Board of Trustees Meeting


Trustee James Mullen, Chair, convened the meeting.

1. Citizen Input. Citizen Comment is a time regularly set aside for comments from the public. Maha Sabawi spoke in support of Professor Henry A. Pogorzelski of the University of Maine Department of Mathematics and the future of mathematics at the University of Maine.

2. Acceptance of Minutes. The minutes of March 18 and 19, 2001, were approved as written.

3. Chair’s Remarks and Agenda.

   Report of the Nominating Committee. In accordance with the by-laws of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, the Executive Committee appointed a Nominating Committee in March to propose a slate of officers at the annual meeting in May. Members of the Nominating Committee were John DiMatteo, James Dowe and Sandra Prescott. In the absence of Trustee DiMatteo, who was Chair of the Committee, Trustee Gregory Cyr reported that the following Trustees have been nominated: James Mullen, Chair, Donald McDowell, Vice Chair, and Joanne Yestramski, Treasurer. On motion of Trustee Cyr, which was seconded by Trustee Prescott, the slate of officers for 2001-2002 were unanimously approved.

Trustee Mullen thanked the Nominating Committee and the entire Board for their confidence and support during the year. He also thanked President Lyons and his staff for their “usual excellent” hospitality. The Chair recognized and thanked USM Student Representative Michael Gauthier, who completed his two-year term with the Board and was attending his last meeting.

Trustee Mullen’s remarks are as follows:

“It is fitting that this meeting is being held in Fort Kent, as it relates to an agenda item that was approved earlier today in our Physical Plant Committee meeting and moved to the Consent Agenda of this meeting. That is, the naming of the new building containing The Northern Maine Center for Rural Health and The Northern Aroostook Center for Technology, the Bernard and Jacqueline Nadeau Hall. It is a wonderful facility, and we owe a debt of gratitude especially to the area legislative delegation for their support in making this possible.”

“I also want to publicly thank Paul Bouchard, from UMFK’s Board of Visitors, for his day-to-day oversight of this significant project.”

“Over the course of the past two weekends, we have presented diplomas at our seven campuses to several thousand students. Here at Fort Kent, 270 students went through commencement, which is an astounding achievement.”
“At yesterday’s meeting, I mentioned that I attended the graduation at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, where Pat Collins, our former Board Chair, received an honorary degree, and where her daughter, Senator Susan Collins, gave the commencement address. Also on the stage with us in Presque Isle, was a beautiful young lady named Rebecca Long, who is from Sherman, Maine, and who represents the first generation in her family to attend college.”

“She and her family are justifiably proud of that accomplishment, and we should be, too. That is what we are here for, and amidst all the distractions and challenges we face, that is what we must never lose sight of--providing access to education, and in turn, access to opportunity, for the Rebecca Longs of this State.”

“On our agenda today is the approval of tuition rates and fees for next year. While we have managed to hold increases to inflationary levels (or less), and while we compare favorably to our peers in the rest of New England, it is never a satisfying task to increase these charges. But, unfortunately, it is a necessary task.”

“Our future ability to hold these increases to reasonable levels is in jeopardy. Healthcare costs and energy costs alone will eat up an estimated additional $20 million over the next two years. As I mentioned yesterday, that is $20 million spent, for which we get no return. For that $20 million, we do not graduate one more student, equip one more lab, or provide one raise for our employees.”

“While we do not know where we will find funds to offset these cost increases--the proposed energy surcharge fee will only cover about $2 million of the $4 million increase in that category--we must continue to find ways to address this. We have established a special committee to deal with part of this issue. The Efficiency and Effectiveness Committee has already begun work to evaluate how we can use our limited resources more wisely on a System-wide basis. Trustees DiMatteo, McDowell, Johnson and I will be working on this, with guidance from our Chancellor and an outside consultant. That is one step we are taking, but it is an important one.”

“Meanwhile, perhaps our greatest challenge will be to maintain quality, optimism, and all of the positive energy that can be felt on all of our campuses right now. We have made great strides in the past several years, even in the face of severe fiscal challenges, and we cannot afford to lose sight of that.”

“In spite of many challenges along the way, Rebecca Long never lost sight of her objectives. Neither can we.”

Trustee Mullen noted that the Board at its dinner the previous night had recognized the service of fellow Trustee Penny Harris, whose ten year service officially ends on May 26; and also the retirement of Russell Smith, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, whose dedicated career spanned 27 years with the System. The Chair then called on Trustee Harris to make a few remarks.

Trustee Harris made the following remarks:

“First, I want to thank Governors McKernan and King and the State Legislators for giving me the opportunity to serve the University of Maine System for ten years. It’s probably been the ten years that have seen the most productive change since its beginning...I am leaving at a perfect time.”

“Ten years ago, we made the first strategic plan, and while it was long and complex, the process was needed and timely and it wasn’t put on the shelf. With board leadership of Dave Flanagan, Pat Collins, and Sally Vamvakias, this System became better recognized as a vital resource for Maine. Today, we have a focused plan called “The Maine Idea” and people understand better the value of the University System. We don’t have a bill in the legislature every year to abolish the System.”

“As a part of that first strategic plan, we held public hearings throughout the State to learn what
people wanted in their System. The response was outstanding. It was the beginning of stronger public involvement with the University of Maine System.”

“My first official opportunity as a Trustee was to attend President Pattenaude’s inauguration. In my ten years, I served on four successful presidential searches. I have worked with three chancellors.”

“I emphasize that I am leaving at a good time. Most of the trustees that I first worked with did the work of strengthening the System and building better communication bridges to the people and the legislators. Now, it’s the work of increasing the quality of services and the access. The University of Maine System is poised now to attain goals people didn’t dream of ten years ago.”

“Jim, you have had more focused challenges. I will quote a speaker at graduation services at the University of New Hampshire, ‘I wish you great problems and challenges. For they hold the opportunities to make us strong.’”

“With no deference to former trustees, the leadership on this Board is outstanding. I am sure that whatever challenges you will face they will be met with focused participation, adherence to values, and excellent leadership to keep the University strong and productive.”

“I want also to thank Mary Ann Haas and Sandra Johnson who made my participation on this Board workable. Sandy kept me in the right place on the right day. Mary Ann kept me informed and out of trouble. She organizes very successful searches and few can equal her institutional memory.”

“To speak as a Trustee at my alma mater at graduation was an awesome feeling. It made great contrast to remember that my education started in a one-room school house in Mapleton. To remember the students that I have talked with in the last ten years who also have found the importance of the University and to appreciate and meet the many alums who have experienced great professional success after graduating from the University has been some of the personal joys of this job.”

“It has been an incredible opportunity for me to serve the University that has been so important in my life. Thank you.”

Trustee Mullen thanked Trustee Harris for her years of service, hard work, and good humor.

4. Chancellor’s Remarks and Agenda. Chancellor MacTaggart asked the Presidents, during the “post commencement period of relaxation” to look back on the year and comment on the highlights of each of their universities.

President John Joseph, UMM. President Joseph reported that Commencement took place on May 12, with Trustee Edward Fox attending, and it was an enjoyable day. On May 10, a recognition ceremony was held at the Unobskey School in Calais for 17 graduates. The students studied at the Unobskey School and graduated from various System institutions. Sidney and Nancy Unobskey flew in from San Francisco to participate in the celebration. New admissions remain strong. The new summer initiative, which Dr. Joseph categorized as a cross between higher education and tourism, is in full swing and a brochure advertising the wonders of a Maine summer coupled with one-week and three-week intensives of study where students can study in their field is targeted at students inside and outside of New England. He said the brochure emphasizes laboratory opportunities in the mud flats and in the forests of Machias.

President Peter Hoff, UM. President Hoff reported that his campus waited a week, perhaps unwisely, to schedule its commencement ceremony, so it was unclear as to what made the graduating seniors more uncomfortable—the rain and the cold, the forced 3-hour delay, or whether it was the President’s horn playing as he joined the University of Maine’s ceremonial brass playing the students onto the field. He said the Board of Trustees was ably represented by Student Trustee Ryan Anderson. Four valedictorians were chosen this year, something in theory the President said he
disapproves of, but added that it was hard to argue with perfection as four students graduated with
perfect 4.0 grade point averages. According to Dr. Hoff, the ceremony capped off a year of good
progress and achievement at the University of Maine. The student body continues to grow both in
number and achievement and, likewise, there have been good faculty hires, which has paid off in the
classroom and in the laboratory. Research and development continues to grow and to work closely
with industry and economic development across the State. The administration spent a great deal of
time working on a strategic plan for the university, which will be rolled out shortly. The President
said that the campus is looking forward to a good summer and to facing the very serious challenges
that lie ahead.

President Nancy Hensel, UMPI. President Hensel thanked Trustee Mullen for attending the
Commencement at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. She also thanked President Pattenaude
for a second graduation for 23 University of Southern Maine students who were taking their courses
at Presque Isle working on master’s degrees. President Hensel said that the campus has spent the
year focusing on academic quality and has had success. Several students are being sent off on an
international exchange program next year to campuses all over the United States and one in
Australia. She reported that there has been tremendous success with students presenting their
undergraduate research at conferences all across the country this year. Retention for first-year
students was up 5% from Fall to Spring, which is attributed to a first-year course currently being
offered. A report on last year’s graduates and their employment showed that 97% of UMPI’s
students are employed or attending graduate school. Faculty searches are being completed, and an
extensive review of programs in all of the majors has been conducted starting last year. Changes
recommended by external reviews and campus faculty through the self-study process will be
undertaken as well. And finally, President Hensel reported that the campus is preparing for its next
accreditation visit.

President Charles Lyons, UMFK. President Lyons reported that at the end of the year the Centers
have celebrations, as noted earlier by President Joseph. The students graduate from the universities,
but they do their work primarily at the Centers. Dr. Lyons was speaker at the Ellsworth celebration,
and he wanted to give the Board a picture of who the graduates are around the State. He said the
group of 28 in Ellsworth is representative of the 400 graduates across the State who did their work at
the Centers. President Lyons gave the following student averages which, he said, is illustrative of
the people who are working on their degrees: a) the average age is 41.5 years; b) it takes them an
average of 12.5 years to complete their degrees; and c) the average grade point average is 3.2.
President Lyons said those statistics say a great deal about a population in Maine that is deserving of
the recent attention of the Chancellor and the Board.

Chancellor MacTaggart thanked President Lyons for his hospitality and that of his staff for hosting
the Board meeting. He also thanked President Lyons for his leadership of the Centers.

President Richard Pattenaude, USM. President Pattenaude reported that it had been a good year at
USM capped off with Commencement, which was shared with Trustee Donald McDowell. The
campus set a record of 1,400 graduates. He said the year just over was declared a year of planning
and focused action, and one of the primary things that had taken place was the writing of a strategic
plan/long-term plan led by Provost Joe Wood. The final draft was distributed the first week in May
and becomes the foundation of work done in the future. The President reported that the university
has just received a $1 million gift from L.L. Bean, which brings the capital campaign total to $19
million out of a target of $21 million; and during the past year, the university has received $2 million
from the Osher Foundation, and $2 million from an anonymous donor for the music program. Dr.
Pattenaude said a new record was set for Research and Development and contracts are up $30
million. The university had over 10,000 students this Spring. Deposits for full-time regular
admissions are up 23% for the Fall. The university’s reaccreditation with NEASC is completed and
goes well. President Pattenaude reported that the university has received an award for a Fulbright
scholar who will be coming to the campus from Africa to study in the Women’s Program. He said
that not many people know a campus can be on the receiving end of a Fulbright and the campus
community is honored. The visiting scholar’s resume will be distributed to System Presidents upon
her arrival in the hope that she will be invited to be a resource on the other campuses.

**President Theodora Kalikow, UMF.** President Kalikow reported that her university has had another good year. A new education center was planned during the year with the faculty in the College of Education, Health, and Rehabilitation. In the Spring, the campus held its Second Annual Symposium Day where classes were canceled for the day and students who had been doing research, internships, or projects with faculty presented their work. President Kalikow said it was an excellent day showcasing the talents of the students. Graduation was held outside and the graduation speaker was Linda Greenlaw, who wrote the *Hungry Ocean*, and she was very well received by the students. President Kalikow said that Ms. Greenlaw is an excellent example of a liberal arts graduate who does what she likes and has attained fame and fortune. She said she hopes the students took that to heart. The groundbreaking for an addition that will add 80 beds to one of the residence halls will take place next week with the expectation that it will be done in a year and a half.

**President Owen Cargol, UMA.** President Cargol reported that Trustee Wick Johnson joined the UMA Commencement which had a record breaking graduating class. Degrees were awarded to 650 Maine people and, he said, there were around 6,000 guests at the Augusta Civic Center. The President also made mention of the new student center in Augusta. Enrollment projections for Summer and Fall appear to be up. And finally, the university budget will be balanced again this year, which he said is always a nice situation.

Chancellor MacTaggart thanked all the Presidents for their stellar leadership and the series of good years they have all experienced.

The Chancellor observed that he is looking at states that compare to Maine to some extent, but are more successful at using their higher education system to improve the quality of life and material well-being of their citizens. The states being observed are Kentucky, Illinois, Oregon, some parts of Texas, and Georgia. He said that recently he has had a chance to look at Kentucky which, like Maine, is in transition from an old economy to a modern, if not new, economy. The state is divided, like Maine, into have and have less portions and an urban enrolled portion. He said Kentucky is a little poorer than Maine—they are 39th in per capita income, where Maine is 36th or 37th. One of the things being done there is to make large investments in higher education, because they feel the only way to move up on the per capita income scale is to have a better educated citizenry and to do more effective R&D. The Chancellor said he has borrowed something from them that he wants to share. They ask five questions of their higher education system with regard to whether or not they are winning in the race to improve the quality of life for their citizens. He said he essentially used their language, and the five questions are as follows:

1) Are more Maine people enrolling in our institutions?
2) Are Maine people progressing through and graduating from our centers and universities?
3) Are our students emerging better prepared for life and work and citizenship in the 21st century?
4) Are research and technology, and other initiatives, actually working to strengthen the economy?
5) Is the level of material well-being of our fellow citizens, whether they are enrolled or not, whether they are graduates or not, measurably improved by what the System does?

The Chancellor said that if the answers to the above are an unqualified yes, and have stronger answers each year, then the System will continue to earn the support of the people who make its work possible. He said he would incorporate the above questions in a more formal way in future and use them as benchmarks in comparison to other states.

The Chancellor closed by thanking everyone for a good year.
Before continuing the agenda, Trustee Mullen mentioned that the new slogan of the University of Maine at Presque Isle is “North of Ordinary.”

5. Committee Matters/Action

Academic Affairs. Trustee Wickham Skinner, Chair, reported for the Committee. He said that three years ago, under the leadership of Professor Luisa Deprez and President Richard Pattenaude, the Life, Work and Citizenship in the 21st Century Initiative was started. It began discussion of life, work, and stewardship and the essential skills that the System wanted to produce at the universities, and the kinds of educational content, objectives and results that would be necessary to reach that objective. Two summits were held in Bethel with a cross section of System professionals attending. Establishment of the Committee for the Advancement of Liberal Learning was an outcome of those discussions. Trustee Skinner reported that the Academic Affairs Committee heard from the Board’s seven Faculty Representatives about the kinds of things that are being done at the universities as a result of the work begun with the Initiative. Trustee Skinner said he is excited by the type of progress that is being made and the types of insights that are being developed. He thanked Interim Vice Chancellor Breece and everyone involved for a stimulating presentation and discussion.

Student Affairs. Trustee Wick Johnson, Chair, reported for the Committee. He said that one of the nice things that has happened during the year is the alignment between Academic and Student Affairs. He said the Trustees are hearing from the people who are affected by Board decisions, and the meetings have brought the Trustees in direct contact with educators and students and members of the community at large. Trustee Johnson reported that the Committee heard from two students and three executives who talked about what skills employers look for in their employees and what students need to acquire those skills. He said it was an excellent presentation and he appreciated the help of Interim Vice Chancellor Breece who brought the programs together during the year.

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

   Personnel Assignments. The Board of Trustees authorized the Chair to conclude conversations and authorized the implementation regarding personnel assignments and reassignments in the System Office and presidential contracts.

   Intellectual Property Policy. The Board of Trustees approved the proposed changes to Section 209 Intellectual Property Policy of the University of Maine System Policy Manual.

   Naming of The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The Board of Trustees approved the renaming of the Senior College as The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in recognition of the generous gift of $2.2 million from the Bernard Osher Foundation and in support of educational opportunities for Maine’s older adults.

   L.L. Bean/Lee Surace Chair in Accounting. The Board of Trustees approved the establishment of The L.L. Bean/Lee Surace Chair in Accounting at the University of Southern Maine congruent with the established criteria and procedures for the endowed chairs.

   FY2002 Tuition and Mandatory Fees. The Board of Trustees established FY2002 Tuition Rates at each university at the levels presented and established the FY2002 Annual Mandatory Fees at each university at the levels presented, effective Fall 2001, and that the energy surcharge fee will sunset Fall 2003.

   Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, and Awards. The Board of Trustees accepted with gratitude all gifts, grants and awards listed under the date of May 21, 2001.
Increase in Size of Doris Twitchell Allen Village, Phase II Project, UM. The Board of Trustees 1) authorized an increase in the budget for the Doris Twitchell Allen Village Phase II project at the University of Maine from $8.5 million to $9.5 million, with the construction funding to come from University revenue bonds. Debt service will be paid from student fees; and 2) approved the Reimbursement Resolution, and authorized the Treasurer to issue bonds in the Fall of 2002.

Naming of The Northern Maine Center for Rural Health and The Northern Aroostook Center for Technology, UMFK. The Board of Trustees approved the naming of the new building containing The Northern Maine Center for Rural Health and The Northern Aroostook Center for Technology at UMFK, the Bernard and Jacqueline Nadeau Hall.

Appointments for Trustee Approval. The Board of Trustees approves the appointments to positions at or above the level of Dean or equivalent and appointments as Professor with tenure as recommended by the Chancellor, as follows:

Diana Lawson, Interim Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health, and Interim Director, Maine Business School, UM.

Suad Alagic, Professor of Computer Science with tenure, USM.

Lenard Kaye, Professor of Social Work with tenure, UM.

7. Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, July 9, 2001, at the System Offices in Bangor.

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

Sandra F. Johnson for Mary Ann Haas, Clerk