Committee of the Whole Meeting


Absent: Susan Gendron and Lyndel Wishcamper.

Chair’s Comments. Trustee McCrum, Chair pro tem, welcomed everyone and thanked President Kalikow and the staff of University of Maine at Farmington for hosting the Board meeting.

Chancellor’s Comments. Chancellor Pattenaude welcomed everyone and thanked President Kalikow for hosting the Board of Trustees meeting. He extended best wishes to Trustee Wishcamper who could not attend because he is recovering for surgery. He announced that during the reception this evening in the lobby of the Education Center there will be a poster session by undergraduate students on STEM research.

Chancellor Pattenaude commented that the UMS has submitted a response to the Governor’s request for $10.6 million curtailment. The President’s have received targets for current year budget reductions that distribute the $10.6 million curtailment but also distribute the shortfall in stock/bond market earnings. The System Office has cut $1 million from its current year budget and the next four years financial projections are being reviewed. He sees this as the most difficult financial situation that he has encountered in his seventeen years at UMS. It is a time of challenge and change and that will be the UMS agenda for the next few years. The UMS has a good team in place and work has already begun on the campuses but it will be a difficult journey. He reminded attendees that during the Financial/Facilities Committee meeting Vice Chancellor Wyke, will review the projections for the next four years and it is troubling.

Confirm Faculty & Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees. Chancellor Pattenaude presented nominations from the Presidents for appointments as faculty and student representatives to the Board of Trustees:

Faculty Representative:
Gerald LaSala – USM (two year term)

Student Representative:
Meridith Hughes – UMF (two year term)
On a motion by Trustee Medd, which was seconded by Trustee William Johnson, the Committee agreed to forward the nominations to the consent agenda for action.

**Financial Aid Go-Live Assessment.** Mr. Ralph Caruso, Chief Information Officer, presented an overview of the recommendations of the Financial Aid Go-Live Readiness Assessment conducted in October by Dr. John Busby of CedarCrestone. The Assessment objective was to determine if the seven campuses and System IT staff were ready for the pending “go live” of the PeopleSoft Financial Aid module. The System and Campus project documents were reviewed and analyzed and interviews were conducted on October 21 & 22 with key project staff from the System and the seven campuses. For the most part the campuses are upbeat and prepared for the pending “go live”. Dr. Busby’s report recommended to proceed with the Financial Aid implementation as scheduled in February 2009. It was also recommended that the UMS retain consultants at least into the fall of 2009 to support campuses through the major business processes. The “User Acceptance Testing” (UAT) took place in early November and was very successful.

**University of Maine Fundraising Efforts.** President Robert Kennedy and Mr. Erik Rolfson, Vice President for Development at the University of Maine provided an overview of the fundraising efforts at the University of Maine. UM is at the half way point of their six-year, $150 million campaign. Campaign Maine began on July 1, 2005 and is scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2011. The goal of this fundraising campaign is to address the student, faculty, programmatic and renovation priorities that will help the University fulfill its land grant, sea grant mission over the next five to ten years. It is a comprehensive campaign because it includes the three classic areas in campaign fundraising: endowment, capital improvements, and annual operations.

From July 2005 to the present the campaign focus has included building the Development Office, campaign planning, improving partnerships, developing policies and procedures, marketing and communications, raising early leadership gifts and building capacity in the colleges. The campaign is currently at 65% of the goal of $97.2 million. In the seven years prior to Campaign Maine, the average raised annually was $14.9 million. After three years of Campaign Maine, the average of $27.5 million has been raised annually.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk