

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine System
March 16, 2009

Presidents' Meeting with the Board and Chancellor

- Present:** Lyndel Wishcamper, Chair; James Dowe, Jean Flahive, Norman Fournier, Tamera Grieshaber, William Johnson, Barry McCrum, Marjorie Medd, Wayne Newell, and Charles O'Leary. **Chancellor:** Richard Pattenau. **University Presidents:** Selma Botman, Richard Cost, Allyson Handley, Cynthia Huggins, Theodora Kalikow, and Robert Kennedy. **System Staff:** Tracy Bigney, James Breece, Kelley Wiltbank, and Rebecca Wyke. Press and public.
- Absent:** Susan Gendron, Krisandra Horn, Charles Johnson, Paul Mitchell, and Victoria Murphy.

Trustee Wishcamper called the meeting to order and asked the Presidents to report on the Chancellor's New Challenges, New Directions Task Force meetings.

Don Zillman, President at UMPI

- The tone for the Task Force meetings were established after the UM visit with comments from the UM community on closing campuses.
- There was a good dialog at UMPI
- There is a perception on campus that they have to solve the problem at the campus level. There is not a sense of "System" thinking.

Cindy Huggins, President at UMM

- The public session and the meeting with the President's cabinet went well.
- The faculty appear to be very comfortable with the Task Force membership and charge.

Robert Kennedy, President at UM

- Discussions went well
- The media reporting didn't accurately reflect the input to the Task Force, particularly those regarding the closing of smaller campuses. There were only three individuals that mentioned closing campuses as an option

Theodora Kalikow, President at UMF

- The meeting went well and many spoke eloquently about UMF's work
- Importance of missions at each campus
- Importance of the mission of the System has a whole
- Key component is the public policy agenda for higher education
- The Legislature needs to hear more clearly what is important

Allyson Handley, President at UMA

- Meetings were productive and open dialog
- It has been very educational for the Task Force
- David Flanagan is a great leader for the Task Force
- The Task Force has no preconceived notions and it has been an open process

Dick Cost, President at UMFK

- Meetings went well with good dialog

Selma Botman, President at USM

- The Task Force comes to USM and Lewiston/Auburn College on March 17th. It was originally scheduled but has rescheduled due to inclement weather.
- USM is working on their Strategic Planning Process.
- Three Town Meetings have been held at each of the campuses.

Trustee Norman Fournier, Task Force Member

- The Task Force is hearing good feedback from the campus communities but is not close to identifying \$42.9 million of savings.
- The Task Force was charged with identifying \$4 to \$5 million in savings over four years.
- Individuals who speak at the meetings are very proud of their campus and the connection the campus has to the community.
- Common elements of the meetings have been coordination and collaboration instead of competition among the seven campuses and to work as a system, not as individual campuses.
- Other issues that have been raised are transferability of credits among campuses and the competition of the Community Colleges.
- It is overwhelming for the Task Force members to listen and absorb all of the comments from each meeting.
- He expressed gratitude to Dr. James Breece and Ms. Rebecca Wyke for their efforts and support to the Task Force.

Trustee Flahive

- Asked if there had been any reaction to Eliot Cutler's vision for higher education in Maine.
 - Eliot R. Cutler is the resident partner in charge of the Akin Gump's Beijing office. Mr. Cutler was a presenter at the Policy Soundings Lecture in Portland on January 27, 2009. In his speech "Keeping Pace – Maine in a Changing World" he express Maine's need for a K-20 strategy and serious integration of the K-16 management of education. He outlined four steps toward rebuilding higher education in Maine:

- appoint an independent Commission to reevaluate Maine's entire system of public higher education;
 - reexamine scared cows (Why is the State's management of tertiary education is split between two boards of trustees? Should Maine provide either a good education for some students or a mediocre one for all students? Are financial resources best spent providing many programs in many places?);
 - put in place a process to implement the Commission's recommendations that will make success likely instead of improbable; and
 - commit to a 10-year program of investment in Maine's human capital.
- Trustee Fournier commented that a couple of individuals encouraged the Task Force to read the information.

Trustee O'Leary

- Inquired about the Governor's suggestion of a new entity at the Brunswick Naval Air Station.
 - Chancellor Pattenaude responded that the Brunswick Economic Development Commission is trying to be established through bond funding and the Governor approached President Kennedy about ideas for a focus on engineering.

Trustee Marge Medd, Task Force Member

- Expressed gratitude to David Flanagan who is Chair of the Task Force.
- The areas that need focus are the campus mission statements, campus and community connections, and commitment to look at the big picture.
- Feels there is a need to identify what the UMS needs to look like ten years from now and work towards that goal.
- The benefits of a four year bachelor's degree is not known to the public at large. This message needs to be articulated publicly.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk of the Board