Board of Trustees Meeting


Trustee Sally Vamvakias, Chair, convened the meeting.

1. Citizen Comment. Citizen Comment is a time regularly set aside to hear from the public on issues of concern. No one had signed up to speak at the meeting.


3. Chair’s Remarks and Agenda. Trustee Vamvakias made the following remarks regarding diversity.

“In the introductory commentary on today’s material pertaining to diversity, there is reference to a failed attempt in 1990 to bring about a coherent, broad-based, systematic approach to enhancing diversity within our institutions. Since the statement doesn’t go on to suggest why the attempt failed, it’s unclear as to what the System learned from this previous exercise. I hope somebody knows so that the plans we vote on later this afternoon do not meet with a similar fate.

“As I reviewed the diversity plans, I tried to put them in a local, national, and global context. In choosing to attend or work at a UMS campus--universities located in the far Northeast--students and employees find themselves in a region not known for an historic legacy of slavery followed by decades of rigid segregation--a legacy that led to race sensitive admissions to compensate for a history of racial discrimination. They also find themselves in a region where the Native American population graced the landscape with dignity, resourcefulness and quiet strength. There were few range wars or historic last stands in Maine that I am aware of. The gay and lesbian sectors, the poor, the disabled and women have advocated their positions within a defined context with conviction and extraordinary civility. In short, there have been few defining moments or central events that have imperiled the status quo. And yet, the System’s attempts to become more inclusive have been limited and, more often than not, met with frustration and failure rather than the success we seek.

“If one didn’t know it before reading through these plans that diversity on a university campus involves much more than avoiding being mean or prejudice, it should be clear after finishing. As I read the seven campus plans, I was struck by the numbers, the goals, the grids, the facts, the action steps, the data, the recommendations and the good intentions. Surely, armed with all this material, one could solve world hunger or establish a lasting peace everywhere.

“Several years ago, the Human Rights Center in Geneva, Switzerland, attempted to clarify
the diversity of the world’s population in order that anyone could understand the global implications. An analyst reduced the world’s population to one hundred people, retaining all existing proportions. Let’s “assume that there were only 100 of us here today in this room and that those 100 people were divided exactly the way the world’s population is divided. We would have 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from North and South America, and 8 Africans. Seventy would be non-white and seventy (not necessarily the same) would be non-Christian. Half of the world’s wealth would be in the hands of six people. All six would be citizens of the United States. Only 30 of those 100 people would be able to read. Half would suffer from malnutrition. Eighty would live in substandard housing. And only one person in the room would have a college degree.” For all of us committed to higher education, this is our challenge--only one would have a college degree.

“So, after we approve the appropriate resolution later today, for surely we will; and, as the campuses continue to refine and implement the plans, and report on their progress in July, I hope that the progress report will include some easy answers to some fairly simple questions like:

- Will there be a more diverse student body, faculty and workplace next Fall? “Being mindful that every one deserves opportunity, no one deserves success.” (Mamphela Ramphele, Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Town, South Africa.)

- Will our universities be aggressively teaching students to value diversity and to learn from it?

“The first thing I chaired as a University of Maine System Trustee was the Commission on Pluralism that led to the failed attempt to more fully diversify the campuses. That was nine years ago. I remember the report was cutting edge, but the campus efforts to increase diversity failed. That’s like saying the operation was a success, but the patient died. I implore you not to let the patient die this time. It’s simply too important.”

**Board Meeting Calendar for 1999-2000.** On motion of Trustee Vamvakias, which was seconded, the Calendar of Board Meetings for 1999-00 was APPROVED as presented.

**Appointment of Nominating Committee.** Trustee Vamvakias appointed the following Trustees to the Nominating Committee: John Dimatteo, Chair; Gregory Cyr and Margaret Weston.

