

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees

University of Maine System
April 15, 2005

Board of Trustees Meeting

Present: Charles Johnson, Chair; Judith Andrucki, Gregory Cyr, James Dowe, Jean Flahive, Susan Gendron, William Johnson, Barry McCrum, Paul Mitchell, James Mullen, Victoria Murphy, Matthew Rodrigue, Margaret Weston, and Lyndel Wishcamper. Chancellor: Joseph Westphal. Student Representatives: Whitney Bouchard, Zachary Smith, and Benjamin Meiklejohn. University Presidents: Richard Cost, Theodora Kalikow, and William Shields. Chancellor's Staff: Tracy Bigney, James Breece, John Diamond, Tracy Elliott, Frank Gerry, Elsa Nuñez, Judy Ryan, Kelley Wiltbank, and Joanne Yestranski. Press and Public.

Trustee Charles Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Citizen Comment. Citizen Comment is a time regularly set aside for comments from the public. The following people signed up to speak during the citizen comment period:

Jim LaBrecque
Jim McClymer

Chair's Agenda and Report. Trustee Johnson provided the following comments. It has been a very busy time for the UMS with three Presidential searches currently underway and the Board, Chancellor, Presidents and staff have been doing a great deal of communicating with all of our constituents. Trustee Johnson expressed his thanks to the Trustees and staff for the extra time they have dedicated this week for meetings and events.

It was very rewarding to receive an update on the Strategic Plan and hear that there are people in the System at all levels working as many as three days a week to implement the Plan. This is something that impresses all of the Trustees and the efforts are truly appreciated. When we started on the Strategic Planning Process, Trustee Mullen commented that historically we all know of the plans that have been developed in the past that just sat on a shelf gathering dust. This Plan is in contrast to other plans because we are moving forward on of the areas that were identified. For the first time in the history of the System we are reviewing all aspects of our operation. Trustee Johnson stated he was pleased with the progress being made and looks forward to the reports from the Implementation Planning Committees.

Chancellor's Agenda and Reports. Chancellor Westphal commented that the System has worked through many difficult issues recently with respect to how we address the future of the University of Maine System. We are going to continue to address these issues. The State of Maine and System budget continues to be a challenge with the increasing operational and health care costs. We know things will have to be done differently. Change is not just short term but over the next decade to determine where the System will be in ten years. We have to work together with all of our constituents to figure out the future.

Committee Reports/Action.

Academic Affairs Committee. Trustee Johnson announced that with the resignation of Wick Skinner, Trustee Judith Andrucki has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee for the remainder of the year.

Strategic Direction # 8 Implementation Planning Update: University of Maine at Farmington.

Trustee Andrucki, Chair; asked Dr. Elsa Nuñez, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to introduce the Strategic Direction # 8 Implementation Planning Update: University of Maine at Farmington. Dr. Nuñez explained that Strategic Direction # 8 calls for the University of Maine at Farmington to continue as a small public liberal arts college with selected pre-professional programs in teacher education and related fields. It will maintain its enrollment cap, allowing it to attract students from Maine and out-of-State who are seeking a high-quality residential undergraduate education, which is distinct from the experience provided by a large university. Its focused mission means that it will not expand its pre-professional programs. Promotional efforts will build on its strong brand to strengthen its reputation as a high-quality public liberal arts college, of particular value to talented students who otherwise might not be able to pursue a private liberal arts education.

Dr. Theodora Kalikow, President at UMF, announced that UMF was selected as one of the 20 DEEP (Documenting Effective Educational Practice) universities that perform well in student engagement and graduation rates. President Kalikow distributed copies of a book from the American Association for Higher Education titled Student Success in College – Creating Conditions That Matter. This book is a comprehensive resource that summarizes the information compiled on the 20 DEEP colleges and universities.

President Kalikow commented that the University of Maine at Farmington has been seriously addressing the goals that were established in the Strategic Plan - Strategic Direction #8. Discussions about the curriculum and how it can best fit the mission of a liberal arts college have occurred over the last year. The faculty has been very active in these discussions, focusing on offering a curriculum based on four-credit courses instead of the current standard of three-credit courses. Additionally, the community has discussed its current promotional efforts and how to best align those with the University of Maine System's marketing efforts. Four credits is the foundation on which UMF will build a sustainable commitment to excellence. It is the linchpin for other strategic initiatives that are crucial to the UMF residential, liberal arts mission.

Dr. Allen Berger, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at UMF, spoke about the strategic planning and curriculum change at UMF. UMF is currently facing several challenges which include decline in retention and graduation rates; overall NSSE scores have declined; yield rates in admission have fallen; high school graduate cohort is declining; increasingly competing with better-funded, private colleges on quality; and UMF has heavy teaching loads and low salaries compromising the ability to recruit new faculty. Dr. Berger outlined that UMF must be bold in its planning and must increase academic quality and become more competitive in the admissions marketplace. In order to realize the goals that have been established, he reiterated that UMF has planned an ambitious reorganization of its curriculum to a four-credit per course model. 83% of the faculty at UMF voted in favor of this curriculum change. UMF believes that this is the right decision for the present and is the foundation on which UMF will build a sustainable commitment to excellence.

President Kalikow commented that the curriculum change to a four-credit per course model will be implemented as a multi-year process. Transferability of credits has been addressed and UMF will continue to work with the community colleges and sending institutions to have the students' transition go smoothly. Consistent with efforts to establish clear identities among UMS institutions and to distinguish them from the University of Maine, UMF will change its name through a process that will include the community, and in consultation with the University System. The new name is subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

Human Resources and Labor Relations Committee

Appointments for Trustee Approval. Trustee Weston presented the appointments at or above the level of Dean or equivalent which require approval of the Board of Trustees. The following appointments are recommended by the Chancellor:

Rachel Albert, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and Director of Nursing,
UMFK

Dr. Albert is being recommended for the position of Interim Vice-President of Academic Affairs and Director of Nursing at UMFK. Given the importance of this key position, it is critical that an Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs be named immediately and that search to fill this key position begin as soon as possible. Dr. Albert is a hard working and dedicated educator and an extremely capable administrator. She is an excellent candidate to continue our focus on assessment and to assure a smooth transition in this key position.

William Wells, Chief Information Officer, USM

Mr. Wells is being recommended for the position of Chief Information Officer for USM. This would be a full-time, fiscal-year, continuing, non-represented professional position, effective January 18, 2005. This position is part of the USM Management Group.

On a motion by Trustee McCrum, which was seconded by Trustee Gendron, the recommendation will be forwarded to the full Board for action.

Consent Agenda

Appointment of the Trustee Affairs Committee. Trustee Johnson announced that the Trustee Affairs Committee has been created by reconfiguring the Legislative Affairs and the Nominating Subcommittees and the following Trustees have agreed to serve on this Committee: Paul Mitchell, Chair; Judy Andrucki, Barry McCrum, and James Mullen.

Appointment of the President, University of Maine. On a motion by Trustee William Johnson, which was seconded by Trustee Rodrigue, the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, on the nomination of the Chancellor, elected to appoint Dr. Robert Kennedy as 18th President of the University of Maine and authorized the Chancellor to negotiate the terms and conditions of such appointment within the provisions of and consistent with System Policies and Procedures.

Renewal of the Chancellor's Employment Contract. On a motion by Trustee Mullen, which was seconded by Trustee Andrucki, the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System approved

the renewal of the Chancellor's employment contract according to the terms and conditions already established.

Appointment of the Interim Vice Chair of the Board. On a motion by Trustee Mitchell, which was seconded by Trustee Cyr, the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System appointed Trustee James Mullen as Interim Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees for the remainder of this year.

Information Items. The following items were included in the agenda for information only:

Implementation Planning Update

Legislative Update

Strategic Direction # 8: Implementation Planning Update: UMF

Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on June 5-6, 2005, at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

The Board of Trustees expressed their thanks and appreciation to Trustee Matthew Rodrigue for his contribution to the UMS and higher education in the State of Maine as the Student Trustee. The Governor will be appointing a new Student Trustee by the June Board meeting.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk