Trustee Collins, Chair, called the meeting to order and thanked President Flanagan and the staff at the University of Southern Maine for hosting the Special Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Collins stated that Trustees Hood, Fournier, Johnson and Turner will be participating in the meeting by telephone.

**CHAIR’S REMARKS**

Trustee Collins welcomed everyone for attending the Special Board meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

Trustee Medd reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on October 14 and October 22, 2014. Trustee Medd was the chair pro tem for both meetings. The sole agenda item for both meetings was the program elimination proposals for USM. On October 14 the Committee was provided a presentation by President Flanagan and Provost McDonnell on the preliminary proposals for program elimination. The proposals did not include input from the USM faculty senate or the Associated Facilities of the Universities of Maine (AFUM). Because the proposals were preliminary, the UMS Chief Academic Officers had not yet made a recommendation. At the October 14th meeting the Academic and Student Affairs Committee received the program eliminations as an information item with the understanding that they would meet again on October 22 to act on the final proposals. Approximately 30 students, faculty, staff and members of the public attended the October 14th meeting. Committee members stayed after the meeting was adjourned to hear the comments and questions of those in attendance who included many advocates of the programs.

The Committee also met on October 22. At this meeting the Committee received the final program proposals including input from the USM faculty senate and AFUM. Two other documents were available to the Committee at the meeting. One explained the role of grant funding for research and the Applied Medical Sciences program. The second document was a letter from the University of Maine Provost Jeffrey Hecker regarding the interest in the Applied Medical Sciences program. In addition, the Committee received a recommendation from the UMS Chief Academic Officers supporting the elimination of the programs. All of these materials were provided as background materials for the Board meeting. President Flanagan and Provost McDonnell provided further background on program eliminations and the urgency of making decisions to address the financial gap. They acknowledged the difficulty of decisions to eliminate programs that are of high quality.
and valued by students and the community. Following the presentation, Committee members asked questions and discussed the proposals with President Flanagan and Provost McDonnell. At the conclusion of the discussion, the committee voted to forward the proposed program eliminations to the Board as an action item for the October 24th Special Board meeting. The vote was six in the affirmative and one negative. After the adjournment of the meeting, Committee members stayed to received comments and questions from the students, faculty, staff and members of the public in attendance. It is important to note that, the Committee was struck by the depth of the feeling for the programs and the high esteem expressed for the programs and the faculty. The Board of Trustees have received a number of letters regarding the proposed program eliminations from students, staff, faculty and citizens. These letters have been distributed to all members of the Board. As a Trustee it is gratifying to hear from students and alumni about the positive impact of USM on their lives and the community. I thank all of those who spoke or wrote to the Board for taking the time express their opinions. The necessity of taking action such as this is painful.

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

Presentation by President Flanagan and Trustee discussion on proposed program eliminations, USM.

USM President David Flanagan provided a presentation on the proposed program eliminations for USM for the Master of Science in Applied Medical Sciences and the Bachelor of Arts in French.

President Flanagan stated that he is presenting the partial fulfillment of the mandate that was given to him at the time he assumed responsibility of the leadership of USM. What the Board asked of him then was to put USM on a financially sustainable basis to assure its long term future as best we can to serve the people of Maine as an accessible, affordable, quality public institution of public higher education. He believes the plan that is presented is an important building block in an overall strategy to achieving the goals that the Board established. The strategy for implementing the mandate to secure the long term future of the university, while putting its finances on a sustainable basis, consists of three elements. These elements are:

1. The adoption of the Metropolitan University concept.
2. Adopt the principle that USM should try to erase the projected deficit at the least cost in terms of impact on the operations and activities of the university.
3. Operate in accordance with the principle that the structural deficit requires structural reform.

President Flanagan stated that he believes this course of action is the best available alternative for the university and its students and the community its serves because it will preserve the greatest number of majors and courses at the least cost over the longest term. For FY2016, USM must look to its self to finance its operations at the share of the State’s subsidy that is now provided. President Flanagan urged reconsideration of how the overall System budget is developed as a result of this year’s experience. He hopes the administration and the Legislature will recognize that the current levels of funding for the UMS cannot cover all of the worthwhile programs that the System currently operates. No matter how hard the UMS tries to minimize the impact on programs and professors, students and staff will be affected by any alternative that is adopted. President Flanagan stated that he feels USM has done its best to recommend a least impactful alternative for the long term benefit of the university and its students.

USM Provost Joseph McDonnell explained these programs are the first ones being selected for elimination. Other program eliminations will likely be suggested as the academic review process continues. The Master of Science in Applied Medical Sciences and the Bachelor of Arts in French program have had low enrollment for the past several years. There is no backup to indicate that the enrollment trend for these two programs will be higher. French will continue to be taught at the
beginning and intermediate levels and if there is interest, USM will move to an advanced level. Provost McDonnell stated that the System needs to look at the best location for these resources, and currently the best location would be at UMaine. There will be other programs of excellence that will be focused at USM and they will need to be funded with more resources than the USM budget allows.

**CITIZEN COMMENT**
Citizen Comment is a time regularly set aside for comments from the public. The following individuals spoke during the Citizen Comment period regarding the USM program eliminations:

Nancy Erickson  
Stephane Petic  
Joan Gordon  
Kimberly Clark  
William Palin  
Bryan Bozsik  
James Spruoco  
Paul Johnson  
Priscille Michaud  
Diane Pelletier  
Tom Bahm  
Max Reinhold  
Stephen Pelsue  
Kelly Perry  
Whitney Parrish  
Ero Barentt  
S. Monroe Deboise  
Tony Enerva  
Sue Chandler  
Wendy Chapkis

Noal Dorius  
Tony Payne  
Linda Dioce  
Amber Burker  
Catherine Lobo  
Joseph Medley  
Vladimic Kooeletic  
Mister F. Nyetera  
Chris Withan  
Eileen Eagan  
Eric Larsson  
Tony Brinkley  
Jonthian Bouzzrara  
Julieta Martino  
Kate Sanborn  
Kimberly Sinnons  
Jerry LaSala  
Naun Lobo  
Kelly Donaldson  
Daniel Bahun

**CHANCELLOR’S REPORT**
Chancellor Page stated that this series of events speaks to the necessity of greater and more formal coordination between campuses at the budgetary, administrative and academic program levels. UMS is working to develop that coordination but time is now dictating events. The structural budgetary gap is real and its effects that been building for many years are now immediate. This past spring the Trustees took the appropriate step of underwriting USM’s current FY2015 budget with $7 million of its $15 million budget stabilization fund. This decision was made to allow the institution time. This is that time. These decisions are difficult, they are painful, and we must act.

**ACTION ITEM**

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

- Master of Science in Applied Medical Sciences
- Bachelor of Arts in French
The final program elimination proposals and additional information were distributed to the Board on October 21st.

The Trustees had a lengthy discussion on the program eliminations and the USM fiscal challenges.

On a motion by Trustee Erwin, which was seconded by Trustee Medd, the Board of Trustees approved the proposal for the elimination of the Master of Science in Applied Medical Sciences and the Bachelor of Arts in French at the University of Southern Maine. Nine Trustees voted in favor and two voted against.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on November 16 & 17, 2014 at the University of Southern Maine.

Adjournment

Ellen Doughty for
Tracy B. Bigney, Clerk