Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Present: Committee Members: Gregory Johnson, Chair; Samuel Collins (by phone), James Erwin (at USM), Michelle Hood (by phone), Marjorie Medd, Paul Nelson (at USM), Bonnie Newsom (at USM) and Karl Turner (at USM). Presidents: Kate Foster (at UMF), Linda Schott (at UMPI) and Wilson Hess (at UMFK), Glenn Cummings (at UMA) and Cynthia Huggins (at UMM). Faculty Representatives: Ray Albert (by phone), Uriah Anderson (at UMM), Terry Colby (by phone) and Robert Rice. Student Representatives: Alex Greenlee (at USM), Jaclyn Jacobson (at USM) and Connor Scott. Staff: Tracy Bigney, Dan Demeritt (at USM), Theo Kalikow (at USM), Rosa Redonnett, David Stevens, Richard Thompson and Rebecca Wyke (at USM).

Committee Members Absent: none

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

Update on Credit Transfer and ABCDE Initiatives. Ms. Rosa Redonnett, Chief Student Affairs Officer, explained that these initiatives were implemented within the last year and are well underway.

Credit Transfer Steering Committee
Ms. Rosa Redonnett, Chief Student Affairs Officer and member of the Credit Transfer Steering Committee (CTSC), and UMFK President Wilson Hess updated the Committee on progress being made toward implementation of both the intra-system (within the UMS) component of this important work and the inter-system work with the MCCS. 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 Maine Community College System (MCCS) to the University of Maine System (UMS) and vice versa.

Adult Baccalaureate Completion Distance Education (ABCDE)
UMPI President Linda Schott, co-chair of the ABCDE Committee, provided an update on the ABCDE initiative. 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 Adult Baccalaureate Completion/Distance Education (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 awarding of our first adult degree completion scholarships and our first professional development workshops for the concierges.

UMFK Strategic Plan. UMFK President Hess and Mr. Scott Voisine, Dean of Community Education, provided an overview of the strategic planning process at UMFK and shared the resultant strategic plan in advance of the formal presentation to the Board of Trustees at their November 16 &
17, 2014 meeting. 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 resource sustainably by aligning planning and assessment within the budget process

On a motion by Trustee Hood, which was seconded by Trustee Medd, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the strategic plan submitted by the University of Maine at Fort Kent to the full Board as an action item for review and final approval at the meeting on November 16-17, 2014.

**Update of APRIP and POC.** UMF President Kathryn Foster provided an update on the work of the Process Oversight Committee (POC) and the overall Academic Portfolio Review and Integration Process (APRIP). 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.

**Awarding of Academic Degrees.** In accordance with Board of Trustees policy, the Board approves the awarding of academic degrees.

On a motion by Trustee Nelson, which was seconded by Trustee Medd, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee forwarded the following resolution to the Consent Agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting on November 16-17, 2014:

That the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System authorize the awarding of degrees during Commencement ceremonies for the 2014-2015 academic year to those students fully recommended by the appropriate faculties and the presidents of the respective institutions of the University of Maine System.

**Faculty Representatives Discussion.** The Faculty Representatives to the Board of Trustees have determined an agenda of topical areas they would like to address with the Board Academic and Student Affairs Committee. As discussions continue within the University of Maine System around reorganization and realignment, issues related to quality emerge as critical decision factors in the determination and design of any models. The Faculty Representatives discussed the concept of a “academic quality index” with the Committee as a part of this work.

Faculty Representatives noted the intention would be for academic quality indicators for each campus and showing a time series of data. The list provided by the Faculty Representatives would be a starting point for developing a dashboard. Faculty also noted that the current dashboard statistics regularly provided to the Board do not contain measures of academic quality. Trustee Johnson
proposed that the Board and Faculty Representatives work to refine the proposed measures. He stated his support for data to inform decision, especially trends and benchmarks. He said he would discuss this idea with Chair Collins. Chancellor Page noted that quality can often best be judged from outside and as a result we should look for external sources of information as well.

**Student Representatives Discussion.** The Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees have determined an agenda of topical areas they would like to address with the Board Academic and Student Affairs Committee. They will discuss these with the Committee.

Mr. Alex Greenlee, Student Representative from USM, requested that a “teach out plan” be in place prior to programs being eliminating. Mr. Connor Scott, Student Representative from UM, stated this is a concern for the UM students and will likely impact overall enrollment for the System.

**Fall Enrollment Report.** Ms. Redonnett provided a preliminary update for Board members on the status of enrollment at our campuses for Fall 2014 based on the findings within the report. The Fall 2014 Enrollment Report is historically run after our census date of October 15.

**Enrollment by Headcount, FTE, Credit Hours**
- Total headcount declined 2.5 percent from last year due to a 2.8 percent decline in graduate students and a 2.4 percent decrease in the number of undergraduate students. Undergraduate headcount increased at two of the seven campuses. Non-degree undergraduate headcount is down 1.4 percent from last year, a continuing trend that has declined 15.9 percent since 2010. Non-degree graduate headcount enrollments fell 11 percent from 2013. Total headcount is down 7.5 percent compared with 2010.
- FTE fell 2.2 percent system-wide compared with last year and dropped 6.4 percent compared with 2010.
- The trend of declining non-degree undergraduate credit hours seen in previous years has ended as of the Fall 2014 census, with a 6.6 percent credit hour increase in that demographic despite the declines in headcount enrollments. Associate degree credit hours are down 13 percent, a continuing trend. Baccalaureate credit hours are down 2.1 percent from 2013, and have fallen 3.6 percent compared with 2010. Graduate credit hours increased 1 percent and law credit hours declined 7.9 percent from 2013.

**Enrollment by Residency**
- Out-of-state student headcount grew 11.9 percent since last year, a continuing trend of 25.2 percent growth since 2010. New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) program student headcount fell 15.9 percent from last year. In-state headcount decreased 4 percent since 2013, a continuing trend where in-state student headcount has dropped 10.7 percent compared with 2010.

**Enrollment by Gender**
- Headcount enrollment for men declined 2 percent and fell 2.8 percent for women compared with 2013. Female headcount decreased 8.3 percent versus 2010 and declined 6.3 percent for men. Females account for 57 percent of all credit hours taken and 59.6 percent of the student body.
Enrollment by Status (full-time vs. part-time)
- Part-time student headcount is down 2.8 percent from last year and fell 9.8 percent from 2010. Full-time headcount enrollment declined 2.3 percent since 2013 and 6.2 percent compared with 2010.

Incoming Degree/certificate-seeking Students
- Incoming degree/certificate-seeking headcount enrollments declined 3.9 percent from last year due primarily to a 5.8 percent decline in first-time students. UMS also had headcount declines of 14.8 percent in the number of readmit students and a 4.1 percent decrease in the number of graduate students from 2013. Transfer-in student headcount enrollments are up 2.2 percent.

Transfer Students
- In-state transfer headcount enrollments are up 0.9 percent, while out-of-state transfers are up 12 percent from the previous year. Some of the transfer-in headcount enrollment increase has come from an 8.3 percent increase in the number of students transferring within the UMS. Transfers from the Maine Community College System (MCCS) are up 4 percent from last year. Transfer-in headcounts external to UMS and MCCS are down 1.9 percent compared with 2013.

Enrollment by Ethnicity
- Headcount enrollments of Minority students increased 3 percent from the previous year and grew 12.7 percent compared with 2010. The number of self-reported white students fell 3.3 percent from 2013 and declined 9.5 percent from 2010.

Enrollment by Age
- The number of traditional students, aged 18 to 24, dropped 6.4 percent compared with 2010. Non-traditional student headcounts for those aged 25 and over have declined 14.6 percent versus 2010.

Migration of Students
- The student body is composed of 83 percent in-state students, 14.5 percent out-of-state students, and 2.5 percent international students based on residency by original home address. The top two Maine counties by original residency, Cumberland and Penobscot, supply 35.6 percent of all UMS in-state students. Massachusetts provides 30.9 percent of all out-of-state students and Canada delivers 30 percent of all international students.

Distance Education
- Credit hours from distance education increased 6 percent compared with 2013 and climbed 21.5 percent compared with 2010. The largest credit hour increases come from the online delivery mode, which increased 11.4 percent since 2013 and has grown 56.8 percent since 2010. Distance online accounts for 15.5 percent of total credit hours delivered and 79.9 percent of total distance education credit hours. Video conference credit hours increased 19.2 percent compared with last year and 8.4 percent versus 2010. The ITV delivery mode has fallen 41 percent since 2010 and distance onsite dropped 42.5 percent from 2010.
Points raised in discussion of the enrollment report included:

- President Schott noted that UMPI is working hard on turning around enrollment and asked the Board to give time for the new pedagogy to make a difference.
- President Foster suggested the Board look at taking advantage of growth in demand for one year master's degree programs.
- President Cummings noted the need for a System-wide unified approach to programs for students outside the 18 - 22 year old cohort: masters' degrees, modules, cohort programs, etc.
- The enrollment report should reflect enrollment of veterans.
- More analysis is needed of which men are not attending the university.
- Some students are not going on to higher education because of lack of financial resources.
- President Hess stated that veterans are an important population; attracting veterans is a time sensitive enrollment opportunity.
- Student Representative Scott suggested using the resources of the Innovation Engineering program at UM.
- Trustee Nelson noted that financial aid is a challenge and that students graduate too slowly and with too much debt.

Adjournment

Ellen Doughty for
Tracy B. Bigney, Clerk of the Board