Overview
The 2013-2014 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, eight men and nine 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.

The 2013-14 reporting year marked the last year of Alison Hagerstrom’s term as Chair. At the September 2014 meeting, Vice Chair Jerry Cayer will begin his term as the new Chair.

Members Sandy Goodwin and Bruce Hazard resigned their positions.

At the June 2014 meeting, President Foster announced the addition of three new members. Wendy Ault, Mark Shibles, and Ray Therrien will begin their terms in September of 2014.

Officers
Alison Hagerstrom, ’73, Executive Director of the Greater Franklin Development Corporation, served as Chair. Gerald Cayer, ’85, Executive Vice President 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 6, 2013

President Foster introduced the four new members to the group. She provided updates on the upcoming 150th celebrations and inauguration plans. A handout on completed campus projects was distributed, highlighting all the physical plant work that had been accomplished. An overview of UMF’s geothermal energy sources prompted questions from members about whether or not we use them as teaching opportunities in any of our courses. A snapshot of the Class of 2017 and the latest enrollment numbers gave the Board an idea of where UMF stands for the fall. The budget will see fewer hires of adjuncts and part-timers as a cost saving measure; these are short term maneuvers not designed to resolve budget gaps for FY15. The President also shared some of the UMS initiatives currently underway, such as the ABCDE project.

December 6, 2013

The Board was introduced to Mr. Kelly Dodge, Vice President for University Advancement. Kelly provided information on the new structure of the Advancement Division, its annual plan, and the FY14 gift report. The President thanked the members of the Board that attended 150th events. Chair Hagerstrom and Vice Chair Cayer attended the November Board of Trustees meeting, which was held at UMF. President Foster shared the good news that the recent bond issue did pass, giving UMF $1.2 million for science labs in Preble/Ricker. She also highlighted several changes to our majors, including adding Actuarial Science to Math/Computer Science; Business Psychology; and a 3+3 program joining UMF and Logan Chiropractic.

March 15, 2014

The President updated the Board on the efforts by UMS to collaborate more closely with each of the seven Boards of Visitors. A steering committee has been formed and Vice Chair Jerry Cayer has volunteered to serve as UMF’s representative. 41% of the UMF Board has made financial contributions to the school (not including pledges). Updates on the many activities and events surrounding the 150th anniversary were given. Senator George Mitchell from the Mitchell Institute attended a dinner on campus in mid-April to honor a new initiative between UMF and the Institute to increase scholarships to Mitchell Scholars to enable them to travel abroad for study during their junior or senior year. Updates on enrollment and finances, including a breakdown of how the FY15 structural gap came about and how it will be closed, were provided. A brief overview of the System’s Administrative Reviews of Procurement, IT, Facilities Management, and Academics was given.
June 6, 2014

Outgoing Chair Hagerstrom thanked the Board for her time as Chair. She introduced to the group the two new Board members in attendance. A brief overview of the FY15 budget was given by President Foster. Copies of the Strategic Plan were handed out and the President explained that the plan was presented to the Board of Trustees in May for preliminary approval and will go before them for final approval in September. Vice Chair Cayer reported on the May summit of the Board of Trustees that took place in Orono. Three other members attended to represent UMF as well. Vice President for Student and Community Services Celeste Branham joined the meeting to provide an update on the growth and development of the Partnership for Civic Advancement, an initiative shaped by Board wisdom and energy. The Board then took a short tour of campus that included the Education Center, the Frances Allen Black residence hall, and the Partnership for Civic Advancement.

Submitted by President Kathryn Foster, August 25, 2014.