Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Present: Committee Members: Gregory Johnson, Chair; Samuel Collins (at UMPI), James Erwin (at USM), Marjorie Medd, Paul Nelson (at USM), Bonnie Newsom and Karl Turner (at USM). Presidents: Kate Foster (at UMF), Linda Schott (at UMPI) and Wilson Hess (at UMFK). Faculty Representatives: Cathleen McAnneny (at UMF), Ray Albert (at UMFK), Uriah Anderson (at UMM), Kim-Anne Perkins (at UMPI) and Terry Colby (at UMA). Student Representatives: Jaclyn Jacobson (at USM), Alex Greenlee (at USM) and Elizabeth Day (at UMPI). Staff: Tracy Bigney, Rosa Redonnett and Rebecca Wyke. Other Trustees Present: Norman Fournier and Shawn Moody (at USM). Others Present: Richard Thompson and Dan Demeritt (at USM).

Committee Members Absent: Paul Mitchell, Michelle Hood.

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

UMF Strategic Plan. University of Maine at Farmington President Kathryn Foster discussed the strategic planning process on her campus, “UMF 2020: Experience Farmington.” The plan aligns its strategies and actions to reinforce the university’s traditional mission and brand while deepening its commitment to experiential education and community engagement. It achieves these outcomes with five ‘big ideas,’ expressed in the plan in goals and underlying strategies. The five ‘big ideas’ are:

1. Who: be the best at being who we are
2. What: this is not a growth plan; stabilizes enrollment and revenue streams
3. How: deepen UMF’s connection to experiential education
4. Where: leverage our location in a more emphatic way
5. Why now

President Foster also outlined the implementation plan and how the plan will change the mission and values statement of the University of Maine at Farmington. Trustee Collins praised the plan and asked President Foster to also include connection to the private sector in the final plan. Trustee Medd asked that all businesses in the outdoor industry be taken into account as the plan is implemented.

Update of APRIP and POC (Academic Review). President Foster provided an update on the work of the Process Oversight Committee (POC) and the overall academic review process. She outlined three goals: greater quality, increased access, and cost savings. President Foster spoke briefly about what was covered during the recent POC meeting and the communication tools that are available online.

Academic Year Calendar. Trustee Collins moved that the Committee forward the following resolution to the consent agenda of the September 22, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Medd seconded the motion.

That the Academic and Student Affairs Committee forward this item to the consent Agenda at the September 21-22, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees directs the presidents, chief academic officers and faculty leadership to develop a common start date for the fall and spring semesters at the universities of the University of
Maine System. The Board of Trustees encourages a common start date in the fall and spring semesters in academic year 2015-16 and directs the universities to make this a fundamental principle in the development of academic calendars in academic year 2016-17. Further, the Board directs the Chancellor and the System office to provide additional guidelines to the presidents, chief academic officers and faculty leadership as these calendars are being formulated.

Chief Student Affairs Officer Rosa Redonnett introduced the resolution and provided background about steps that have been taken to move closer to a common academic year calendar across the System. Chair Collins asked why vacations are different among the campuses. Ms. Redonnett explained that the timing of vacations is dependent on campus and student needs. Trustee Fournier asked that a timeline be created to ensure future steps in academic calendar alignment are brought to the full Board in a timely manner. President Hess talked about the importance of a fully integrated system schedule to students. Trustee Turner said that the Board needs to consider moving forward with a stronger resolution, one that aligns all aspects of the calendars. Chair Collins suggested strengthening the resolution and the Committee discussed the balance between increased integration and distinct campus mission. Trustee Erwin agreed that the language needs to be strengthened.

Trustee Newsom moved and Trustee Medd seconded, to table the resolution until the September 21-22, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting, when an updated resolution that calls for common semester start and end dates will be presented for Board approval. The motion carried.

**UMFK Strategic Plan.** University of Maine at Fort Kent President Wilson Hess discussed the strategic planning process on his campus. This plan calls for UMFK to become a model “rural university,” providing pathways to educational opportunity and professional success for rural communities and people. This plan has seven strategic directions to achieve this vision:

1. Increase enrollments and diversify the enrollment base by providing affordable access to higher education throughout rural Maine and beyond
2. Build enrollments by fostering student success and degree completion
3. Provide professional education and career pathways which serve the needs of rural Maine
4. Be a center of excellence in pedagogies and educational technologies that serve the needs of rural communities
5. Exemplify academic excellence in the teaching and learning experience
6. Cultivate a culture of collaboration and personalized service
7. Integrate financial resources sustainably by aligning planning and assessment within the budget process

President Hess said that UMFK plans to change its mission and values to ensure that the university stays faithful to its original mission of serving area students while also seeking to serve a wider audience through greater outreach. President Hess used nursing and allied health, online, and early college programs as examples of how UMFK can meet state needs. The Trustees commended President Hess on the plan and briefly discussed potential changes.

**USM Program Eliminations.** Following University of Maine System policy as outlined in the Administrative Procedures Manual, section 305.1, the University of Southern Maine has identified three programs for elimination:

- Masters in American and New England Studies
- B.A. in Arts and Humanities
All of these proposals have received appropriate review by the relevant campus faculty and administrative entities. USM President David Flanagan and Provost Joseph McDonnell spoke about the process that led to these eliminations and why they are necessary. Provost McDonnell provided a brief outline of each program and the reasons they are being eliminated. Trustee Newsom stated that she does not support elimination of the American and New England Studies program, and therefore cannot support a resolution to eliminate all three programs.

On a motion by Trustee Medd, which was seconded by Trustee Collins, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee voted to forward to the Consent Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting on September 21 & 22, 2014 the resolution approving elimination of the three programs at the University of Southern Maine.

**UM Program Eliminations.** Following University of Maine System policy as outlined in the Administrative Procedures Manual, section 305.1, the University of Maine has identified seven programs for elimination. These programs are currently under suspension:

- B.A. in Latin
- B.A. in Public Management
- Master of Public Administration
- B.S. in Aquaculture
- B.S. in Forest Ecosystem Science
- B.S. in Wood Science and Technology
- Master of Music in Conducting

These programs were suspended in March of 2011. All of these proposals have received appropriate review by the relevant campus faculty and administrative entities. Associate Provost Jeff St. John outlined the process that was followed to eliminate these programs. Trustee Medd asked whether eliminating these programs would leave no offerings in these fields in the state. Trustee Johnson noted that the current APRIP process looks at the state’s entire academic portfolio to figure out how to provide some of these programs.

On a motion by Trustee Medd, which was seconded by Trustee Newsom, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee voted to forward the Program Eliminations submitted by the University of Maine to the Consent Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting on September 21 & 22, 2014.

Because of technical difficulties on the Polycom, the committee voted on this motion a second time to ensure that all Committee members had the opportunity to vote. The motion carried.

**UM Change to a Major Unit.** In 2011, then-President Robert Kennedy approved several major cost-cutting recommendations of the Academic Program Prioritization Working group. These recommendations included the elimination of Public Administration and related policy programs and moving the Health program (nursing) to the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture. Only the Maine Business School remains from the original College of Business, Public Policy and Health.

The University of Maine is requesting the approval of two organizational changes: the elimination of the College of Business, Public Policy, and Health and that the Maine Business School be left as a
stand-alone unit headed by the Dean. There will be no additional impact on budget or personnel due to the major unit elimination alone.

On a motion by Trustee Newsom, which was seconded by Trustee Collins, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee approved the UM Change to a Major Unit (College of Business, Public Policy and Health) and agreed to forward the recommendation to the Consent Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting on September 21 & 22, 2014. Because of technical difficulties on the PolyCom, the committee voted on this motion a second time to ensure that all Committee members had the opportunity to vote. The motion carried.

**Discussion of Trustee Outreach.** Trustee Johnson asked Ms. Rosa Redonnett, Chief Student Affairs Officer, to lead a brief discussion on Trustee Outreach. It has been suggested that a timely process whereby Trustees can gain direct feedback from students and faculty would be helpful. Given the many different approaches that could be used and the need for broad based participation, it was suggested that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee discuss this and provide guidance as to the best approach and key questions. Ms. Redonnett outlined the spectrum of approaches and asked for discussion. President Hess and Trustee Newsom both suggested that focus groups be the vehicle used for this feedback to ensure a richness of dialogue.

Trustee Moody outlined his idea for this outreach, which includes conversations between Trustees and students, to keep them engaged and get their feedback. Trustee Nelson said that the Board should use its faculty and student representatives in developing an outreach plan. Trustee Turner said both formal and informal methods should be used to solicit feedback. Chair Johnson said this issue will be brought before the Committee at its November meeting.

**Review and Discussion of Academic & Student Affairs Work Plan and Committee Charge.** Ms. Redonnett reviewed the draft Work Plan for the Academic and Student Affairs Committee in preparation for its adoption at the September Board of Trustee meeting. The Work Plan for the Academic and Student Affairs Committee is formulated each year and is intended to cover both action items required for governance of the University of Maine System and those topics of import and interest to the Board. Trustee Newsom recommended that the Committee make time to discuss the outcome of the retreat and how it affects their work.

**Overview of Department of Labor Employment Outcomes Website.** Ms. Redonnett said for the sake of time, this discussion should be moved to a future Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting.

Adjournment

Peter Cook for
Tracy B. Bigney, Clerk of the Board