**Resolution for UM’s Department of Defense Grant.** As part of UM’s Department of Defense Grant, the Department of Defense requested that the following resolution entitled **Resolution for Exemption of Certain Directors or Officers** be adopted, and was so adopted, by the Board of Trustees:

WHEREAS, current Department of Defense directives contain a provision making it mandatory that the Chair of the Board and all principal officers (such as President, Senior Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and those occupying similar positions) meet the personnel security clearances requirements established for a contractor’s facility security clearance; and

WHEREAS, said Department of Defense directives permit the exclusion from the personnel clearance requirements of certain members of the Board of Directors and other officers, provided that this action is recorded in the corporate minutes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT DECLARED that the Chair of the Board, at least an official quorum of the Board of Directors (the executive committee of six members of the Board of Directors), and all principal officers (such as, President, Senior Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and those occupying similar positions) at the present time do possess, or shall be processed for, the required security clearance; and
BE IT RESOLVED that in the future, when any individual enters upon any duties as Chair of the Board, as a replacement for one of the cleared quorum of the Board, or as one of the principal officers of this corporation, (such as, President, Senior Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and those occupying similar positions), such individual shall immediately make application for the required security clearance; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that the following members of the Board of Directors and other officers, shall not require, shall not have, and can be effectively excluded from access to all classified information in the possession of the corporation, and do not occupy positions that would enable them to affect adversely corporate policies or practices in the performance of classified contracts for the Department of Defense or the User Agencies of its Industrial Security Program.

4. Chancellor’s Remarks and Agenda. Chancellor MacTaggart thanked President Easton and the campus community for their hospitality in hosting the Board of Trustees meeting. He also commended President Easton on his leadership and commitment to the Presque Isle Campus and wished him well in his impending retirement.

Academic Affairs Committee. Trustee Esther Rauch, Chair pro-tem, reported for the Academic Affairs Committee.

5. Tenure Nominations 1999. On motion of Trustee Rauch, which was seconded, the nominations for tenure submitted by the institutions of the University of Maine System in 1999 were APPROVED. Approvals will take effect September 1, 1999. Following is the list of newly tenured faculty:

University of Maine

Bruce J. Barber, Tenure at present rank of Associate Professor of Marine Sciences, College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture
Nancy J. Fishwick, Promotion to Associate Professor of Nursing with tenure, College of Business, Public Policy and Health
Diane C. Haslett, Promotion to Associate Professor of Social Work with tenure, College of Business, Public Policy and Health
Richard H. Messier, Tenure at present rank of Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering
D. Kimbrough Oller, Tenure at present rank of Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Cynthia H. Pilskaln, Tenure at present rank of Associate Professor of Oceanography, College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture
Daniel Sandweiss, Promotion to Associate Professor of Anthropology and Quaternary Studies with tenure, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

David W. Townsend, Promotion to Professor of Oceanography with tenure, College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture
Elise H. Turner, Promotion to Associate Professor of Computer Science with tenure, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Roy M. Turner, Promotion to Associate Professor of Computer Science with tenure, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Jeffrey D. Wilhelm, Promotion to Associate Professor of Education with tenure, College of Education and Human Development

University of Maine at Augusta

Diane F. Blanchette, Promotion to Associate Professor of Dental Health with tenure, College of Mathematics and Professional Studies
University of Maine at Farmington

Jean A. Doty, Promotion to Associate Professor of Environmental Biology with tenure, College of Arts and Sciences
Frank Engert, Promotion to Associate Professor of Accounting with tenure, College of Arts and Sciences
Christopher Magri, Promotion to Associate Professor of Physics with tenure, College of Arts and Sciences
Steven Pane, Promotion to Associate Professor of Music with tenure, College of Arts and Sciences
Marie Shields, Promotion to Associate Professor of Middle/Secondary Education, College of Education, Health & Rehabilitation

University of Maine at Fort Kent

Bernard W. Quetchenbach, Promotion to Associate Professor of English with tenure, Division of Arts and Humanities
Rowena Tessmann, Promotion to Associate Professor of Nursing with tenure, Division of Nursing

