

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine System
March 16, 2009

Meeting with Student Representatives

- 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. **Student Representatives:** Ashley Davis, Marie Follayttar, Kenneth Hoyt, Antonio Mosquera, Cynthia Nesbit, and Charles Weiss. **Presidents:** Selma Botman, Richard Cost, Cynthia Huggins, Allyson Handley, Theodora Kalikow, Robert Kennedy, and Donald Zillman. **System Staff:** Rosa Redonnett, and Kelley Wiltbank.
- Absent:** Susan Gendron, Krisandra Horn, Charles Johnson, Paul Mitchell, and Victoria Murphy.

Trustee McCrum called the meeting to order.

Marie Follayttar, Student Representative from USM

- The students will be sending the Board updated highlights from their campuses.

Charles Weiss, Student Representative from UMPI

- He is the student representative on the New Challenges, New Directions Task Force
 - People really appreciate the open sessions
 - Some people want a dialog but that is not the role of Task Force
 - It's difficult the get across the Task Force's role
- He inquired about the process of the Student Trustee nominations

Mr. Kelley Wiltbank, University Counsel and Clerk of the Board, explained that 5 nominations for Student Trustee were received from the Student Senates. The Student Trustee process is not controlled by Board policy but is governed by the UMS Charter. Maine law provides that the Governor's Office is responsible for the process for selecting the Student Trustee. The Governor's Office is to contact the Student Senates of each campus to get nominations. Historically, this process has not worked well. There was a general lack of information at the campus level regarding the operation of the law and therefore not all of the campuses had regularly been given the opportunity to submit a nomination. This year the Board Office was more aggressive and proactive to insure that each campus was informed of the process. It was coordinated through the Governor's staff that the Board Office would collect the nominations and forward them to John Lisnik, Assistant to the Chancellor for Governmental Relations, who would send them to the Governor's Office. This would also assist in timely appointments. In the past the two year term of the Student Trustee has stretched into a longer appointment and in one particular instance the Student Trustee served for a year after he had graduated. Mr. Wiltbank further explained that the Charter provides that a Student Trustee may not be named from the same campus in successive terms. Therefore, nominations can only come from six campuses. There is a provision in the Charter that in the event the Student Trustee was nominated from one campus but transfers to another campus, then the first campus will prevail. We interpreted the language in this particular case to say that UMF which had nominated the current Student Trustee could submit a nomination because they lost their nomination to a transfer to USM.

Marie Follayttar, Student Representative from USM

- She stated that, due to the interpretation of the Board Office regarding a transferring Student Trustee that UMF would be allowed to nominate again instead of USM, the USM Student Government Association has submitted a letter to the Governor, the Attorney General, and Senator Alford regarding concerns with the nomination process for the Student Trustee.

Mr. Wiltbank commented that is the correct action because the process is defined in the law. He also stated that there is another piece of the Charter that needs to be considered for change as well because it requires that the Student Trustee take 12 credits per semester. The UMS has many students who although are considered “full time” and complete 24 credits throughout a full year of work cannot or don’t meet the 12 credit per semester requirement. These changes would need to be handled by the Legislature.

Ken Hoyt, Graduate Student Representative from UM

- He suggested that the Charter also change to allow Graduate Students to be nominated as the Student Trustee. The UM Graduate Student Government would appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Student Trustee nomination process.
- UM and USM have been working on collaboration efforts on advising and student relationships and the gap between the rights and responsibilities of the graduate students and their advising. A document titled “Graduate Students Rights and Responsibilities” has been developed to clearly state the role of the graduate student as well as the student’s rights and the guidelines for the graduate student advisors. This is to protect the students and the advisors. The Graduate Student Government at UM and USM are working with the proper process to have this document approved.

Marie Follayttar, Student Representative from USM

- Responding to the report that Graduate Students were working on a Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities document, Ms. Follayttar expressed the concern that an undergraduate student rights and responsibilities list needs to be available on each campus as part of accreditation requirements. This list is not available or accessible at all campuses. She is working with USM on this issue.

Chancellor Pattenaude

- In the Graduate Student Catalog a grievance and appeals process needs to be outlined.

Cindy Nesbit, Student Representative from UMA

- Encouraged to continue the two-way communication process for the Student Representatives and the Board of Trustees even though it will be more difficult with the one-day meeting schedule.

Chancellor Pattenaude

- Asked the Student Representatives for feedback on how the one-day meeting schedule can be improved.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk