Trustee Johnson, Chair of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee, called the meeting to order.

Dialogue with Faculty & Student Representatives. Trustee Gregory Johnson explained that on February 27, 2014 the Academic & Student Affairs (ASA) Committee had a preliminary discussion of how to advance the depth and quality of dialogue between the Faculty & Student Representatives and the Board of Trustees, working through the ASA Committee. The Committee continued this discussion with the following three goals:

- Develop a work plan for the Committee and Faculty & Student Representatives for the coming 2014-2015 academic year that will set a course for substantive discussions of major issues facing UMS.
- Discuss and clarify the forums for Faculty & Student Representatives. How will discussions at the ASA Committee “trickle up” to the Board of Trustees?
- Discuss implications for UMS of “Peril and Promise in a New Age” by George Mehaffy.

Trustee Johnson commented that he has met with Professor Robert Rice and Mr. Shawn Staples to develop a work plan for the next academic year. A suggested topic for discussion is enrollment. Trustee Johnson stated that the Committee members as well as the Faculty and Student Representatives will be polled about the same days and time for Committee meeting dates for the next academic year in order to meet the needs of as many as possible.

Shawn Staples suggested the Student Representatives survey the students on their campus to determine what are the top drivers for enrollment. Professor Robert Rice, Faculty Representative from UM, agreed that enrollment is a critical factor and another major topic is transfers from the Maine Community College System (MCCS). Because is it difficult to engage is a useful dialog with a large group, he suggested using small group discussions and the small groups would report back to the full group. He suggested using the May Board meeting to try the small group discussions using the topic of transfers from the MCCS. UMA President Allyson Handley commented that many campuses have several MCCS transfer events and activities to facilitate transfers. She suggested involving the student advisors in the discussion about transfers. Ms. Rosa Redonnett, Chief Student Affairs Officer, commented that there are survey results from 2012 and many other resources.
available on transfer data could be beneficial in the discussion. UMFK President Wilson Hess spoke on behalf on the Credit Transfer Steering Committee and stated that the engagement and dialog referenced by Professor Rice would be beneficial. Jaclyn Jacobson, Graduate Student Representative from USM, suggested reaching out to the alumni of the MCCS as a target market for the UMS.

Trustee Johnson summarized that Mr. Staples will continue to work with the Student Representatives on the work plan for the fall and that he and Vice Chancellor Hunter will work with the Faculty Representatives to facilitate the dialog about the MCCS transfers at the May meeting.

**USM Program Eliminations.** USM Provost Michael Stevenson explained that USM is proposing the elimination of five academic programs: B.A. in Elementary Education, M.S. in School Psychology, B.S. in Applied Technology Education, B.S. in Technology Education, and the M.S. in Classroom Teaching. These programs are being eliminated because of low enrollment and graduation rates. No faculty will be affected by these eliminations, and the programs will teach out any remaining students before being eliminated.

On a motion by Trustee Newsom, which was seconded by Trustee Collins, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the recommendations for program eliminations submitted by USM to the Consent Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting on May 18-19, 2014.

**UMPI Strategic Plan.** UMPI Vice President Marty Parson discussed the UMPI Strategic Plan. The strategic steps that UMPI plans to take over the next five years align exceptionally well with the developing the Board of Trustees’ Goals and Actions Plan. Highlights of the Plan are outlined below:

- The UMS vision of achieving mission excellence through a culture of service to students and the people of Maine aligns with the UMPI's Bedrock Strategic Initiative. We believe that by investing in our employees and by using formative and summative assessments of employee performance, we will build a campus culture of superior service.
- The UMS expects each campus to have a distinct brand. UMPI's Strategic Plan will bring the University's distinct brand into reality. By 2020, UMPI will be offering personalized, technologically innovative education and extensive career preparation to all of its students.
- The UMS seeks financial sustainability. UMPI's strategic plan is designed to ensure that UMPI will be financially sustainable. This will be achieved by increasing enrollment and retention and by developing alternative revenue streams while also becoming more efficient.
- The UMS seeks to provide students with affordable, accessible, and quality programs and innovation. UMPI's Strategic Plan will guide the development of an innovative educational program that provides new ways of supporting student success and will result in graduation rates that exceed those of our peer institutions.
- The UMS seeks for its educational programs to be relevant to the workforce needs of Maine employers. UMPI's Strategic Plan will guide the University's development of academic and career preparation programs in collaboration with regional employers. Placement of UMPI students in work experiences with regional employers will increase the percentage of UMPI graduates who begin their work lives in Aroostook County or western New Brunswick.
- The UMS acknowledges the important public service provided by UMS institutions. UMPI's Strategic Plan delineates specific ways that UMPI will enhance its service to the region.
On a motion by Trustee Newsom, which was seconded by Trustee Turner, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the Strategic Plan submitted by the University of Maine at Presque Isle to the Consent Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting on May 18-19, 2014.

**Credit Transfer Steering Committee: Update.** UMFK President Wilson Hess, Chair of the Credit Transfer Steering Committee (CTSC), updated the Academic and Student Affairs Committee on progress being made toward implementation of the intra-system (within the UMS) component of this important work and the beginning stages of the inter-system work with the Maine Community College System (MCCS). As has been discussed at recent Board meetings, the Credit Transfer Project is aimed at improving the college credit transfer process to make it easier for students to move among Maine’s public universities and to transfer from the MCCS to the UMS and vice versa.

**ABCDE Update.** UMA President Allyson Handley, Chair of the Adult Baccalaureate Completion/Distance Education (ABCDE) Committee, presented a brief update on the Committee’s activities. As identified within the Board of Trustees Goals and Actions and also within the UMS Strategic Enrollment Plan, the development of a comprehensive approach across our institutions to serving the non-traditional, adult students in Maine is a critical next step in our ongoing efforts to meet the needs of Maine’s workforce, enhance economic development within the state, and, most importantly, provide the best opportunity for all of Maine’s citizens to attain baccalaureate degrees.

The ABCDE Committee developed a comprehensive, system-wide plan to enhance baccalaureate degree attainment and completion by Maine’s adult and non-campus based citizens; implementation of the recommendations is well underway with the recent announcement related to adult degree completion scholarships.

**International Study Centers Update.** Vice Chancellor Susan Hunter and Ms. Karen Boucias, University of Maine Senior Liaison for Study Group, provided the Academic and Student Affairs Committee with a brief update on the current status of the International Study Centers.

Approximately two years ago, the process began to identify partner with whom to work in the establishment of two International Study Centers within our System. The availability of such Centers helps recruit and retain international students, and provide students with exposure to English, American culture and some first year college courses. Benefits of such Centers include increases in enrollment and residence hall occupancy, a more streamlined approach to international recruitment and an increase in the diversity of our student body. Study Group was selected as the organization with whom we would work.

**Unified Online Operations Study: Discussion with the Committee.** President Handley provided the Academic and Student Affairs Committee with a brief update on the current status of the Unified Online Operations Study and lead the Committee in a discussion about this initiative. An initiative to analyze and design a Unified Operations Model for UMS Online was implemented in response to a resolution in January 2014 by the Board of Trustees. This study is currently underway with a verbal update expected in May 2014 and a final report due by July 1, 2014.

**New Academic Program: Doctor of Science in Law.** Dean Peter Pitegoff and Professor Charles Norchi, University of Maine School of Law, explained the proposal to create a Doctor of Science in Law (JSD). The JSD is the terminal degree in graduate level education. A dissertation-based doctorate, it is a necessary credential for law teaching in many countries, and highly sought after by foreign-trained lawyers and legal scholars, including alumni of the University of Maine School of
Law LL.M. Program. There are no significant additional expenses expected with this program. On a motion by Trustee Newsom, which was seconded by Trustee Turner, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the creation of a Doctor of Science in Law at the University of Maine School of Law to the Consent Agenda for the May 18-19, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting.

**Executive Session**
On a motion by Trustee Turner, which was seconded by Trustee Newsom, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee went into Executive Session under the provision of 1 MRSA Section 405 6-A to discuss the evaluation of personnel and the consideration and discussion on awarding of tenure.

On a motion by Trustee Erwin, which was seconded by Trustee Newsom, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee agreed to conclude the Executive Session.

**Awarding of Tenure, USM.**
On a motion by Trustee Newsom, which was seconded by Trustee Erwin, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the recommendation to Award Tenure at USM as an action item for the Board of Trustees meeting on May 18-19, 2014.

Adjournment

Ellen Doughty for
Tracy B. Bigney, Clerk of the Board
Could I have a motion for the Academic & Student Affairs Committee to go into Executive Session under the provision of 1 MRSA Section 405 6-A to discuss the evaluation of personnel and the consideration and discussion on awarding of tenure.