee giving campaign has already begun and slightly over half of the goal among employees has been raised.

UMA. President Owen Cargol reported on the First Annual Report to the Maine State Legislature of the Maine Community Policing Institute (MCPI). He said the mission of the Maine Community Policing Institute is to support and educate the people of Maine in skills and techniques creating effective and lasting problem solving partnerships among police, service providers, and citizens within their respective communities with the mutual goal of enhancing public safety and quality of life. In the first year of the Institute, over 3,500 law enforcement officers were provided training. The Institute is funded in part by federal grants, and in part by a 2% court surcharge, so that every time there is a speeding ticket given out in Maine, part of those funds are used for the program. Elements of the program are basic training for community policing, ethical decision making, use of technology in policing, the goals of which include building better cases and enabling officers to spend more time in the community; leadership for community policing, which provides community and police leaders with the tools to bring about meaningful change in the organization; and policing in New England is a “how-to” correspondence course delivered to officers and citizens who reside in remote locations or who are unable to attend class. The MCPI has also launched an international patrol exchange/partnership between the Maine State Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. And finally, MCPI offers technical assistance that includes advice for neighborhood groups, school boards, town select people, senior groups,
communications officers, mental health collaborations, and juvenile justice professionals. President Cargol said he is proud of the Maine Community Policing Institute and wanted to bring it to the attention of the Board.

Chancellor MacTaggart thanked each President in turn for their informative reports and closed his remarks by stating how pleased he is to work with such a fine group of people.

5. Committee Matters/Action.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Technology.** Trustee Barry McCrum reported that Dr. James Mingle had given the Committee “incredible food for thought” regarding some models that are being pursued in technology education around the country. He observed that the Committee has not been very active up to this point and suggested that a meeting be scheduled to do an assessment of what is available in the System. He suggested that President Lyons, who is doing technology work with the Centers, be invited to join them at their next meeting.

**Academic Affairs Committee.** Trustee Wick Skinner reported on the “terrific” session on K-12 Teacher Preparation held earlier. He thanked Dr. James Breece for getting it organized and the Deans and Directors of Education System-wide who were involved in the presentations and discussion.

Trustee Skinner announced that the Academic Affairs Committee will have a special meeting in early March with two things on its agenda: 1) to discuss the new job responsibilities being proposed for the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; and 2) to discuss some of the faculty issues that came up at the breakfast meeting that morning, such as retention, isolation, etc.

**Student Affairs Committee.** Trustee Wick Johnson reported that the Committee took a look at teacher preparation from the point of view of recent graduates from teacher training programs. He said it followed well on the Academic Affairs Committee presentation, and reinforced how critical many programs are at the System. He said it was striking how hard people work in these programs and how much change has taken place over the years.

6. Consent Agenda. On motion of Trustee McDowell, which was seconded by Trustee Andrucki, the following resolutions were adopted as presented:

**Honorary Degrees.** The Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System approved the 2001 nominations for Honorary Degrees as presented.

**New Academic Program Proposals/Elimination.

- Elimination of B.S in Forest Engineering and Establishment of B.S. in Forest Operations Science, UM
  The Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System approved the elimination of the B.S. in Forest Engineering and the establishment of the B.S. in Forest Operations Science at the University of Maine.

- Establishment of Stonecoast M.F.A. in Creative Writing, USM
  The Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System approved the establishment of the Stonecoast Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at the University of Southern Maine.

- Establishment of B.A. in Psychology, UMPI
  The Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System approved the establishment of the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

**Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, and Awards.** The Board of Trustees accepted with gratitude all gifts, grants and awards listed under the date of January 22, 2001.
Sale of Property, Augusta. The Board authorized the sale of two acres of land known as the Stoddard property on the Augusta campus, by competitive bid, with the proceeds being used toward the construction costs of a new office building, to be presented to the Board at a later date.

Appointment for Trustee Approval. The Board of Trustees approved the appointments to positions at or above the level of Dean or equivalent as recommended by the Chancellor, as follows: David Rosen, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, UMM.

7. Academic Calendar. Trustee Anderson reported that students system-wide are concerned with the academic year calendar, in particular Veterans Day. The holiday is not recognized on the academic year calendar and he reported that he has received numerous letters, many from non-traditional students who are veterans, requesting that it be honored. Trustee McDowell responded that the matter will be forwarded to the Student Affairs Committee for consideration.

8. Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Sunday and Monday, March 18-19, 2001, at the University of Maine at Augusta.

Sandra F. Johnson for
Mary Ann Haas, Clerk