Board of Trustees Meeting


Trustee James Mullen, Chair, convened the meeting.

1. Citizen Comment. Citizen Comment is a time regularly set aside for comments from the public. No one had signed up to speak at the July meeting.

2. Acceptance of Minutes. On motion of Trustee Gregory Cyr, which were seconded by Trustee Barry McCrum, the minutes for May 20-21, 2001, were unanimously approved as written.

3. Chair’s Remarks And Agenda.

New Faculty and Student Representatives. Trustee Mullen welcomed Dr. Bruno Hicks, UMFK Faculty Representative, who replaced Dr. Wendy Kindred, and Dawn Bickford, UMA Student Representative, who replaced Amy Line. Both Representatives were attending their first meeting.

Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. Trustee Mullen formally recognized and welcomed Chief Financial Officer, Joanne Yestramski, who was also attending her first meeting.

Trustee Mullen thanked the University of Maine System staff for hosting the Board Meeting.

Appointment of Committees of the Board. Trustee Mullen thanked all of the Trustees for their willingness to serve on committees and particularly to those who agreed to serve as chairs. He said there is a rich diversity of interest and experience among Board members and he was able to put Trustees in their first or second choice of committee.

Trustee Mullen made the following remarks:

“When this Board last convened in May in Fort Kent, I made some comments as to not only the successes we have had during the past year, and there have been many, but also as to some of the immediate challenges, mostly fiscal, that we are confronted with. I even tried to balance those perspectives with the “it is the best of times, it is the worst of times” misquote.”

“As I’ve thought about this lately, however, I have forced myself to look back a little farther in our recent past. Many of you will recall the shape we were in just five short years ago. It wasn’t good. Our enrollments were down. Our tuition increases were outstripping inflation. The Legislature was entertaining numerous bills to change the University System in every way imaginable. And, they were providing deminimis funding increases for us. Morale on our campuses, including faculty, students and staff, was absolutely terrible. We ranked behind even Puerto Rico in R&D funding support. Our buildings were crumbling around us. We were looked on as, at best, a “safety school” by many of the top high school students we wanted most to attract. And, I could cite other
Then, we had the good fortune to hire Terry MacTaggart as our Chancellor. Without exaggeration, I can say that over the course of the past five years, Terry has made most of that bad stuff go away. And not only has he dealt capably with turning around all that bad stuff, he has also provided the leadership and direction that has not only set us on a positive future course, but has also instilled a confidence in all constituencies that is immeasurable.

When Terry came to us, one of our concerns was would this be just another brief stepping stone for an obviously talented educational leader. Terry made it clear that he would give us a five-year commitment. Unfortunately, time has a way of passing by more quickly than we often realize.

So, it is with very mixed emotions that we publicly announce today that Dr. MacTaggart is stepping down as Chancellor of the University of Maine System. If there is any good news in this announcement, it is that we are not losing Terry to another institution, or another state. He will stay in Maine, and will become a University System Research Professor, associated with both the Muskie School at the University of Southern Maine, and the Margaret Chase Smith Center at the University of Maine, where we will continue to have the benefit of his considerable skills.

Now, before I make one final comment on this matter, I would ask for a motion:

On motion of Trustee Gregory Cyr, which was seconded by Trustee Penny Harris, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted the following:

That the Board of Trustees approves the reassignment of Dr. Terrence MacTaggart as University of Maine System Research Professor, effective August 1, 2001.

Terry and I called the Governor last week to advise him of this, and I just wanted to publicly note that the Governor was disappointed with the news, but pleased that Terry is staying in Maine. He also, as you would expect, had many complimentary things to say to Terry.

I would finally note that it has been more than a pleasure to work with you, Terry. Not only have I learned a hell of a lot, it’s been just plain fun. Not only do I value Terry’s wisdom, wit and friendship, I also know I speak for the whole Board when I tell you how appreciative we are of everything you have done not only for the University System, but for the citizens of this State as well. We thank you for all of that.

Over the past several months, as Terry and I and the Executive Committee and the Board began talking about the transition process, it was apparent to everyone that we have a great deal of credibility at stake. To find someone to eventually fill Dr. MacTaggart’s shoes will be no small task. In fact, even to name a credible interim chancellor would be a bit of a challenge.

We decided to list the criteria we felt were important for someone to step in as interim chancellor. These included:

- experience in a university environment;
- someone who understands Maine issues;
- someone who has the respect of people within the System and the State;
- a credible spokesperson;
- someone who can control downside risk;
- someone with no hidden agenda.”
“As we kicked around possible names to meet these criteria, it became quickly apparent that we had someone in our midst who would fit the bill, and then some.”

“So, we are very pleased to today announce that Don McDowell, our current Vice Chair of this Board, has agreed to accept the position of Interim Chancellor of the University of Maine System.”

“For those of you who aren’t aware of Mr. McDowell’s formidable vitae, he recently retired as CEO of Maine Medical Center and it’s parent, Maine Health. His work in academic institutions includes positions as Vice President for Business Affairs at Vanderbilt, Vice President for Administrative Affairs at Florida International University, among others.”

“Don has served in many community and charitable boards, including six years to this Board. In addition to all the criteria listed earlier, which Don meets easily, he is also an experienced manager, fund raiser, and has more than a passing knowledge of healthcare issues, which is a critical issue facing the University System.”

“I would now entertain a motion to acknowledge that Don will step down from the Board.”

On motion of Trustee Glickman, which was seconded by Trustee Harris, the Board unanimously voted the following:

The Board appoints Mr. Donald L. McDowell as Interim Chancellor effective August 1, 2001 until a successor Chancellor assumes the position. The Board expresses its deep gratitude to Dr. MacTaggart for his leadership of the University System and to Mr. McDowell for his willingness to serve the University System in an executive capacity for an interim period.

“Don, thank you for your willingness to tackle this challenging assignment. We have every confidence that you will serve us very well.”

“Finally, with Don McDowell vacating the Board and the Vice Chair’s position, it is necessary for us to appoint a Vice Chair, pro tem. I have asked Trustee Greg Cyr to take this on, and he has agreed to do so. This is Greg’s fifth year on the Board, and he has served on and/or chaired most of our committees, and is a valued member of this Board.”

“I will accept a motion to name Greg Cyr as Vice Chair, pro tem, effective August 1, 2001.”

On motion of Trustee Glickman, which was seconded by Trustee Anderson, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Trustee Gregory Cyr as Vice Chair, pro tem, effective August 1, 2001.

4. Chancellor’s Remarks And Agenda. Chancellor MacTaggart commented that together, Board members, presidents, faculty, staff, students, progress has been made in increasing access for the people of Maine, strengthening the economy through R&D and other means and building and strengthening the institution as well. In light of that, Dr. MacTaggart said he wanted to thank some people. First to the Board, he said that he has done some work through the Association of Governing Boards, so when he says that this group is the best board in the country, it comes from a knowledge base and not just anticipatory nostalgia. He said that the current group and those who have preceded it have put the State as a whole above regional interests. There are no ideological axes to grind, they prod when appropriate and push as tough questions are supported once an initiative is embraced. Dr. MacTaggart said that those are all important and rare qualities.

To Trustee Mullen, Chancellor MacTaggart said that Jim has been described as a natural executive
and, to his credit, has not tried to be the executive to the System. He has been the executive to the Board and has carried it out most ably. Dr. MacTaggart thanked him for that and for his friendship.

To the Presidents, Chancellor MacTaggart said he has not worked with a more exceptional group of leaders. He said they have made his tenure an absolute pleasure and Maine probably does not recognize how fortunate it is to have people who have made such a commitment to students and to the State.

To the faculty, the staff and the students, Chancellor MacTaggart said his hat is off to them. He had a chance to interact with faculty across the System and there are none better anywhere. He said the staff that works for the students are remarkably fine people with fine integrity and competence.

Chancellor MacTaggart said that ultimately it is the people of Maine who make it all worthwhile. He said that he appreciates what Governor King has done in tough times and in better times to support higher education in the State and in the System in particular. Dr. MacTaggart also thanked the Legislature for their policy and financial support.

The Chancellor thanked Mr. McDowell for agreeing to take on the Interim Chancellorship. He recognized Joanne Yestramski, the new Chief Financial Officer, and said he was pleased to have her.

The Chancellor also thanked the journalists in the State for their fair treatment of the System in the media in terms of balance and accuracy.

Chancellor MacTaggart mentioned three names in particular before closing. The first was Dr. Mary Ann Haas, Associate Chancellor. He said that whatever success was experienced would not have happened without her. The second was B. Russell Smith, former Chief Financial Officer, who, he said, was a very capable staff member and manager of finances. And finally, the Chancellor named John Lisnik, Governmental Liaison, as a person whose credibility and skills in the halls of the Legislature were invaluable.

With that, the Chancellor closed his remarks with a thanks to everyone.

5. Committee Matters/action

Academic Affairs. Trustee Wickham Skinner, Chair, reported for the Committee. He said the meeting earlier that day had been fruitful due to the efforts across many of the campuses with regard to academic programming that would address the needs of the State and students. There were nine new proposals to establish different courses with different degrees from five campuses, as well as a proposal to eliminate three course specializations at Augusta. He also reported that President Kalikow, leading the diversity work throughout the System, gave an annual report showing considerable effort and progress System wide.

Finance Committee. Trustee John DiMatteo, Chair, reported for the Committee. He said the Committee heard a very important discussion on the FY2002 (FY02) Educational & General (E&G) Operating Budgets. Prior action that has been taken by the Committee and the Board has been the approval of the biennial plan for the fiscal years 2002 and 2003, together with a request for a State appropriation, which was done in September 2000 in time for the legislative session. Less than half the requested appropriation was received and, in dollar amount, was the least of the base appropriation in the last five years. The System had asked for 8.9% to build on substantial initiatives of the proceeding year and received 4.2%. In May of this year, the Board approved tuition and fees, so the Committee discussion was concerned with the remainder of the operating budget. The budget was presented by the new Treasurer and CFO Joanne Yestramski and the Committee recommended that the budget be forwarded to the full Board for action.

6. Consent Agenda. On motion of Trustee Donald McDowell, which was seconded by Trustee Gregory, and with the Board voting unanimously the following resolutions were adopted, as presented:
Board of Trustees Meeting   Page 1
July 9, 2001

- Establishment of B.A. in New Media, UM
- Establishment of M.S. in Information Systems Science, UM
- Establishment of Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering, UM
- Establishment of B.S. in Environmental Science, UMF
- Establishment of B.A. in Women’s Studies, UMF
- Establishment of B.S. in Electronic Commerce, UMFK
- Establishment of B.S. in Rural Public Safety Administration, UMFK
- Establishment of B.S. in Athletic Training, UMPI
- Establishment of Master of Science in Biology, USM
- Elimination of Three Academic Programs, UMA
- FY2002 (FY02) Educational & General (E&G) Operating Budgets
- Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, and Awards
- Leasing of Property, Farmington
- Sullivan Gymnasium Renovation, USM Portland Campus
- Naming of New Residence Hall, USM
- Appointments for Trustee Approval

The Board voted on the Target Technology Center Lease Agreement from the University of Maine as a separate item so that Trustee James Dowe could abstain from voting due to a possible conflict of interest. On motion of Trustee McDowell, which was seconded by Trustee Cyr, and with Trustee Dowe abstaining, the Board voted to adopt the Target Technology Center Lease Agreement.

7. Information Items. Trustee Mullen mentioned the following agenda items that were included for information only.

- Annual Report of Named Chairs and Professorships
- Update on Collective Bargaining
- Board Agenda Calendar
- Summary of Current Statistics

8. Date of Next Meeting. The date of the next meeting will be September 23-24, 2001, at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

On motion of Trustee Mullen, which was seconded by Trustee Andrucki, the meeting was adjourned.

Sandra F. Johnson for
Mary Ann Haas, Clerk