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. Mr. Bruce Littlefield spoke on behalf of the professional employees of the System who, he said, deliver the services that promote the public service mission of the System and who are being ignored. He said that if the University administration believes that the work of professional employees is valuable, then there should be recognition of that service. Mr. Littlefield encouraged the administration to treat professionals with fairness, respect, and recognition of their value to the University.

2. Acceptance of Minutes. The minutes of August 7, 2000, were accepted as presented.

3. Chair’s Remarks and Agenda. Appointment of New Trustees/Faculty/Student Representatives to Standing Committees of the Board.

On motion of Trustee Judith Andrucki, which was seconded by Trustee Albert Glickman, the following appointments to Trustee committees were approved:

- Academic Affairs--Faculty Representatives Richard Asam, Wendy Kindred, and Sherrie Sprangers. Student Representatives Hayley Parlin and a graduate student to be named.

- Finance Committee--Trustee James Dowe. Faculty Representatives Luisa Deprez and Dana Humphrey. Student Representatives Michael Gauthier and Heath Ouellette.

- Human Resources and Labor Relations Committee--Trustee James Dowe.

- Physical Plant Committee--Trustee Ryan Anderson. Faculty Representative David Daniel. Student Representative Robert Eagle.

- Student Affairs Committee--Trustee Ryan Anderson. Faculty Representative Margaret Danielson. Student Representatives Kristin Supa and Jonathan Thomas.

Chair’s Remarks. Trustee Mullen introduced new Trustees Ryan Anderson and James Dowe and welcomed them to the Board. He thanked outgoing Trustee Esther Rauch for her hard work, leadership, inspiration, intellect, and good humor during her five years of service to the Board. And he thanked former Student Trustee Catherine Pinkham for her years of service as well. He said she provided outstanding input from a student perspective and it was appreciated.

Trustee Mullen commented that the Board starts the new academic year in an upbeat and energized fashion: enrollments are up, and new programs that have been approved by the Board are being put in place on the campuses to better meet the needs of students, employers, and communities. New facilities are being
constructed on the campuses to meet student needs and to further research and development initiatives. At
the same time, the multi-year capital plan has been put in place to systematically address priorities not only
for new needs, but to maintain facilities that have been valuable components on campuses for years.
Facilities that in some instances have been neglected in past years of financial uncertainty. Funding
resources are at the highest levels in the history of the System and there have been several years of
outstanding support from representatives and senators in the State Legislature. System faculty is nationally
recognized and newer students represent some of Maine’s best and brightest. The Community College
initiative with the Technical College System is enjoying a very successful start and is providing access
points for Maine’s citizens that was never before possible. He said he could go on because things are very
good right now and he said he credits the Chancellor, the Presidents, the staffs, the faculties, and students
for the greatest part of that success. Trustee Mullen continued that there is a tendency when things are
going well to become complacent and passive and that the System cannot afford to let that happen. Too
much is at stake for the future of the State and the citizenry to allow that. With the unprecedented levels of
success that have been enjoyed in recent years, there can be a temptation to use the old Maine expression
“good enough”; but where the System is today is not good enough. He stressed that if the System is to
provide students with the latest technology, modern research facilities, expanded library services, faculty
who are leaders in their respective fields, and a campus environment that will enhance their educational
experience, then the System must continue to move forward aggressively. At a joint meeting with
representatives of the various Boards of Visitors, Chancellor MacTaggart led everyone through a multi-year
plan to meet what is seen as the most important challenges. The plan is called The Maine Idea: Insuring
Maine’s Future. Trustee Mullen urged everyone to embrace the plan. He said that until some of the
objectives are met “‘good enough’ just won’t be good enough.”

4. Chancellor’s Remarks And Agenda. Chancellor MacTaggart thanked UM President Peter Hoff for hosting
the meeting.

The Chancellor agreed with the Chair that the September meeting has been a “meaty” meeting. He called
attention to the individuals who did the analytical and planning work and who helped make it more lucid for
Trustees and others. First among the group were the Presidents, who, he said, have debated and discussed
The Maine Idea over the past year; B. Russell Smith, for his analytical work on the budget in particular; Dr.
Mary Ann Haas; David Wilson, for the Facilities Plan; Jim Breece for some interesting approaches to
Academic and Student Affairs; Tom Hopkins on health care, along with Tracy Bigney; and Julian Haynes
for his work on The Maine Idea. The Chancellor said that it is his sense that there has been an
improvement in the quality of analysis that lies behind the various initiatives that are proposed and it is the
people he mentioned along with their co-workers who make the difference.

The Chancellor said that The Maine Idea has two main ideas: students would be better prepared for life,
work, and their role as citizens in the 21st century, as defined by the Life and Work Group. The second idea
is that more Maine people will benefit from the higher level of development and achievement. If The Maine Idea can work, he said, it will be the most substantial thing the University can do in improving the
material well-being of fellow citizens. He pledged himself in the coming year to work with the Presidents
and others to do two things: to promote a better understanding of the concept in and of itself, and to figure
out ways to measure if the System is gaining ground; and secondly, make the case to the larger public as to
its relevance to their lives and for their children and fellow citizens. He said that the foregoing was The Maine Idea in a nutshell and he looks forward to moving it from an idea to a reality.

Continuing a practice begun at the last meeting, the Chancellor gave each President an opportunity to offer
an observation or two on what is happening at their institutions. He asked them to comment in particular on
enrollment.

UMA - President Owen Cargol reported that UMA is looking at its eighth consecutive term of enrollment
increases; and, the last fiscal year finished with a balanced budget for the third consecutive year. He said
the university is looking forward to a year of stability. A large number of degree programs, both
baccalaureate and associate, are being implemented for UMA and that is working well. The university is
also engaged in renovation work at the Bangor campus, with minor work on the Augusta campus.
UMPI - President Nancy Hensel reported that enrollment is up about 4.5% over all. She said the administration is particularly pleased that the number of credit hours has increased about 12% and the number of full-time students has increased 7.5%. She reported that at the Presque Isle campus, about 51% of the students are coming from the County and 30% from other parts of Maine, which indicates improved recruitment efforts. President Hensel reported a 35% overall enrollment increase at the Houlton Center, even before the new center has been opened; and, a 99% increase in enrollment in UMPI classes that are offered at Houlton. Previously, there were 189 students and now there are approximately 389 students, which, she said, is a significant increase. The first Woodrow Wilson Fellowship person is due this week; a Career Adventure Program for all first-year students has been initiated; and the Social Work Program achieved national accreditation during the summer.

USM - President Richard Pattenaude reported that things are moving along nicely on his campus. The new residence hall is under construction and looks to be ready by next Fall. University enrollment is up 2% in head count and in credit hours. USM has received a $1 million gift for its music program. President Pattenaude reported that it is an interesting year because it is a reaccreditation year, and a tenure reaccreditation year; the Board of Visitors is completing a report on community assessment of USM; and, the League of Women Voters Report has come out. He said the aforementioned assessments are a preparation for the next 5-year run and a look at where the university is going in the long term. President Pattenaude then introduced Joseph Wood, the new Provost, who has been asked to lead the entire planning process in his first year.

UM - President Peter Hoff introduced his new Provost, Robert Kennedy, who will also be leading a planning process. President Hoff reported that a new class has been welcomed to campus, but the numbers are more modest than seen in the last two years. Over the last three years, however, the entering class is 47% larger this year than three years ago. He said he is pleased with the quality of the students, which continues to be very strong. Another event of significance for the campus was the opening of the Hutchinson Center in Belfast. He said it will benefit other universities in the System because some of the courses are ITV classes offered by those campuses. He said it is a wonderful new facility and invited those present to tour it.

UMFK - President Charles Lyons reported that the enrollment goal was to stay flat until they could “grow” the infrastructure, both human and physical. The university is up 2% in credit-hour generation. President Lyons said that from 1980 to 1995, the campus annually in both semesters generated 12,200 credit hours on average. The last 5-year window generated 18,000 credit hours, so the university is doing more in 5 years than was done in a 15 year period. The President said it is a significant growth for the campus, which is doing very well. The new Wilderness Camp was dedicated on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. He said it is not a camp so much as a facility where students and faculty can study. It is fitted with a laboratory, living arrangements, conference room, etc. The university also broke ground last week for the Northern Maine Center for Rural Health Sciences and Northern Maine Center for Technology.

UMF - President Theodora Kalikow reported that UMF, for the third year in a row, was written up in *U.S. News and World Report*; however, for the first time the university made a different list--the only public institution mentioned in the top 25 regional liberal arts colleges in the North. She said that what this has meant for the university is selectivity in the number of students who can be taken, and she reminded those present that UMF has a cap of 1,000 students. She said the number is 65% where it used to be 75% of those who applied. The new number corresponds very favorably with a lot of private institutions and many public institutions. President Kalikow said the faculty are reporting that the students are very enthusiastic about learning and willing to work. She said the trends are very positive. The enrollment cap has been met, the residence halls are full, and a self-study is being started for the New England Association Reaccrediation, with the visit the year after next. With the new residence hall addition coming on and the continued demand for parking and various other things, President Kalikow said it is time to review the master plan, which is ten years old. She said the campus is doing well and is off to a good start.

UMM - President John Joseph reported that after two and a half months at Machias he finds that the
The university campus plays a great role in Washington County with a wonderful faculty and a wonderful student body. He said it is expected that enrollment will be up slightly, but not by very much this year. The residence halls are full and there is a waiting list. The focus is on planning, positioning and branding the institution. The new bookstore and internet cafe are very popular with new and returning students and that will be an asset as the administration grows the enrollments. Renovations are being completed at the Unobskey School in Calais where it is hoped to increase teacher education as indicated in the request of the donor and of the school district there. The President said it is an exciting year ahead.

Trustee Mullen thanked the Presidents for their comments and exclaimed on the good news that everyone was off to an exciting start.

5. Committee Matters/Action

Ad Hoc Committee on Board Processes. Trustee Wickham Skinner, Chair, reported that the Committee was appointed in 1995 to look at Board processes. The Committee reviewed how the Board works, how effective it is, how it could be more useful, and whether responsibilities were being exercised properly. From that review came the ‘consent agenda’. The Committee, Trustees Harris, McDowell, and Skinner, with Associate Chancellor Mary Ann Haas, met more recently in August and reviewed the recommendations made in 1996 and observed that the consent agenda was working effectively in providing appropriate Board action. However, in response to a questionnaire circulated to the Board, members were interested in such things as how to surface strategic policy issues, discuss them, and act upon them. As a result, the Committee is recommending that at the Fall Retreat of the Board a self-evaluation be done to review governance processes, particularly addressing responsibilities and identifying issues that may appear over the next few years. The Committee also urges that an orientation be set up for new Trustees. Trustee Skinner noted that the Student Affairs and Academic Affairs Committees will have an information session with each agenda, which will encourage discussion, and evaluation of issues.

Finance. Trustee John DiMatteo, Chair, reported for the Committee.

FY 2002-2003 Biennium Plan. Trustee DiMatteo reported that the System is in the second year of the last biennium. He said the next biennium beginning July 1, 2001, builds on the momentum of the former plan, which was aggressively assembled to allow rebuilding of the System’s infrastructure, and provide resources for identified academic programs. He said the plan has had a great deal of discussion both at the last Board meeting and at this one. Trustee DiMatteo asked Chancellor MacTaggart to summarize three or four of the major points of the present Biennium Plan before being brought forward for a vote.

Chancellor MacTaggart called attention to the following points:

1) The Biennium Plan funds The Maine Idea, the core concepts of which he shared at the Finance Committee meeting earlier;

2) It is a plan which includes shared responsibility seeking resources from the State, through its elected representative, from private donors, from students, from the Federal government, from internal efficiencies, and from growth;

3) The operating portion of the plan, with resources from a variety of areas, would include compensation, health care, inflation, energy costs, etc.

4) The Plan also includes a capital request, which has two salient features: a) multi-year, the culmination of over a year’s planning effort; and b) it, too, is a combination, not just of sources of revenue, but a reasonable balance between new construction of buildings that are in evident demand, and renovation or additions to existing structures so as not to increase the total square footage unnecessarily.

On motion of Trustee DiMatteo, which was seconded by Trustee Glickman, it was
VOTED: to approve the Fiscal Year 2002 and 2003 Biennium Plan.

5. **Consent Agenda.** On motion of Trustee Donald McDowell, Vice Chair, which was seconded by Trustee Albert Glickman, the following resolutions, were adopted as presented:

   **Gifts, Grants, and Awards.** The Board of Trustees accepted with gratitude all gifts, grants and awards listed under the date of September 18, 2000.

   **Purchase of 62 School Street, USM-Gorham.** The Board of Trustees authorized the purchase of the property at 62 School Street, Gorham, Maine, from Marilyn Arnold for $113,500, with funding for the purchase and maintenance being provided from campus funds, subject to review and approval by University Counsel.

   **Appointment for Trustee Approval.** Appointments at or above the level of Dean or equivalent and appointments with tenure as recommended by the Chancellor require approval of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Raymond Astumian, Professor of Physics with tenure, at the University of Maine.

6. **Information Items.** Trustee Mullen noted the following items that were included for information only:
   - FY2000 Pooled Endowment Fund Performance
   - Academic Degree Program Inventory
   - Academic Affairs Agenda
   - Setting the Student Affairs Committee Agenda
   - Update on Group Health Plan
   - Update on Collective Bargaining
   - Board Agenda Calendar
   - Summary of Current Statistics

6. **Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Board will be held on Sunday and Monday, November 12-13, 2000, at the University of Maine at Machias

Adjournment.

Sandra F. Johnson for
Mary Ann Haas, Clerk