Board of Trustees Meeting


Trustee James Mullen, Chair, convened the meeting.

1. Citizen Comment.  Citizen Comment is a time regularly set aside to hear from the public on issues of concern.  Suzanne Moulton, an employee at the University of Maine campus, spoke on low employee morale.

2. Acceptance of Minutes.  The minutes for May 16-17, 1999, were APPROVED as presented.

3. Chair’s Remarks And Agenda.  Trustee Mullen opened his remarks by formally introducing and welcoming the two newest Trustees to the Board: Edward Fox of New Harbor and Barry McCrum of Mars Hill.

Trustee Mullen thanked the Governor and legislators for the support shown for the System during the Legislative session just ended, and for their support in years past.  He said that their “recognition of the significance of higher education to the people of this State and to the future of the this State is especially gratifying to those of us who have the pleasure of serving on this Board.”  Trustee Mullen went on to express appreciation for their support and that the Board looks forward to working with them in the future.

Trustee Mullen also thanked the Chancellor and his staff, the Presidents and their staffs for their work during the past Legislative session.  He said “the campuses and the System represent an enormously complex enterprise, and your ability and efforts in presenting clear, meaningful and thoughtful information has not gone unnoticed--so thank you for all of your help.”

Trustee Mullen made the following remarks:

“I am compelled to say something about our earlier period of citizen comments and about our employees outside the building here today.

Traditionally, during this meeting, we have usually not responded to those comments -- whether we should or shouldn’t is a discussion topic for another time.

But let me just say this--as we, the Board, go about the business of setting our future agenda, our goals, and our long-term plans, objectives and programs of work, we will continue our efforts on a number of important fronts.

While most people here today are aware that on the issue of access, we’ve been working on the community college issue, and on more financial assistance for students.  As
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examples, in terms of the significance of economic development, we have made great progress in the area of increased support for research and development.

Perhaps less well known is our commitment to quality in the educational process. One important aspect of that has to do with the notion of assuring that our people, at all levels, are compensated competitively. And while progress has been made in this area, the fiscal realities are such that it will take time. To wit, this year the Legislature increased our operating appropriation by 3.4% (for which we are very grateful). That equates to about $5 million, which is significant. But unfortunately, our health care insurance for this year increased by 25% or so, which also equates to $5 million.

In the simplest sense, we are then left with only the minor increase in tuition that will be recommended for approval here today to handle all other cost increases system-side. That’s a fiscal reality, but it is also a challenge that we recognize; and one we resolve to address as a priority in the months and years to come.”

Trustee Mullen went on to say that the approval of the proposed tuition increases is part of a two-year plan approved last Fall, and reflects not only the new model for distributing resources, but also the pledge made to the Governor and Legislature to hold tuition increases under 2.5%. He also cautioned that while much of the agenda would appear to be covered in a brief fashion, it has been considered and discussed in considerable detail in the course of committee deliberations and around the System.

Appointment of Standing Committees. On motion of Trustee Mullen, which was seconded, the Board
VOTED: to approve the appointments to the standing committees, as presented.

Trustee Mullen thanked the trustees for agreeing to serve on the committees and the chairs for agreeing to lead them.

4. Chancellor’s Remarks and Agenda. Chancellor Terrence MacTaggart recognized State Senator Mary Cathcart, who was in the audience, thanked her for her advocacy on behalf of the University of Maine System and invited her to speak to the Board.

Senator Cathcart commended the Chancellor and John Lisnik for their tireless efforts on behalf of the System; she mentioned the strong partnership between the University of Maine System and State government in the last three years, and she said she would continue to fight for higher education in the State. Senator Cathcart mentioned two areas of concern: 1) tuition increases, which, she said, Maine families cannot afford; and 2) UMS employees, who fear they will lose money because of spiraling health care costs. She said that employees need to be respected and helped. She closed by stating that she looks forward to working with the Board in the coming year.

Academic Affairs. Trustee Wickham Skinner, Chair, reported for the Committee.

5. Setting the Academic Affairs Agenda. Trustee Skinner reported that the Committee has committed to a course of study which it hopes will stimulate discussion and encourage the Board’s involvement. The five areas are 1) Preparing the Faculty of the Future; 2) Creating Quality Teaching/Learning Environments; 3) Using Technology to Enhance Teaching and Learning; 4) Life, Work, and Citizenship in the 21st Century; and 5) Creating Partnerships to Increase Quality and Access.

6. Diversity Progress Reports. Trustee Skinner reported that the Diversity Progress Reports show action and progress on the part of the campuses. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Sue Huseman agreed that the campuses have been responsive to the charge to improve the universities’ ability to serve Maine’s diverse communities. She said it has been a long-standing effort and the Reports show that the campuses are making good progress toward the goals they have outlined with the help of the UMS Diversity Steering Committee. Vice Chancellor Huseman said that she is pleased with what is planned
and with what has been done so far and grateful to the Chancellor and the Board for their support.

7. Consent Agenda. Trustee Donald McDowell, Vice Chair, noted that at the request of Trustee Sandra Prescott the item on the FY2000 (FY00) E & G Operating Budgets & Tuition Rates would be voted on separately from the other items listed on the consent agenda. Trustee Prescott stated that she would vote against the motion because she was opposed to the increase in tuition.

On motion of Trustee Donald McDowell, which was seconded, and with Trustee Sandra Prescott opposed, the Board adopted the FY2000 (FY00) E & G Operating Budgets & Tuition Rates.

On motion of Trustee McDowell, which was seconded, the Board adopted the following resolutions:

Gifts, Grants and Awards. The Board accepted with gratitude all gifts, grants and awards as listed under the date of July 12, 1999.

Increase in Size of Memorial Union Expansion, UM. The Board authorized an increase in the budget for the expansion of the Memorial Union at the University of Maine from $10.2 million to $12.5 million, with the construction funding to come from University revenue bonds from 1998 and 2000, private donations, and contributions from the Bookstore and Campus Living. Debt service will be paid from student fees and auxiliary enterprise annual contributions; and approved the reimbursement resolution as presented and authorized the Treasurer to issue bonds in FY 2001 for this project.

Naming of Lounge, U-CB. The Board named the Eastport Hall Lounge at University College at Bangor, the GEORGE HUSKINS LOUNGE in honor of George Huskins’ many years of service and commitment to the University College and the University of Maine System.

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

M.Ed., Instructional Technology, UM. The Board approved the establishment of the Master of Education in Instructional Technology at the University of Maine.

Bachelor of College Studies, UMM. The Board approved the establishment of the Bachelor of College Studies at the University of Maine at Machias.

Establishment of Center for Study & Prevention of Hate Violence, USM. The Board approved the establishment of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Hate Violence at the University of Southern Maine.

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:

Dr. Jane Kirschling as Dean of the College of Nursing and Professor of Nursing with tenure, USM

Dr. Margo Wood as Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Research, USM

Dr. Richard Kimball as Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, UMPI
Dr. Eleanor Green as Dean of Arts & Sciences, UMPI

Dr. JoAnne Putnam as Dean of Education and Professional Studies, UMPI

Dr. Julie Ellis as Interim Dean of the School of Applied Science, USM

Mr. Tracy Gran as Dean of the University College of Bangor, UMA

**Collective Bargaining Agreement for Approval.** The Board authorized the Chancellor to conclude collective bargaining agreements for the Service and Maintenance unit and the Police unit, upon receipt of notice of ratification from the bargaining agent.

8. **Information Items.** Trustee Mullen listed the following items, which were included in the Board materials for information only:

   - Setting the Academic Affairs Agenda
   - Diversity Progress Reports
   - Appointment, Vice President, Student Affairs, UM
   - Annual Report of Named Chairs and Professorships
   - Board Agenda Calendar
   - Summary of Current Statistics

9. **Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on September 12-13, 1999, at the University of Maine at Augusta.

On motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned.

Sandra F. Johnson for
Mary Ann Haas, Clerk