

NEW CHALLENGES, NEW DIRECTIONS TASK FORCE FEBRUARY 26, 2009

Meeting Summary

Present: David Flanagan, Jim Breece, Becky Wyke, Allyson Hughes Handley, Jim Bradley, Robert Rice, Ron Mosely, Bert Jacobs, Michelle Hood, Chuck Weiss, Marjory Medd (Not present: Susan Gendron, Norm Fournier, Sandra Featherman)

- Vice Chancellor Jim Breece opened the meeting and distributed a summary of written “input” received at the System Office thus far, as well as a notebook containing copies of all emails submitted to the Task Force. Members requested that they receive “input” summaries and copies of any correspondence (emails, letters) every two weeks. All emails to taskforce@maine.edu receive an auto-reply message from the Task Force. Members asked that a similar reply be sent on behalf of the Task Force when hard copies of letters are received. No hard copy letters received by System Office at this point. Several Task Force members have received at least one letter, which was given to Breece.
- Breece discussed the upcoming open forum schedule and plans to also hold forums at LAC (Lewiston) and a combined session for System-wide Services/University College at Bangor/University College Outreach. Task Force meetings may be scheduled at the same locations/dates.
- Breece noted that public open forums are being audio-recorded for Task Force members in MP3 format, for any members who are unable to attend. Invitation-only meetings are not being recorded.
- Task Force chair David Flanagan noted items he learned from leading the Hurricane Katrina investigation, which may be helpful to this process. Based on that experience, he presented ideas and thoughts for moving forward:
 - Develop an outline of what needs to be done.
 - Develop a realistic timeframe for the work at hand.
 - Conduct one-on-one interviews with key people/experts; ask specific questions and cite them as authorities for any proposed recommendations.
 - Conduct a situational analysis – where things are at this point, in a bulleted two-page-per-issue format, to be prepared by UMS staff, to be completed by March 20
- Flanagan noted that a second phase should be a SWOT analysis, which is a review of the System’s Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats and will help the Task Force make recommendations for restructuring the System. Info would include input from Task Force, UMS staff, others, and provide opportunity for individual universities to also perform a SWOT analysis. Timeline: April 10
- Flanagan said a third phase should include looking at alternatives for addressing opportunities.

- Talk to national experts; Task Force discussed potential experts that may be called upon, such as former Chancellor MacTaggart, Tom Lazelle, and Aims McGuinness
- Each Task Force member was asked to recommend four people they suggest being interviewed for each of the six areas of inquiry.
- Flanagan requested that UMS staff develop an inventory of alternatives by May 8. Then the Task Force will review the alternatives and come up with final recommendations in June, to be submitted to Chancellor Pattenaude.
- Task Force decided that the three subcommittee setup will stay intact and they might be used to conduct any interviews. They also agreed to proceed with the outline proposed by Flanagan, as discussed. Members agreed that they will review the status of their work, prior to the UMS Trustees meeting in May.
- Flanagan introduced a set of ideas for the Task Force to consider, noting that they should assess the situation “as is” today; create a set of plausible alternatives; look at different System models.
 - Review the Chancellor’s office/SWS – history, # employees, costs compared over time in a graphic.
 - Look at system models across the country, as well as at MCCC, to understand how they are set up.
 - Flanagan mentioned he reviewed Eliot Cutler’s presentation on the System which was recently made at the Muskie Institute.
 - Task Force discussed what locations would be included in the analysis, i.e., how to incorporate places such as University College centers (UMA), Hutchinson Center (UMaine) and Lewiston Auburn College (USM).
- Task Force discussed additional items to consider:
 - Look at alternative appropriation formulas.
 - Obtain and review campus mission statements and those from other groups within the System. Seek objective national standards for mission statement criteria. Ensure units operating consistently with their mission statements. Methods of measurement also were discussed such as looking at course offerings/majors, areas of duplication.
 - Determine what is affordable, within the scope, and financially sustainable.
 - Review financial impact.
 - Look at optimum levels of academic offerings in geographic areas:
 - Possibly create a graphic – with universities, centers, community colleges – to review what is offered in each of the geographic areas.
 - Determine what is sustainable in Maine.
 - Review relationships at UMS, current issues, articulation agreements.

Meeting adjourned.