University of Maine at Machias

Brian F. Beal, Tenure at present rank of Associate Professor of Marine Ecology, Division of Sciences
Greg R. Henderson, Tenure at present rank of Associate Professor of Art, Division of Arts and Letters

University of Maine at Presque Isle

Alice G. Sheppard, Promotion to Associate Professor of Psychology with tenure, School of Education and Professional Studies

University of Southern Maine

Robert Boothe, Promotion to Associate Professor of Computer Science, School of Applied Science
Daniel A. Panici, Promotion to Associate Professor of Communication with tenure, College of Arts and Sciences
Brian J. Toy, Tenure at present rank of Associate Professor of Sports Medicine, College of Nursing

Committee of the Whole  Trustee James Mullen, Chair, reported for the Committee.

6. University of Maine System Campus Diversity Plans. Trustee Mullen spoke to the amount of involvement and time spent by the various committees in the development of the Campus Diversity Plans.

On motion made and seconded, the Board received the Diversity Plans as submitted and charged the institutions to continue refining and implementing these plans and to report on their progress at the Board’s meeting in July 1999.

Human Resources and Labor Relations Committee  Trustee James Mullen, Chair, reported for the Committee.
7. **Group Health Plan Status Update.** Trustee Mullen reported that the Committee had heard a detailed update from Tracy Bigney, Executive Director of Human Resources, at its meeting earlier in the day. The System has completed the selection process for a carrier for the Group Health Plan and is finalizing negotiations. Subsequent to that finalization, the System will be going through a transition period for all plan participants in preparation for a July 1, 1999 deadline.

8. **UMPI Presidency.** With the retirement of President Michael Easton in June of 1999, Chancellor MacTaggart explained that he and the Campus have two options available to them with regard to a search: begin the search immediately at an inopportune time to attract an appropriate candidate and risk a failed search, or wait to begin the search in September when the pool of candidates will be larger. The decision has been made, in consultation with the Campus community, to delay the search and appoint an interim President.

9. **Consent Agenda.** On motion of Trustee Mullen, which was seconded, the following resolutions were adopted:

   **FY00 Room & Board Rates/Auxiliary Enterprise Budgets.** The Board approved the room and board rates and the auxiliary enterprise budgets for Fiscal Year 2000 as presented.

   **Gifts, Grants and Awards.** The Board accepted with gratitude all gifts, grants, and awards listed under the date of March 22, 1999.

   **Sale of Land in Fort Kent.** The Board approved the sale of real property and the execution of a Warranty Deed to Bracebridge Corporation of Newark, Delaware for 14.5 acres currently a part of UMFK for $110,000, subject to approval of the Governor.

   **UMA Baccalaureate Degree Programs.** The Board approved the five new baccalaureate programs proposed by the University of Maine at Augusta as presented.

   **Appointment of Vice President for University Advancement, UM.** The Board approved the appointment of Ms. Susan Reardon as Vice President for University Advancement at the University of Maine.

   **Personnel Action Regarding UMFK Presidency.** The Board confirmed the appointment of Dr. Charles Lyons as President of the University of Maine at Fort Kent effective July 1, 1999, with terms and conditions of the appointment in accordance with the Board policy for appointment of presidents.

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

    - Year 2000 Progress Report (#V)
    - Proposed Revisions to Facilities Policies
    - Campus Living Residence Hall Planning, UM
    - Board Agenda Calendar
    - Summary of Current Statistics

11. **Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Board will be held on May 16-17, 1999, at the University of Southern Maine.

Before adjourning the meeting, the Chancellor specifically noted with pleasure the appointment of Dr. Charles Lyons as President of the Fort Kent campus. Dr. Lyons’ was a temporary position made permanent as leader of that campus. On motion of Trustee Vamvakias, which was seconded, the meeting was adjoumed.