

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine System
September 14, 2009

Meeting with Student Representatives

Present: Lyndel Wishcamper, Chair; James Dowe, Jean Flahive, Norman Fournier, Tamera Grieshaber, William Johnson, Kevin McCarthy, Barry McCrum, Marjorie Medd, Paul Mitchell, Victoria Murphy, and Charles O'Leary. **Chancellor:** Richard Pattenaude. **Student Representatives:** Rebecca Dyer, Nathan Grant, Summer Meredith, Cynthia Nesbit, Julie-Ann Scott and Charles Weiss. **Presidents:** Selma Botman, Richard Cost, Cynthia Huggins, Allyson Handley, Theodora Kalikow, and Donald Zillman. **System Staff:** James Breece, Rosa Redonnett and Kelley Wiltbank.

Absent: Eleanor Baker, Susan Gendron, Krisandra Horn, and Wayne Newell.

Trustee Fournier called the meeting to order and welcomed Nathan Grant as the new Graduate Student Representative from USM.

APPOINTMENT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE

Rebecca Dyer, Student Representative from UM

- The Student Representatives inquired about the status of the new appointment of a Student Trustee and how they can assist to expedite the appointment process.

Chancellor Pattenaude explained that the Governor appoints the Student Trustee. The UMS submitted to the Governor the recommendations from the campus and it is up to the Governor's Office to move the process forward.

Mr. Kelley Wiltbank, University Council and Clerk of the Board, explained that the Student Representatives have been working on proposed legislative language changes for the appointment of the Student Trustee.

INVEST IN STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS THAT INCREASE RETENTION AND GRADUATION

The Student Representatives recommended the following programs to increase retention and graduation rates:

- strong advising,
- system-wide course planning for more than one semester which will assist with transferring students, and
- syllabi posted on MaineStreet so advisors have access when assisting students with class schedules.

Chancellor Pattenaude commented that this is good advice and he will work with Rosa Redonnett, Executive Director of Student Affairs, on these issues.

ENCOURAGING STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

- Use current students for outreach at Maine high schools to further the Public Agenda

- Promote volunteerism – asking the Board’s opinion on recommending the number of hours of required service learning hours or making service learning courses more available

President Kalikow, UMF, commented that concept of service learning is very important and most of the campuses currently have service learning activities. In addition, most of the campuses belong to Maine Campus Compact which is the service learning institution that coordinates service learning activities for the State of Maine. She felt it is not a matter of requiring a certain amount of hours but it is a question of making opportunities available and starting with orientation so it becomes an expected part of their education.

Chancellor Pattenaude recommended that the Chief Academic Officers look at this issue. He recommended adding to the conversation the idea of using current students for outreach at the high schools would be helpful and should this work be eligible for service learning credit.

Trustee Wishcamper commented that The Chancellor’s recommendation could be tied into service learning but student outreach and service learning are more of a marketing asset that are available to the UMS and it is not a question of making it available to the students, it is a question of making the student available for this purpose. The same opportunities could be available to engage the students in the legislative process. The burden is on the UMS not the students.

Cindy Nesbit, Student Representative from UMA

- Appropriate timing of this outreach is critical.

Julie-Ann Scott, Graduate Student Representative for UM

- it is not just the traditional students from high school that should be targeted
- Another recruitment possibility is organized ways to engage current students with the public or businesses to reach a target market beyond just the high school students.

Charles Weiss, Student Representative from UMPI

- He had a wonderful experience volunteering his time to work on the New Challenges, New Directions Task Force.
- Any opportunity the students have to volunteer is beneficial.

FUNDING FORMULA

- The Student Representatives asked if it was going to be modified

Trustee Fournier stated that the Task Force reviewed this area and recommended the Board of Trustees look at the funding formula because it had not been adjusted for 40 years. However, the funding formula needs to be reviewed and studied because there are currently limited funds to distribute. By changing the formula some campuses could benefit and other campuses would not. The Task Force reviewed not only the funding formula but also tuition and financial aid. The current Plan states that because of the current state of the economy it is not an appropriate time to adjust the formula but it should be revisited at some point in time.

Chancellor Pattenaude commented that current State funding has declined from last year and based on current analysis and it will take four years before the funding is back up to level of last year. It is very difficult to redistribute funds during a time when the funds are declining. However, the UMS is committed to using new dollars for non-formula funding for strategic investments.

Dustin Ward, Graduate Student Representative from USM

- asked if some of the dollars for strategic investments will go into financial aid.

Chancellor Pattenaude responded by stating that the UMS has consistently increased financial aid even when budgets have been cut. The priorities have not been established for the Strategic Investment Fund and financial aid could be included.

Julie-Ann Scott commented that she has heard comments that some campuses are out of the price range for certain students so we need to stay focused on the State mission that no university is out of reach because of financial reasons.

Chancellor Pattenaude commented that differential financial aid is an issue that is being discussed.

Rebecca Dyer stated that the Student Representatives wanted to express their thanks to the Board of Trustees for their time and effort in putting the Plan together and taking the time to gather input from the students and faculty and staff and they look forward to the upcoming campus visits.

Trustee Wishcamper thanked the Student Representatives for the well organized agenda and the thoughtful discussions.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk