

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine
September 15, 2008

**Meeting with Student Representatives,
Trustees, Chancellor and Presidents**

Present: Lyndel Wishcamper, Chair; James Dowe Jean Flahive, Norman Fournier, Tamera Grieshaber, Charles Johnson, William Johnson, Barry McCrum, Marjorie Medd, Paul Mitchell, Victoria Murphy, Wayne Newell, and Charles O'Leary. **Chancellor:** Richard Pattenau. **Student Representatives:** Marie Follayttar, Chelsey Everest, Ashley Davis, Catherine Siegel, Cynthia Nesbit, Kenneth Hoyt, and Charles Weiss. **Presidents:** Selma Botman, Richard Cost, Cynthia Huggins, Allyson Hughes-Handley, Theodora Kalikow, Robert Kennedy, and Donald Zillman. **System Staff:** James Breece, Rosa Redonnett, and Kelley Wiltbank.

Absent: Susan Gendron, Krisandra Horn, Paul Mitchell, and Margaret Weston

Trustee Barry McCrum called the meeting to order.

Mr. Kenneth Hoyt, the UM Graduate Student Representative, greeted everyone and started the meeting.

Ms. Cynthia Nesbit, Student Representative from UMA, spoke briefly about the beginning of the semester at her university and said the transition to PeopleSoft has gone well.

Ms. Marie Follayttar, USM Student Representative, welcomed Dr. Selma Botman, the university's new president. Ms. Follayttar said Dr. Botman has attended classes, attended community events, and met with students across campus. She also said student organizations are seeking closer contact between the campuses that make up USM. Ms. Follayttar said the international student association of Lewiston-Auburn and a faculty member brought a resolution to the Maine State Legislature to bring more students from Chechnya. She also said the USM community is excited about the new Wishcamper Center.

Ms. Ashley Davis, the UMM Student Representative, said the semester was off to a good start. She spoke highly of the new classroom renovations, which she said have allowed faculty more access to technology.

Ms. Catherine Siegel, Graduate Student Representative from USM, introduced herself to the Board.

Mr. Charles Weiss, Student Representative from UMPI, said his university recently hired a new Student Activities Coordinator and said the university community is excited about the renovations to Folsom Hall on campus.

Ms. Follayttar thanked Board members for the opportunity to meet officially with the Student Trustee, Krisandra Horn. She and Mr. Hoyt said the student representatives have decided that between each board meeting, they will research a particular issue so during breakfast meetings they can provide the BOT with information. They said this action is intended not just to discover issues, but to develop some plan of action on those issues to move beyond concern to action and toward resolution.

Trustee William Johnson said as Chair of Student Affairs Committee, he felt it would be appropriate if that information were sent through staff to that committee.

Chancellor Richard Pattenaude said as the System Office evolves, Ms. Rosa Redonnett, Executive Director of Student Affairs, will take an increasingly active role and will be the person who can assist in conversations related to student issues. Dr. Pattenaude said Ms. Redonnett and he would work with Trustee Johnson when issues need to be moved to the Board level. Trustee Johnson agreed.

Trustee Barry McCrum said that having identified topics before the meeting would facilitate meaningful discussion. Ms. Follayttar said the student representatives would also appreciate having questions from the Trustees before the breakfast meeting.

Dr. Pattenaude said staff evaluations are an important part of student success, and that staff are evaluated every year. He said goal one of the Agenda for Action is student success and for that to happen, all of those individuals supporting students have to be doing their jobs effectively. Dr. Pattenaude explained that each of the universities received grants from MELMAC to look at issues like this, and Ms. Redonnett explained how those grants are used on campus. Dr. Pattenaude said student success and MELMAC grants are based on retention, and at the November BOT meeting they will provide retention data which is a broad indicator. He asked those present to identify where key student-staff interactions take place that would impact student success.

Ms. Follayttar said a major problem is that information on registration, financial aid, and other documents critical to students are not easily accessible or readable. Dr. Pattenaude agreed that sometimes that information can be a little bureaucratic.

Trustee Victoria Murphy spoke about an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education that stated a large amount of grant money is never accessed by students and some families find financial aid forms so complicated they don't know what scholarships are available. Trustee Murphy said as tuition rises and loans are increasingly inaccessible the System should find a way to make that information more accessible.

Dr. Pattenaude outlined different types of financial aid and scholarships and said the same people apply for the same money, and the pool of students who apply has not

expanded. He also said the financial aid home page has information that is accessible, but the dilemma with financial aid is that there are guidelines that need to be explained and translating that is important.

Ms. Follayttar said students are signing up for Opportunity Maine as they are taking out student loans, which can help students pay back the cost of their education. She said loans are increasingly the only way some students can get aid. Ms. Redonnett said the UMS website will soon include a page with information on Opportunity Maine.

Ms. Chelsey Everest, the UM Student Representative, said due to increased student enrollment, the university is seeing a greater interest in joining student government and for the first time in years, the campus is having competitive election for seats. She also said interest in Greek activities is increasing on campus.

Trustee Lyndel Wishcamper asked the student representatives to comment on the level of community involvement/service of students at their campuses. Ms. Everest said service is a staple for Greek organizations at UM, and the university has a number of organizations that promote service activities. Ms. Nesbit said UMA has Americorps, and that they are looking for any opportunity to do community service.

Mr. Hoyt said graduate students do not have as large a sense of volunteerism and social service, but they do have a philanthropic organization through student government that sponsors community services. Ms. Follayttar said USM has Americorps as well as an Office of Civic Engagement and students are engaged in community service activities.

Trustee Wishcamper said the student representatives could share ideas among themselves and look for ways to increase the number of students who have that same feeling of belonging and identification.

President Theodora Kalikow from UMF said orientation should include service activities to acclimate students and make them understand what kind of service is available on campuses, and encouraged people to look into the Maine Campus Compact, a statewide organization that encourages and teaches about service learning. Trustee Jean Flahive asked whether student government leaders have ever talked with people at Maine Campus Compact and encouraged students become more aware of it and promote it on their campuses.

Dr. Pattenaude said service learning became national phenomenon about ten years ago and faculty have increasingly integrated service learning into the curriculum. He suggested a brief report to the trustees about the level of service on campus might be useful, and that information could also be useful in speaking with the Legislature. Dr. Donald Zillman, president of UMPI, said faculty members at his university are saying this group of students is the most engaged they've seen in some time.

President Allyson Hughes Handley, UMA's president said only 30% of students at her university are traditional and there are no dorms. She stated they are looking at how to provide opportunities for non-traditional students.

Dr. Kalikow said the interplay between theory and practice is the critical intellectual point in this discussion. She said when students get an opportunity to practice, and then reflect, it deepens the kind of learning students can do. Dr. Botman said service learning is satisfying for faculty as well.

Trustee Wishcamper asked whether there is more Trustees could do on this subject, and asked what role student representatives could play as well. He said it sounds like the UMS has an opportunity to publicize more of what students are doing and encourage more involvement.

Trustee McCrum thanked the students and Board for their time and a productive discussion.

Adjourned.

Peter Cook for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk of the Board