

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Southern Maine
January 11, 2009

Meeting with Faculty Representatives

Present: Lyndel Wishcamper, Chair; James Dowe, Jean Flahive, Norman Fournier, Tamera Grieshaber, Krisandra Horn, Charles Johnson, William Johnson, Marjorie Medd, and Victoria Murphy. **Chancellor:** Richard Pattenaude. **Faculty Representatives:** Raymond Albert, Terry Colby, Jerry LaSala, Bertram Jacobs, Harold Jones, Shallee Page, and Robert Rice. **Presidents:** Selma Botman, Richard Cost, Cynthia Huggins, Allyson Hughes-Handley, Theodora Kalikow, Robert Kennedy, and Donald Zillman. **System Staff:** Tracy Bigney, James Breece, and Kelley Wiltbank.

Absent: Susan Gendron, Barry McCrum, Paul Mitchell, Charles O'Leary, and Wayne Newell.

Trustee Wishcamper welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Chancellor Richard Pattenaude asked for the faculty representatives' response and input on the New Challenges, New Directions document.

Robert Rice, Faculty Representative from UM, asked when the Chancellor needed the names for the Task Force and how will the faculty have input into the academic programs that are being reviewed. Chancellor Pattenaude suggested they provide him the names by Monday afternoon, January 12th and explained the program review process and that the faculty representatives and the Chief Academic Officers have input into that process. Vice Chancellor Breece stated that the shared governance process already in place will be used for the program review process. Professor Rice asked how will the programs that are interactive be evaluated. Vice Chancellor Breece responded by stating that there are many questions and the faculty will be consulted on how to handle those situations.

Bertram Jacobs, Faculty Representative from UMF, commented that the System needs to go back to the mission which is the responsibility to provide the highest quality education to the public that the public and the State of Maine can afford.

Terry Colby, Faculty Representative from UMA, stated that there was a great deal of fear among faculty groups on campus particularly because of the program reviews and eliminations. There was fear resulting from the previous Strategic Plan initiative and now the fear is whether the UMS will remain a seven campus system. Chancellor Pattenaude stated that the New Challenges, New Directions document assumes there will be a seven campus System. Also Maine statute defines the UMS as a seven campus System. The Task Force may propose a different structure but that is why the Task Force will be developing questions to be addressed.

UMF President Kalikow commented that the difference between the issues from the Strategic Plan and the current situation is all of campuses have serious financial challenges and changes that will have to take place in order to meet their budgets. The campuses are leading the process including the academic program reviews and the function of the System Office will be to look at

the bigger picture to ensure the State's needs are being met. The academic needs and missions of each campus are driving the process.

UMPI President Donald Zillman stated the challenge will be the ability and opportunity for all of the faculty groups have a say in the process.

Professor Jacobs commented that it will be critical to have the support of the public to ensure they are on board with these changes. Chancellor Pattenaude agreed and he is working with the press to get the information out.

UMFK President Richard Cost stated that he feels the biggest challenge is the need for more discussion among faculty from the seven institutions to help make decisions.

USM President Selma Botman stated that the System expenses exceed our revenues and change is no longer a luxury but is a necessity. Successful change is when everyone buys into the change and through collaboration with one another. So whether it is program review or program elimination or whether it is working across campuses or within campuses, change has to happen. She asked the faculty to join in this effort because everyone is on the same team.

Trustee Wishcamper asked if technology can be used to get the word out to faculty either by using a blog, blackboard, or comment area. UMS does not want the impression that the process is top down and there is an urgent need to move quickly and use non traditional ways of communication can be important. Chancellor Pattenaude asked the faculty representatives to offer their ideas on the best methods to use faculty input for the review process.

Professor Albert asked what efforts are being pursued to identify new markets which may lead to new revenues. Chancellor Pattenaude commented that there is a revenue target and all campuses are carefully pursuing new programs. Trustee Wishcamper asked the Presidents if the programs being offered today look the same as ten years ago. President Handley commented that there are new delivery systems which are a very different model than a few years ago. President Kalikow commented that the programs may have the same name but the curriculum is different. President Zillman stated that the campus goal is to prepare the student for the work force in two, four, or six years from now. President Kennedy commented that the energy initiative and the development of the off shore wind industry is a new program and a new market and the UMS needs to be ahead of the industry to educate the students in this new industry.

Trustee Dowe asked the faculty representatives for their input on the assumptions and reactions to the timeline in the Chancellor's New Challenges, New Directions document. Professor Jacobs states he feels the assumptions are "doable" and the timeline is appropriate but is a great deal of work. Professor Rice commented that the assumptions are optimistic and timeline is tight. Professor Page stated that the timeline is one year but it will affect things five years from now. Professor Rice commented that there are conversations at UM on the idea of an "Energy Grant" University similar to the Land Grant, Sea Grant concept.

Professor Jacobs stated there is value in new programming but we can't lose sight of the fact that student take new courses. In order for those new courses to be successful they need to sound exciting. He also stated that some of the student representatives have requested a meeting with the faculty representatives and he agreed that a joint meeting would be valuable.

Trustee Flahive suggested elevating the discussion on revenue enhancement and generation in the New Challenges, New Directions document.

Trustee Dowe commented that the System has a great deal of work ahead but he wanted to acknowledge the tremendous amount of hard work that has been done at the campuses and appreciates the dedication from everyone.

Chancellor Pattenaude concluded the discussion by reminding everyone to keep asking “what is good for the students”. Everyone is in this together and we will learn to agree to disagree on some issues. The System is strengthened by strengthening the campuses and by building better and stronger universities.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk