



NEW CHALLENGES, NEW DIRECTIONS TASK FORCE

MARCH 12, 2009

Meeting Summary

Present: David Flanagan, James Bradley, Alyson Hughes-Handley, Michelle Hood, Ron Mosley, Bertram Jacobs, Norman Fournier, Marjorie Medd, Charles Weiss, Sandra Featherman, Valerie Seaberg, James Breece, and Rebecca Wyke

- The meeting began with a discussion of the relationship of the task force to the work being done in Arenas one and two. Chair David Flanagan said that the purpose of the work for each group is to present a series of recommendations for the Board of Trustees to consider and act upon, and if the work does overlap, the Board will make the final determination on which recommendations to accept. Flanagan said that each of these groups will keep the task force informed of their progress and that the task force is looking at issues related to overall system vision and as part of that work, may need to develop a new vision for UMS that takes into consideration the strengths of the system, the missions and the geographical areas that are served and mold a new model.
- The task force then discussed the issue of seeking a consultant, and interviewing experts in the three areas of the task force's work: structure, funding, and mission. Chair Flanagan asked the members of the task force to identify people who might be of value under each category. Under structure, the task force discussed seeking the expertise of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), since that organization seems to have the capability for knowing what systems around the country look like and how they function. Others who the task force may seek input from include:
 - Terry MacTaggart, former UMS chancellor
 - Tom Layzell former head of Mississippi, Illinois and Kentucky systems
 - Sam Schuman, former Minnesota chancellor
 - Steve Reno, UNHS chancellor
 - Bill Caron, president of Maine Health
 - Robert Zemsky, Chair and CEO of The Learning Alliance
- On the issue of funding, Mary McKeown, MGT of America was suggested. The task force also discussed seeking input from legislators. The Chancellor has talked to legislators about New Challenges, New Directions and the task force decided to seek their input later in the process and discussed the idea of providing a regular status report to members of the legislature as the work moves forward. Gathering input from the CFOs was considered, but the task force decided that their input will be whatever recommendations come out of the Arena one work. The task force also considered

seeking contributions from university presidents from other systems and CEOs of other large organizations, such as Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems.

- The task force discussed the timeline, and whether it was realistic or needed amending, but decided to continue on the present work plan since the schedule is set largely by the need to create a plan for a balanced budget for the next fiscal year.
- Chair Flanagan shared his observations about the series of public hearings at the universities. Flanagan said he felt the meetings were a wonderful and healthy thing to do and he was pleased so many task force members were able to attend. His initial feeling is that the system was more cohesive in 1991 than it is now and he was concerned with a lot of things he heard regarding the competition between the universities and a lack of a system-wide sense of direction. What encouraged him was that the public seemed to see the universities in the system as having enormous value to the state and to the communities in which they are located. Another task force member shared that what he heard was a desire for more direction and an end to the competition and rivalry among universities. Flanagan said what he heard most of all is that we should operate as a system, not seven competitive campuses.
- The task force then discussed the need for chairs of each subcommittee. It was agreed that Sandra Featherman will chair the committee on mission; Michelle Hood will chair the committee on funding; and Dave Flanagan will chair the committee on system-wide services.
- The task force adjourned to do work in the subcommittees.