Finance/Facilities Committee


Absent: James Dowe, Jean Flahive, Susan Gendron, Krisandra Horn, William Johnson, Victoria Murphy and Wayne Newell.

Trustee Wishcamper, Chair pro tem, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Section 115 Trust for GASB 45 Funding. Ms. Joanne Yestramski, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, provided an overview of the Section 115 Trust for GASB 45 funding. At the January 2008 UMS Board of Trustees meeting, a resolution was passed to establish a VEBA Trust to be used to fund the GASB 45 post retirement medical benefits. Upon further research and discussions it has been determined that a Section 115 Trust may be a better funding mechanism. KPMG has agreed that a Section 115 Trust would be acceptable under the GASB 45 guidelines.

On a motion by Trustee Fournier, which was seconded by Trustee Mitchell, the Finance/Facilities Committee agreed to forward the recommendation to the consent agenda.

Establishment of the Donald A. Grant Professorship in Mechanical Engineering. President Kennedy explained the Donald A. Grant Professorship in Mechanical Engineering was established in the University of Maine Foundation with a lead gift from an alumnus of the Class of 1958 and numerous other gifts and pledges totaling $396,456.

The holder of the Grant Professorship shall have an excellent teaching and scholarly record. The Professorship may be used to attract an outstanding faculty member to the University of Maine or to retain a current outstanding faculty member. Nominations for the Professorship shall be recommended to the Provost to be forwarded to the President of the University. Appointments shall be for a term of five years and reappointment shall be subject to recommendation of the Dean after a review of performance by an ad hoc committee.

On a motion by Trustee McCrum, which was seconded by Trustee Mitchell, the Finance/Facilities Committee agreed to forward the recommendation to the consent agenda.

Lewiston-Auburn College Classroom Improvements – USM. Mr. Eduard Dailide, Director of Facilities and Planning, explained the Lewiston-Auburn College classroom improvements. Lewiston-Auburn College’s (LAC) student classroom and common spaces are over twenty years old and in need of revitalization. This project will renovate and modernize over 10,000 square feet of student classroom space incorporating state of the art space and technological features to enhance the teaching and learning environment. The project will include classroom upgrades,
including expansion of the occupational therapy area and library improvements, replacement of mechanical systems to improve energy efficiency and indoor air quality, lighting replacement with energy efficient fixtures, and IT infrastructure upgrades. LEED features will be included in the project. The total project cost is estimated to be $835,000. Funding for this project will be comprised of $700,000 of State bonds and $135,000 of System matching funds.

On a motion by Trustee Mitchell, which was seconded by Trustee Fournier, the Finance/Facilities Committee agreed to forward the recommendation to the consent agenda.

**Aubert Hall Chemistry Lab Upgrades – UM.** Mr. Dailide provided an overview of the Aubert Hall Chemistry Lab upgrades. The University’s Master Plan for Aubert Hall calls for modernization of all laboratories. This project will modernize two teaching labs; improve mechanical ventilation for the entire building; create a research lab for the School of Marine Sciences; and create a pharmacology research lab with an adjacent junior faculty lab. The pharmacology lab involves a partnership with Husson College. UMaine is collaborating with Husson by providing research facilities for a new faculty hire.

Total project cost is $6 million to be funded with State bonds. Design will begin in May 2008, with labs being renovated as scheduling and logistics allow through 2009.

On a motion by Trustee Fournier, which was seconded by Trustee McCrum, the Finance/Facilities Committee agreed to forward the recommendation to the consent agenda.

**Lewiston Hall Property Transfer – UMA.** Mr. Dailide explained the Lewiston Hall property transfer by UMA. UMA has been contacted by the administration of Maine Public Broadcasting Network (MPBN) regarding plans to consolidate their Bangor based operation into the Winchester Technical Center in Bangor and to vacate Lewiston Hall on the UCB campus in July 2008. Lewiston Hall is a three story administration building located within the University College of Bangor campus boundary. Titles to both buildings were transferred by the UMS to MPB with a deed executed on May 15, 2001. The deed contains a restriction granting the System the right to reacquire the buildings in the event MPB ceases to operate the facilities for public broadcasting purposes. UMA is interested in reacquiring Lewiston Hall. This would allow UMA to consolidate its Bangor campus administrative and academic operations to a central “core” campus in consonance with the long term academic and operating vision for the campus. In exchange, MPBN would be granted clear title to the Winchester Technical Center. Specific terms and conditions of the property exchange would be negotiated between the University and MPB staff. During the interim period, an occupancy agreement would grant UMA access to the building.

Trustees Wishcamper, McCrum, and O’Leary recused themselves from voting on this agenda item because they are also members of the MPBN Board of Directors.

On a motion by Trustee Mitchell, which was seconded by Trustee Fournier, the Finance/Facilities Committee agreed to forward the recommendation to the consent agenda.

**Renaming of the Student Technology Center – UMA.** President Allyson Handley, UMA, explained the request to rename the Student Technology Center at UMA. Richard John Randall, former faculty member and UMA President, served in a variety of UMA faculty and
administrative positions throughout his forty years of service at UMA. UMA would like to recognize Richard Randall’s lifelong commitment and dedication to UMA by renaming the Student Technology Center the “Richard J. Randall Student Technology Center”. Richard Randall was a long-time advocate for a student center for the Augusta campus and instrumental in its construction. He recognized that such a Center would provide the commuter students with the opportunity to interact with others outside the classroom. The UMA administration, staff, faculty, students, and community fully support this request. This is an exception to the Board of Trustees Policy 803 – Naming of Physical Facilities because Mr. Randall is currently an employee at UMA but will shortly be going on long-term disability and no longer subject to the prohibition of naming a facility after a current employee.

On a motion by Trustee McCrum, which was seconded by Trustee Fournier, the Finance/Facilities Committee agreed to forward the recommendation to the consent agenda.

Capital Projects Status Report. Mr. Dailide provided an update of the capital projects previously approved by the Board of Trustees. Trustee Wishcamper requested the Board be briefed on these projects at every other Board Meeting. The briefing should include whether the projects are on schedule and within budget.

Review of Board Policies 703, 705 and 710. Ms. Yestramski explained the Board of Trustees Policies that are being reviewed. Board of Trustees Policy 703 – Tuition and Fees has been reviewed and the new draft policy proposes to combine policies 703.1, 703.2, 703.3 and 704. The Policy 705 – Scholarships has a proposed name change to “Financial Aid”. Proposed changes to Policy 710 – Unrelated Business Income Tax include the addition of the campus chief financial officer thoroughly documenting all aspects of the proposed Unrelated Business Income Tax activity and submit in writing the activities for approval by the System Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. These Board Policy changes will be an action item at the July Board meeting.


Adjournment

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk