



NEW CHALLENGES, NEW DIRECTIONS TASK FORCE MAY 20, 2009

Meeting Summary

Present: Norman Fournier, Marjorie Medd, Bertram Jacobs, David Flanagan, Charles Weiss, Ron Mosley, Michelle Hood, Valerie Seaberg, James Bradley, Sandra Featherman, Allyson Hughes Handley, James Breece, Rebecca Wyke

- Chair David Flanagan opened the meeting by reiterating the charge of the task force and the work of the subcommittees. He characterized the meeting as a working session with the consultants and reviewed the timetable for the final report. Chair Flanagan introduced Frank O'Hara, a consultant from Hallowell who do the writing of the report. The draft will first be written and then refined with public input and from the work done in Arenas one and two. The Presidents will then confer with the Chancellor and take the report to the Board of Trustees during the July meeting.
- Chair Flanagan then asked representatives from the subcommittees to discuss their preliminary concepts and ideas. The following themes emerged:

Subcommittee on the Expectations and roles of the chancellor's office and system-wide services

- The chancellor's office should provide leadership for the system and continue to foster relationships with the legislature and the administration to help shape the public agenda for the state of Maine, and should have an increased presence in Augusta
- Shared services should be responsive to campus needs, reviewed annually on pre-selected performance measures and overseen by an advisory council to ensure the campus voice is included in the decision-making process
- System-wide services should, when possible, avoid duplication of services
- New ways of funding of system-wide-services should be explored

Subcommittee on funding

- The System will continue to explore alternate funding models and formulas, and determine whether the historical allocation of funds is still appropriate

Subcommittee on missions

- The System should continue working to meet the educational needs of Maine's citizens, and consider creating a public agenda based on a study of those needs by region

- The System should explore ways to assure greater student transferability, increased collaborative opportunities and a better educational experience for multi-campus students through policy and scheduling changes
 - Universities and the System should investigate more opportunities for faculty to engage with their colleagues at other universities and look at ways to utilize the university spaces outside the academic year
- Discussion of these recommendations followed. Flanagan thanked the subcommittees for their work. Vice Chancellor James Breece spoke briefly about the recommendations and about brokering of academic programs, something that is being considered by the Chief Academic Officers working on the charge of Arena Two. He said many under-enrolled programs are in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) fields and for that reason, brokering may be necessary to keep them viable. The task force discussed the need to maintain quality and access and how to define quality. On missions, the task force members said they will not re-write university missions, but may recommend that campus leaders revisit and revise their missions.
 - Aims McGuinness and Dennis Jones of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems made a presentation on the results of their research to this point. That powerpoint presentation can be found here: <http://www.maine.edu/pdf/NCHEMS-05192009UMSpptx.pdf> The two consultants said the task force needs to take the subcommittee thoughts and frame the final recommendations in a way that has clear goals and recommendations. McGuinness said the task force should create an opportunity for public input and buy-in and gave examples of states that had and states that had not done this.
 - The consultants also said that the recommendations should be based on incentives, not just “policy.” Try to set incentives and frameworks in place that make it in the institutions best interest to work together. There was some discussion about having the Chancellor have a presence in Augusta and whether it would benefit the image of the System in the eyes of the legislature to relocate.
 - The task force and consultants discussed the need to create an investment fund to sponsor actions or projects aligned with the public agenda, such as curricular transformation. Jones spoke briefly of the potential cost savings that could be achieved with the redesign of the curriculum to better serve students and make better use of faculty time.
 - Meeting adjourned.