

NEW CHALLENGES, NEW DIRECTIONS TASK FORCE

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Meeting Summary

Present: David Flanagan, Rich Pattenaude, Betram Jacobs, Allyson Hughes Handley, Robert Rice, James Bradley, Michelle Hood, Sandra Featherman, Ron Mosley, Marge Medd, Charles Weiss, Valerie Seaberg, James Breece, Rebecca Wyke

- Chancellor Pattenaude opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their willingness to serve. He then asked everyone to introduce themselves. The Chancellor then made the following introductory comments. The purpose of this task force is to look at and talk about transformational change in the system and its institutions – looking more deeply at how the System views itself. UMS is built on collaborative and cooperative competition and has a lot of room for entrepreneurial energy. The question before the task force is how to maintain that energy. The need for transformative change is real and forces the System to think differently.
- Vice Chancellor Rebecca Wyke outlined the budget challenges facing the University of Maine System: Due to a variety of factors, including the financial market collapse, budget curtailments and inflationary cost drivers, the System will face a total cumulative financial gap of \$42.8 million over the next four years. Revenues do not meet expenditures. UMS has to lower expenditures to close that gap, and transformative change is needed.
- Chancellor Pattenaude presented the Task Force Charge: “The Task Force will gather data, review models in other states, and obtain input from individuals and groups inside and outside the System. The Task Force is responsible for making recommendations to the Chancellor and the Presidents on the future structure and function of the System intended to achieve lower costs of operations and financial sustainability while increasing the capacity of the universities to meet the needs of our students and State in the 21st Century.”
- The Chancellor reinforced that the committee’s job is to bring forth a series of options and recommendations to the presidents. That group will then make recommendations to the Trustees.
- Chancellor Pattenaude transitioned the meeting to Chair David Flanagan. Mr. Flanagan asked the question of how the Task Force should do its work? After much discussion, the Task Force agreed to the following:

- The Task Force agreed to work in three sub-committees:
 - Size and role of the Chancellor's office and System-wide Services
 - Financial structure – revenues and expenditures
 - Mission: what ought to be the mission of the System and its components going forward, and how should the universities relate to one another, including teaching delivery technology

- That this will be a very public process and the Task Force will actively seek input from the people of Maine. The Task Force plans to hold public sessions at each university in the UMS to gather public input, and has a web page on the UMS website. Those wishing to comment to the Task Force can use the email address: taskforce@maine.edu.

- That the end result of this process will be a set of practical recommendations, not dreams or aspirations that are unattainable. These recommendations will be in an actionable form – suggesting legislation, policy alterations, changes in the charter of the university, etc. The goal is to complete the work of this Task Force by June, to give the Chancellor and Presidents enough time to consider the recommendations before the July meeting of the Board of Trustees.

- The tentative timeline of the Task Force's Work:
 - February – Work begins
 - March – Public input at universities obtained
 - April 1 – Sub-committee reports due
 - May 1 – First draft completed
 - June – Submit final report to Chancellor and presidents

- To meet approximately every other week. The next meeting will be held in Augusta. There was some discussion of how the board would conduct its work and decision making processes, and the group desires it to be by consensus

Meeting adjourned.