

## **Technology Committee Meeting**

Present: **Committee Members:** Barry McCrum, Chair; and Tamera Grieshaber (by phone).  
**Staff:** Rebecca Wyke, Kelley Wiltbank, Ralph Caruso, Cindy Mitchell, Jeff Letourneau, John Forker, and Fred Brittain from UMF.

Absent: Susan Gendron and Lyndel Wishcamper.

Trustee McCrum, Chair, called the meeting to order.

**Arena 1 Information Technology Final Report.** Mr. Ralph Caruso, System Chief Information Officer, provided an update on the UMS and Campus Information Technology FY09 budget. There are 231 full time employees involved in providing services and supporting information technology and the UMS total gross expenditures for technology is \$25.7 million for fiscal year 2009 which is approximately 4% of the UMS total budget. UMS has benchmarked the information technology staff supporting MaineStreet ERP against other institutions which shows the UMS needs to invest in more support. This was a key finding of the Oracle Insight Review performed in March 2008 as a part of the review of the UMS's implementation of Finance and Human Resources modules.

The Chief Financial Officers (CFO) and Information Technology Directors have recommended that the UMS not reduce the services provided by the System Office in information technology. Ms. Rebecca Wyke, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration & Treasurer, has worked with the CFOs to increase the support for the UMS's information technology function and they have agreed to augment the budget in FY2010 by \$257,000 plus allow the System Information Technology to invest the savings they generate from retiring the Legacy System (\$511,000). Nine positions will be added and three more critical ones are in progress. The Information Technology Directors have reviewed a number of organizational models and have recommended a hybrid model where the Campus Information Technology units will have a formal dotted line relationship with the System Chief Information Officer. They will work together on a number of projects and improve service to end users. The 11 internal and external assessments of information technology over the last several years were reviewed by the Committee.

**MaineStreet Update.** Ms. Cynthia Mitchell, Director of Administrative Systems Development and Support and Project Enterprise, reported that in March 2009 the Financials upgrade to 9.0 was very successful. The Financial Aid implementation is going well with key milestones being met and more work is planned for the rest of this year. UMS is working with various groups to improve the usability and productivity of PeopleSoft for faculty and students.

### **Portal Demonstration**

A portal demonstration was given by Mr. Fred Brittain, Director of Information Technology at UMF. The "E-Campus" portal for UMF was developed in 2001 as a way to consolidate all of the software into one portal which becomes the homepage for that campus. It is a user-friendly method for on-line access for the student, staff and faculty. Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Brittain, are developing a plan to move forward with this technology System-wide which should greatly improve the usability of numerous systems including MaineStreet as well as campus applications. The UMS would develop the boilerplate for the portal after which the campus and the student can tailor the page for their needs.

**Datacenter Readiness and Consolidation.** Mr. Caruso provided an update on the Datacenter readiness and consolidation. A study has been completed along with an initial project to upgrade the Datacenters in Orono and Portland. The campuses have agreed to consolidate servers, storage systems, etc. once this is complete it will result in lower acquisition and operating costs of these assets. In addition, the System has been working with the State to see if they can co-locate with the State Information Technology unit which must vacate their current facility in 2012. The State will be issuing an RFP this summer and will make a decision by the end of the year.

Mr. Jeff Letourneau, Associate Director for Communications and Network Services, explained the UMS has also been working with the research community at UMaine to submit a grant proposal to MTI to build a Datacenter plus a research computing system in the Mill building in Old Town. Last week they reviewed this proposal with MTI. This would allow the UMS to spur economic development of the Mill building along with moving the System towards lower power costs provided by the BIO-Mass boiler at the Mill.

**Optical Network - MaineREN.** Mr. Letourneau provided an update on the Optical Network. The first phase of the project was completed last summer and the second phase is scheduled to be completed this summer. The University of New Hampshire System has joined the UMS and the Jackson Laboratory in funding this project. In addition, UMS is working on completing an alternate route along the coast for redundancy. The UMS secured a \$3.0 million appropriation in January 2007 to partner with Jackson Laboratory which had \$1.9 million to complete this initial project. UNH will participate in the network from Portsmouth to Boston. Several other initiatives are underway to expand this concept across northern New England into the Maritime Provinces in Canada.

**Maine School and Library Network.** The UMS is working with the State to secure American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to build additional network capacity in rural Maine. The System Office is also working with DOE, State Chief Information Officer and the State Library to form a consortium to provide network services to K-12, public libraries, and State government agencies starting next July. Mr. Caruso stated that this is a very important area and great progress is being made.

**Educational Broadband Service / Distance Education Update.** Mr. John Forker, Associate Director for Academic Technologies and End-User Support, provided an update on the Educational Broadband Service and Distance Education. President Allyson Handley, UMA, has formed a task force to make recommendations regarding distance education. Mr. Caruso and Mr. Forker are on the task force.

Adjournment

Ellen Doughty for  
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk of the Board