Board of Trustees Meeting


Trustee Sally Vamvakias, Chair, convened the meeting.

1. Citizen Comment. Citizen Comment is a period during Board meetings regularly set aside to receive comments from the public. Jon Reisman, Associate Professor of Economics and Public Policy at UMM, spoke to an alleged speech code imposed on the University System by the System Office of Human Resources and the University of Maine Equal Opportunity Office. He referenced a brochure entitled Erase Harassment in Our Community. The body of his remarks and the brochure are attached to the file of these minutes.

2. Acceptance of Minutes. The minutes of September 27-28, 1998, were accepted as presented.

3. Chair’s Remarks and Agenda. Trustee Vamvakias thanked President Nordstrom and the Machias campus community for hosting the Board meeting. She also thanked everyone for their support and passage of the Research and Development referendum at the September election.

Trustee Vamvakias briefed the Board on activities which may be of interest for Maine: October meeting of the AGB Council of Board Chairs, an advisory body to the Association of Governing Boards. Discussion at the meeting centered on federal compliance issues. The policy responsibilities at the Board level is broader than commonly envisaged. As an example, she cited the presentation at the Student Affairs Committee on UMS alcohol awareness programs that morning. She said there was once a time when Trustees were not responsible for the activities students engaged in outside of the classroom; however, “in loco parentis” has returned precipitated by recent incidents at Colby and MIT where administration is being held accountable for alcohol-related tragedies. She said she looks forward to subsequent discussions to be presented by the Student Affairs Committee on such timely topics.

Trustee Vamvakias listed 5 issues of national concern which also impacts locally:

1) **The Price of College** -- the need for the public to be better educated about the costs of higher education.

2) **Teacher Training** -- what needs to be done to improve the quality of teachers?

3) **Diversity/Affirmative Action** -- a major initiative for UMS with a progress report coming to the Board in March of 1999.

4) **Financial Aid** -- students are being held accountable for the types of information listed on
ever increasing financial aid forms. Educational institutions have been warning the Treasury Department that they are not geared to process the plethora of forms being generated by government.

5)  Endowment Policies--a) 3,600 institutions, both public and private, have endowments of over $100 million. Appropriate policies must be in place at each institution and system.

AGB Statement of Institutional Governance. Trustee Vamvakias reported that as a member of the Council of Board Chairs, she was given the opportunity to review and comment on the AGB Statement of Institutional Governance. The revised document on institutional governance includes guiding principles, standards of good practice for boards, as well as a section devoted to responsibilities. She said that when one considers the on-going work being done on System governance, compared to AGB’s updated document, it is reassuring to her that the UMS Board is engaging in appropriate institutional decision-making and incorporating it into its strategic planning.

Trusteeship Magazine. Trustee Vamvakias reported that she participated in a telephone interview, along with five other people involved in higher education, for Trusteeship magazine. The interview related to a project entitled “Bridging the Gap.” The purpose of the project is to identify the expectations state policy makers and higher education leaders hold for governing boards of public institutions and systems. The findings will be published in the January issue of Trusteeship.

In conclusion, Trustee Vamvakias said that as she participates in higher education meetings away from Maine, she is continually reminded of how much each Trustee contributes to the work of the Board.


Chancellor MacTaggart also thanked the President and campus community for their hospitality and congratulated them on receiving the Kresge Foundation grant toward the completion of the Center for Lifelong Learning.

Research and Development Update. The Chancellor spoke about research and development in a larger context. He said that in the 1960's C.P. Snow wrote a book on two cultures. One was the culture of science, technology, and business. The other was the culture of the humanities, the arts, and liberal arts. The R&D enterprise, both in terms of the work of the faculty and in terms of the bond referendum, represents the achievement of one kind of quantitative culture. At the same time, however, there needs to be a parallel initiative to confirm, celebrate and be reminded of the importance of work in humanities, social sciences, and the arts. He said such an initiative, Preparation for Life and Work in the 21st Century, and under the leadership of USM Faculty Representative Luisa Deprez and USM President Richard Pattenaude, is in the preliminary stage. The Chancellor said it provides an opportunity to underpin and call more attention to the second culture. It is hoped that, as the work progresses, the two cultures can interpenetrate. That idea and others will be pursued by President Pattenaude and Professor Deprez as the program unfolds.

The Chancellor said he was tremendously pleased with the R&D results and, in particular, with the work of the presidents and their colleagues around the State.

5.  Consent Agenda.  On motion of Trustee James Mullen, which was seconded, the following items were adopted, as presented, and under appropriate tabs for:

  Awarding of Academic Degrees. The Board authorized the awarding of degrees in course for the Fall Commencement 1998 and the Spring and Summer Commencements 1999 to those students fully recommended by the appropriate faculties and the Presidents of the respective institutions and/or divisions of the University of Maine System.
Establishment of Center for Workplace Learning, USM. The Board authorized the establishment of the Center for Workplace Learning in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Southern Maine.


Gifts, Grants, and Awards. The Board accepted with gratitude all gifts, grants and awards listed under the date of November 16, 1998.

Libby Hall Renovations, UM. The Board authorized the renovation of Libby Hall to provide a new laboratory and clean room, at a cost not to exceed $110,000, with funding provided from the campus budget.

Gift & Naming of Real Estate, USM. The Board accepted with gratitude, contingent upon approval of the deed by University Counsel, the generous donation by the Kriger family of their property at 98 Bedford Street in Portland, and that, if deemed desirable by the University of Southern Maine, the property may be sold to establish scholarships, as stated in the Kriger’s will, and further that in recognition of this generous gift the building will be named THE LEWIS H. AND GERTRUDE S. KRIGER HOUSE while it remains as University property.

Proposed Revisions to Human Resources Policies. The Board approved the revisions to the Human Resources policies as presented.

6. Committee Reports.

Ad Hoc Committee on Board Processes. Trustee Wick Skinner, Chair, reported that the Committee, whose membership includes Penny Harris, Donald McDowell, and Esther Rauch, met to review and discuss Board effectiveness regarding its governance processes. Last year the Board was concerned with the quality and scope of discussion, finding that a great deal of time was being spent on routine matters; consequently, an ad hoc committee was appointed to review the Board’s processes. The Ad Hoc Committee suggested that more time be spent on substantive issues and that routine matters be listed in a Consent Agenda. In its review, the Committee notes that each standing committee has reviewed its duties and responsibilities and has changed, as needed, its authorities, decentralizing more and getting involved in details less. He said the Consent Agenda has proved to be successful. The Board has also had several in-depth discussions on aspirations, enrollment management, resource allocation, performance indicators, development of better long-term employee relations, and the community college concept. The Committee suggests that future endeavors include more in-depth discussions on strategic issues; Board development regarding nation-wide issues confronting higher education; and identification of agenda issues well in advance to afford solid preparation and thorough public discussion. Suggested topics offered were the System’s role in directing R&D, how to strengthen teacher preparation in the State, revisiting the community college issue, and, perhaps, an overall view of the environment of higher education. At the conclusion of his remarks, Trustee Skinner said the Committee awaits the wishes of the Chair.

Audit Committee Report. Trustee Gregory Cyr, Chair, reported that the Audit Committee and the Board received the 1998 Financial Report which was accepted under the Consent Agenda. He pointed out that total revenues for FY98 are just under $440 million. John Moriarty, of KPMG Peat Marwick, external auditors, had reported on the statements in detail earlier that morning. Trustee Cyr commended Russ Smith, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, and his colleagues, including Internal Audit, for their work in preparing the report.

Finance Committee Report. Trustee Ralph “Woody” Hodgkins, Chair pro tem, reported on key indicators, which is now known as the Dashboard Indicators Project. On November 10, 1998,
members of the Finance Committee met to discuss the project with Dr. James Breece, economist at the University of Maine, who provided an overview of the indicators. Discussion resulted in the confirmation of the following: the indicators project should provide information for policy-level decisions, making and monitoring progress, achieving UMS goals, and act as an early warning system of any threatening, negative trend. In addition, the indicators should be comprehensive, quantitative, and be limited to a reasonable number. Where applicable, the indicators should be presented historically, compared with other systems, and projected into the future. The Chancellor and Dr. Breece will give a report on indicators at a later meeting.

**Student Affairs Committee** Trustee Wick Skinner, Chair pro tem, reported that Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Sue Ann Huseman had included in the materials composite profiles of three UMS students to give the Board a more personalized picture of the students that are served. He also gave a brief overview of a presentation by Vice President Mark Anderson, of the University of Maine, on the use and abuse of alcohol on campuses and the programs in place to provide sanctions and guidance.

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

- Proposed Revisions to Financial Affairs Policies
- First Quarter Maintenance Report
- Group Health Plan Status Update
- Summary of Current Statistics
- Board Agenda Calendar

8. **Date of Next Meeting**. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on January 24-25, 1999, at the University of Maine at Farmington.

On motion of Trustee Vamvakias, which was seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Sandra F. Johnson for Mary Ann Haas, Clerk