Executive Committee
Conference Call

Present by phone: Committee Members: Samuel Collins; Chair; Norman Fournier, Gregory Johnson, Vice Chair, Eleanor Baker, James Erwin, Michelle Hood, and Karl Turner.

Present at UMS: Other Trustees: Tyler Hadyniak. Staff: Tracy Bigney, Susan Hunter, Ryan Low, Rosa Redonnett, and Rebecca Wyke.

Absent: Kurt Adams and Marjorie Medd.

Trustee Collins called the Executive Committee to order and thanked everyone for participating in the conference call. He explained that the Executive Committee has the authority to act on behalf of the Board of Trustees as necessary. The two agenda items being proposed are time sensitive; therefore, the Executive Committee was asked to review and act on the recommendations.

Veterans’ Tuition. Trustee Samuel Collins explained the Veterans’ Tuition proposal. Trustee Collins stated that Chancellor Page fully supports the recommendation. The University of Maine System currently charges in-state rates to:

- Current active duty members
- Participating members of the Maine National Guard
- Veterans using the Post 9/11 GI Bill

According to the Student Veterans of America twenty states have state laws providing student veterans an in-state residency waiver and 8 states provide student veterans an in-state residency waiver by university policy. Another 12 states have legislation pending. On February 3, 2014, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to extend in-state tuition rates to Veterans who are attending public universities or colleges on the Post-9/11 GI Bill, regardless of whether they have been stationed in a state long enough to establish residency. This legislation is now pending in the U.S. Senate.

In Academic Year 2013, 18 student veterans were charged the out-of-state tuition rate and 1 student veteran was charged the NEBHE rate. Utilizing FY2013 data, if we assume that these 19 students were enrolled full-time, the incremental impact of charging these students the in-state tuition rate would have been $201,448.

<table>
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<th>Campus</th>
<th>O/S Rate</th>
<th>NEBHE Rate</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>I/S Rate</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>(1)</td>
<td>$336,550</td>
<td>(19)</td>
<td>$135,102</td>
<td>($201,448)</td>
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Trustee Norman Fournier explained that Finance/Facilities/Technology Committee met on February 14, 2014 and recommends approval of the resolution. Trustee Gregory Johnson commented that the Academic & Student Affairs Committee also supports the Veterans’ Tuition proposal. He stated that he hopes this proposal will help increase enrollments for the UMS. Trustee Hadyniak asked if the in-state tuition rates would also include on-line courses. Trustee Collins responded by stating that on-line courses would be included in this proposal.

On a motion by Trustee Johnson, which was seconded by Trustee Fournier, and carried unanimously the Board of Trustees acting through the Executive Committee, direct the University of Maine System to charge in-state tuition rates to all current and former members of the US Armed Forces who were honorably discharged, regardless of whether or not they are receiving benefits, as amended.

**Veterans’ Resolution.** Trustee Johnson explained that Maine currently has over 130,000 military service members within its population (11.6% of our total population) and more are entering higher education due to the expansion of benefits for post 9-11 veterans. Our campuses have over 1100 students identified as receiving some form of GI bill benefits. Helping these students come back into higher education and achieve the academic credentials that will translate into future success is critical for both their futures and that of the state of Maine. Given this, it is important for our campuses to endeavor to provide a range of services and supports for this group of students that mirrors “best practice” across the country and to understand and address the special issues and concerns that may impact their success and ultimate graduation.

On a motion by Trustee Johnson, which was seconded by Trustee Fournier, and carried unanimously the Board of Trustees, acting through the Executive Committee, recognizes its responsibility to serve the postsecondary educational needs of our active duty and veteran population and ensure that the System universities provide a welcoming and supportive environment. It directs the System and universities to review and act on policies, practices and operating procedures to fully enable active duty and veteran students in the achievement of their higher education aspirations through proactive recruitment, enrollment, and provision of a broad range of services and supports designed to promote student success, graduation and eventual transition into the workforce.

Adjournment

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