Meeting with Student Representatives


Absent: Kevin McCarthy, Victoria Murphy, and James Rier.

Trustee Collins called the meeting to order and welcomed the Student Representatives.

The Student Representatives meeting was chaired by Mr. Shawn Staples, Student Representative from UMA and Mr. Jacob Snyder from UMM was the facilitator for the meeting.

Campus Housing. The Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees have been gathering information from students regarding campus housing.

Jacob Snyder, UMM
- He reported that the two major issues raised by all campuses are the cost of housing and some of the facilities requiring updates and renovations.

Charles Rodda, Graduate Student at UM
- He reviewed the results of a survey on campus housing that was distributed to UMaine graduate students. So far 80 graduate students have responded to the survey. The survey was designed as a model that could be used at the other campuses. Some of the survey results are below:
  - The respondent demographics were: 20% international students, average age was 28, 28% were masters degree students, 41% were PhD students and 1% were non-degree students.
  - Currently 10% of respondents live on campus.
  - Greater than 70% of respondents expressed willingness to move onto campus.
  - Graduate students desire a private apartment to live in alone or share with a spouse or partner – 42% currently live with a partner.
  - “Dorm-style” is a pejorative used by a number of respondents.
  - More than 73% of respondents indicated that they had trouble finding acceptable housing or are currently living in a place they do not like.
  - Less than 15% utilized any University Housing Services information to locate their residence.
  - Graduate students are willing to pay an average of $654 per month for their housing.
There were 13 graduate students who are willing to be involved in on-going discussions on a housing plan.

Mr. Staples commented that the survey will be provided to the Student Representatives to use on their campuses and the results will be provided to the Board.

**Mentoring Program for Trustees with Student Representatives.** Mr. Staples explained the Board Mentoring Program and responsibilities. Specific details for this Mentoring Program are listed below:

1. One Board member would be assigned to each Student Representative from the day that the Student Representative was added to the Board. This Board member would be responsible for reaching out to that Student Representative to start a conversation, and help welcome them to the team. This normally gets done somewhat informally right now, it would be nice for the Student Representatives to know that they have one Board Member that they can go to when needed. The Student Representative would also be encouraged to sit with that Board Member during the dinner portion of their first two-day meeting.

2. The Board Member that is assigned to each respective Student Representative will give a response to that Student Representative's Board Report. Right now they are read, but feedback is not received.

3. As far as anything else that comes from the relationship that will naturally develop, that is completely up to the Board Member, and how comfortable they are with supplying any more mentorship to the Student Representative than is required.

Mr. Staples stated that the assignment from the Trustees will be voluntary and he hopes the Mentoring Program will encourage more dialog between the Trustees and the students. Trustee Hood suggested that there be a triangulation of the issues raised through this program filtered through the Academic & Student Affairs Committee. Trustee Johnson agreed with Trustee Hood’s comment and recommended the Academic & Student Affairs Committee look into the Board Mentoring Program and added it to the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

Trustee Collins commented that the Student Representatives’ input and dialog is extremely important because the students are the customers and the Board needs to be aware of your concerns and issues. The UMS needs to deliver education that is suitable, affordable and preferred by the students.

There was a general discussion on the accessibility for students to track their grades and course progress.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
Tracy B. Bigney, Clerk