

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Southern Maine
January 12, 2009

Meeting with Student Representatives – Gorham Campus

Present: Lyndel Wishcamper, Chair; Jean Flahive, Norman Fournier, Tamera Grieshaber, William Johnson, Krisandra Horn, Marjorie Medd, and Victoria Murphy. **Chancellor:** Richard Pattenaude. **Student Representatives:** Marie Follayttar, Ashley Davis, Catherine Siegel, Kenneth Hoyt, Charles Weiss, and Ross Wolland. **Presidents:** Selma Botman, Richard Cost, Cynthia Huggins, Allyson Hughes-Handley, Theodora Kalikow, Robert Kennedy, and Donald Zillman. **System Staff:** Rosa Redonnett, and Kelley Wiltbank.

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

Trustee Medd called the meeting to order.

Catherine Siegel, Graduate Student Representative from USM

- Welcomed everyone to USM
- The Muskie School and eight other organizations across the US have been awarded a 5 year grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a national Child Welfare Institution. The purpose of the Institution is to build the capacity of the nation's child welfare workforce, to develop skilled child welfare leaders and public, private and tribal systems.
- The College of Education and Human Development Department had 68,000 hours of graduate student service learning for 2008.

Marie Follayttar, Student Representative from USM

- Wished Happy Birthday to Trustee Horn
- She talked about the role of Public Interest Research Group (PIRG)
- Approximately \$80,000 of the USM student activity fees help support the operation of the WMPG public radio station which is run and operated by the students. They are working on a new grant which will extend its broadcasting area.

Ken Hoyt, Graduate Student Representative from UM

- Finals went well

Ashley Davis, Student Representative from UMM

- Student film premier of documentaries developed by students from the media production class. One documentary was on the challenges facing teens in Machias.
- The campus hosted a Lobster night which was well attended. The campus locally purchased 150 lobsters for the event.
- UMM holiday celebration was well attended by the campus and the community
- Winter term classes are currently in session

Chuck Weiss, Student Representatives from UMPI

- One of the classes at UMPI is filming a movie in the basement of President Zillman's house

Ross Wolland, Student Representative from UM

- Student organizations have used \$100,000 which is about half of the funding for the academic year to host events for students.
- He received feedback of the Chancellor's New Challenges, New Directions documents from the Student Senate President at UM who was very supportive of the concepts in the document.

The Student Representatives created an agenda of topics concerning which they would like to have an ongoing dialog with the Trustees. The agenda included:

- Tuition increases and transparency
 - Ross Wolland explained the concept of a four-year set tuition rate when a student enrolls as a first year student and suggested it might be considered by the Board.

Trustee Wishcamper thanked Ross for the creativity and pro-activeness to bring this idea forward. He commented that he would like the UMS to look at financial incentives to improve the graduation rates. Trustee Wishcamper suggested a joint meeting with the faculty and student representatives with the Board of Trustees, Chancellor, and the Presidents
 - Marie Follayttar raised the issue of differential tuition. The cost of an English degree versus an Engineering Degree varies greatly. The New Challenges, New Directions document outlines a 6% tuition increase but how will that be offset by course fees in the majors that cost more to operate.

President Kalikow explained the concept UMF is pursuing for 2010. UMF will do everything in its power to have the student graduate within four years but if the campus fails the 5th year would be free to the student.
- Course offerings and availability
 - Marie Follayttar suggested a 4 year course offering catalog to assist students with planning for the entire 4 year period.
- Advising
 - Trustee Horn commented that advising is the key issue to helping the students graduate in four years.
 - Ross Wolland commented the quality of advising can be linked to student engagement and success.
 - Ashley Davis spoke about the importance of the freshman seminar classes
 - Marie Follayttar commented that advising is critical for students with special needs as well as veterans. For these students there are many other services that need to be coordinated with the student's classes. She said a fundamental question is what is the aim of the advising – is it to graduate or is it also job placement for the student? Advising is critical for student success.

President Handley commented that students who attend orientation are much more likely to succeed. At UMA the non-traditional tools for advising work well because 75% of the students at UMA are non-traditional.

Trustee Medd thanked the Student Representatives for developing the agenda and the beneficial dialog at the meeting.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk