Overview
The 2012-2013 meetings focused on low enrollment numbers, budget concerns, the upcoming 150th anniversary, opportunities for greater Board involvement, and strategic planning for both the immediate and future years.

Membership
The Board has 17 voting members, six men and eleven women. Seven former members (five men, two women) advise the university in a non-voting role and may attend meetings. One ex-officio position is always reserved for the President of Gold Leaf Institute. Members have diverse professional backgrounds, including law, healthcare, education, finance, and the non-profit sector. All reside in Maine, mostly in the Central and Western parts of the state.

During 2012-13 reporting year two members, Janet Mills and Nancy Marshall, resigned from the Board to avoid conflicts of interest with their professional positions as Maine Attorney General and President of Nancy Marshall Communications, respectively. One member, Tanya Swain, completed her term of service to the Board of Visitors in June 2013.

At the June 2013 meeting, President Foster announced the addition of four new members, Anne W. K. Richardson, Jared Cash, Steven “Al” Feather, and Valerie Huebner, who will begin their terms in September of 2013.

Officers
Alison Hagerstrom, ’73, Executive Director of the Greater Franklin Development Corporation, served as Chair. Gerald Cayer, ’85, Chief Operating Officer for Franklin Community Health Network, served as Vice-Chair.

Schedule
UMF holds four Board of Visitors meetings per year, on the first Friday of September, December, March, and June. Polycoms and conference calls were not used.
Meeting Summaries

September 7, 2012
Fourteen members attended. Chair Hagerstrom introduced new UMF President Kathryn Foster. President Foster distributed copies of the Duties of the Board of Visitors from the UMS Policy and Procedures Manual, expressing her hope that BoV members would become increasingly active in their governance role.

The President shared her ideas for an initiative involving a certificate program for people seeking credentials without obtaining a full degree. The certificate programs may have value to adults requiring post-secondary education without fulfilling degree requirements.

The group also took a tour of Preble Hall, given by Natural Sciences Division Chair Dan Buckley, and a tour of the Creative Writing House, given by Professor Pat O'Donnell.

President Foster handed out her agenda for the coming year, which highlighted the need to increase enrollment, craft a position for and hire a Director of University Advancement, and prepare for UMF's 150th anniversary celebrations in 2013-14.

December 14, 2012
Fourteen members attended the December meeting. Chair Hagerstrom accepted the resignation of BoV member Janet Mills, who was elected to office as Maine's Attorney General.

President Foster invited discussion on UMF task forces that will examine the University as part of a "taking stock" year. The task forces will look at the status of the 2007-2012 Strategic Plan Initiatives; the elimination of the College of Education, Health and Rehab, and the College of Arts and Sciences; the reformation of the schedule grid; the introduction of graduate education; efforts at internationalization; and governance.

President Foster shared the advertisement for the Director of University Advancement. BoV member Jerry Cayer is on the search committee.

She also shared information about the increase in applications and the positive indications associated with them. Efforts were underway to actively support enrollment activities and set goals.

The Board reviewed plans for the 150th anniversary, with events to begin in September 2013. The Charter Day ceremony, on October 9, 2013, will coincide with the President's inauguration.
The President updated the Board with the progress of the Partnership for Civic Advancement initiative. She noted that several BoV members had actively encouraged and assisted the university in establishing this program.

March 15, 2013
Eleven members attended. Chair Hagerstrom read a letter of resignation from Nancy Marshall, with sentiments expressed by BoV members for her service to the Board.

President Foster shared university news from local and state news sources. She and Vice Chair Cayer provided an update on the search for the Director of University Advancement. BoV members were encouraged to attend the three breakfast gatherings to meet the candidates.

President Foster and Chair Hagerstrom shared highlights of their visit to Higher Education Day at the Capitol.

Jennifer Eriksen, Director of Marketing and Communications, shared updates on the marketing of the 150th anniversary. BoV members were invited to join committees and help with planning and implementation.

June 7, 2013
Eleven members attended the June meeting. President Foster gave updates on enrollment, the 150th anniversary, and introduced the new Vice President for University Advancement, Mr. Kelly Dodge.

Board members also took a walking tour of the campus. This was a “Day in the Life of a Student” tour that included Merrill Hall, Mantor Library, Purington Hall (residence hall), the Olsen Student Center, the Computer Center, and Ferro Alumni House. Following the tour Board members engaged in a lively discussion on capital facilities and deferred maintenance issues at UMF.

Submitted by President Kathryn Foster, September 14, 2013.