

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine at Farmington
November 17, 2008

Meeting with Student Representatives

Present: Barry McCrum, Chair pro tem; 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 Pattenaude. **Student Representatives:** Marie Follayttar, Ashley Davis, Meridith Hughes, 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, and Lyndel Wishcamper

Trustee Barry McCrum called the meeting to order.

Meridith Hughes, Student Representative from UMF

- Welcomed everyone to UMF

Marie Follayttar, Student Representative from USM

- Students at USM are more engaged and are participating in the USM strategic plan
- Campus newspaper has won two gold star awards
- Two students from the cross country team will be attending nationals
- Financial situation – students concerned about courses being cut for next spring
 - Raised concern with the increasing costs of course fees and text books
 - It would be helpful to have professors make a final decision on their text books prior to the buy back time period

Ashley Davis, Student Representative from UMM

- Professors are not purchasing new additions of the text books instead they are using older additions and supplementing with other resources
- They had a successful Veterans Day reception
- Disability Awareness Night – this is an annual event and was well attended
- UMM recently held a senior etiquette dinner where business members from the community attended to provide tips to the seniors on formal dinners and interviews

Cindy Nesbit, Student Representative from UMA

- For the first time in UMA history the women's soccer team went to finals
- UMA experienced an increase in their summer enrollment and a slight increase in their fall enrollment
- Student representatives see themselves as advocates and they want to be of value to the campuses. The representatives are looking for two way communications with the Board.

Ken Hoyt, Graduate Student Representative from UM

- A Publishing Committee has been established to broaden the communications on campus regarding graduate student activities
- Graduate Student Singles Club was established to encourage community friendships
- Graduate Student Government voted to increase the graduate student fees by \$20 per year
- The campus recently dedicated the Martin Luther King Breezeway

Catherine Seigel, Graduate Student Representative from USM

- Biology Department Masters Program graduated 18 students and 12 of those students are working in Maine
- College of Education and Human Development is offering courses in Special Education as a collaborative venture with USM and the Portland schools
- LAC has a job fair scheduled for tomorrow
- USM has 40 master degree students from Northern Maine in the College of Education
- USM School of Nursing enrollment is increasing and the nursing programs have a 100% pass rate on their certification exams.

Charles Weiss, Student Representatives from UMPI

- Folsom Hall is now completed and includes a great student lounge
- Wind turbine project was scheduled to start today
- The campus is dedicating one hour twice a week as meeting time for the campus clubs and committees
- A group of social work students will be traveling to Guatemala during spring break

Meridith Hughes, Student Representative from UMF

- UMF is offering of the Education Center for the local schools. It is a “green building” and will help them learn about geo thermal heating
- UMF has started a Resident Hall Energy Challenge to save heating costs and the proceeds will go to a local charity
- The campus is participating in a green house gas assessment
- Ten soccer players received awards
- Senator Howard Dean visited the UMF campus

Trustee McCrum stated that he appreciated the representatives’ comments on two way communications and it is the Board’s intent to use student representatives to pass on information to the students on their campuses.

Chancellor Richard Pattenaude

- It’s important to be reminded of the great things going on the campuses
- UMS will have to continue to focus its energy on the financial situation and he appreciates the issues and concerns raised by the student representatives in the areas of:
 - Course fees & uniform/mandatory fees
 - Text Books – which go out of date every 10 years
 - There are national groups and Congress looking at the issue of text books costs

- On-line text books could be an options – the entire book is on line for a reduced price
- Another option is for the professors put one text book on reserve in the library
- Affordability is not just tuition – there are others costs as well

Student Representatives had a discussion regarding the option of on-line text books versus traditional printed books and the usefulness depends on the individual student, course work, and degree program.

Trustee Murphy asked how the UMS could encourage students to stay in school – examples could be a Face Book campaign or a recruitment campaign spearhead by the student representatives.

Mr. Hoyt commented that one of the biggest frustrations for students is completing a degree in four years because courses are not offered when the student requires them. Campuses should make it easier to finish on time because costs savings can be achieved by insuring the students complete on time in the four year timeframe.

There was a lengthy discussion on the issue that some campuses held classes on November 11th. The Presidents discussed their campus events for Veterans Day. The Board asked that the Presidents re-evaluate whether Veteran's Day should be a campus holiday.

Adjourned.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk