To: Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk of the Board  
From: Sharoo Wengland, Staff Associate to the Office of the President, USM  
Date: August 25, 2014  
RE: Board of Visitors Annual Report

I have attached the annual report for the University of Southern Maine Board of Visitors (BOV) for the academic year September 2013 to June 2014. Alongside the annual report is a list of the BOV members.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the information submitted.

Thank you.
Overview:

In 2013-2014, Denise Taaffe ‘78 represented the University of Southern Maine’s Board of Visitors (BOV) as chair, with Anthony Payne as the vice-chair. The BOV focused its attention on the following area:

1) **The Future of the University, The Direction Package:** How do we keep USM moving forward? Establish an Advisory Board made up of faculty, staff, students and community advisory members to implement solutions and strategies and lay the groundwork for USM’s successful future.

The USM Board of Visitors meets five times annually. The Annual meeting is scheduled in June of each year.

**Wednesday, September 11, 2013** (12 voting members attended, 7 Ex-Officio, 0 guests, and 6 staff)

Denise Taaffe welcomed the group and introduced the new members. President Kalikow then discussed the Direction Package that was in the works and stated that it would be presented to the University on September 24th. Susan Campbell spoke about the consolidation of Student University Life and Student Success that took place over the summer. The meeting concluded with a facilities update from Dick Campbell.

**Friday, October 18, 2013 - All Boards Event Hosted by the Board of Visitors**

This event included advisory members from the USM Board of Visitors, Alumni Board and the USM Foundation Board. The Board was split into six different groups which discussed various issues surrounding the success of USM. Group one discussed budget issues which make it difficult for USM to effectively market itself and create an identity that is appealing to students. Group two discussed the widespread perception that USM is failing and talked about ways to solve
this problem. Group three focused on building USM’s connections with the
business community and establishing partnerships. Group four suggested that
USM connect with a group of metropolitan universities to share issues and
strategic goals to better diversify the student body. Group five determined
Portland needed to become the go-to place for students north of Boston.
Group six talked about the demographics in Maine and how USM needs to
establish a growth plan to counter the fact that Maine is an “old” state. The
meeting ended with encouragement to the board members to put their
constituencies to work.

Thursday, December 12, 2013 (9 voting members attended, 4 Ex-Officio, 0
guests, and 7 staff)

Denise Taaffe delivered the opening remarks. President Kalikow talked more
about the Direction Package, and the statistics and plan for the Direction
Package Advisory Board that was being formed. The President also discussed
the many good things taking place at the University. Michael Stevenson gave
an update on the Title III Grant, including the objectives and focus areas for
continued funding. Joe Austin gave an internship update discussing how a lot of
progress had been made in building internships in various fields. Two students’
success with internships were discussed. Mary Sylvester spoke about evolving
USM’s model for internships, including what needs to be done to achieve the
goal of every student being afforded the opportunity to participate in an
internship or service-learning activity prior to graduating.

Friday, February 7, 2014 (15 voting members attended, 4 Ex-Officio, 3 guests,
and 7 staff)

Denise Taaffe let the Board know that all the BOV’s within the System would be
invited to attend a retreat with the Board of Trustees in the near future and she
would provide an update of the event at a future meeting. President Kalikow
gave a Direction Package Advisory Board (DPAB) update to include information
about the communication plan and the formation of subgroups within the
Board. Michael Stevenson gave an overview of the Academic Affairs
Leadership Team that had been working on course offerings, class schedules
and workload of faculty. Dick Campbell gave an overview of the benchmarks
and metrics of the USM core financial ratios and composite financial index
from FY 2006 to FY 2013. The meeting concluded with a presentation by Susan
Campbell who provided an overview of USM’s commitment to incorporating USM Veterans service into the community and reorganizing the service to offer more to the students and community.

**Friday, April 4, 2014** (14 voting members attended, 2 Ex-Officio, and 6 staff)

Denise Taaffe welcomed Mira Denning as a new BOV member who replaced Andrea Dodge-Patstone. She then let the Board know about the list of potential members that would be sent to the System office for approval. President Kalikow gave a USM Transition update to include discussing USM’s budget issues and the need for reinvestment. Susan Campbell provided an enrollment update noting that USM was experiencing some increases. The meeting concluded with a budget update from Dick Campbell who outlined the need to take immediate action on balancing the budget to avoid further deficit and hardship.

**Friday, June 13, 2014** (10 voting members attended, 2 Ex-Officio, 4 guests, and 6 staff)

Denise Taaffe provided an update on the combined BOV and BOT retreat, noting that the BOT is interested in more integration so will be meeting with the combined BOV’s yearly. Denise then provided an update on a meeting USM had with Mayor Brennan and the Portland Chamber of Commerce that resulted in a discussion for increased collaboration among USM and the Chamber. Then Denise gave an update on potential new BOV members which would be reviewed for approval at the July BOT meeting. President Kalikow gave an update on enrollment. Director of Government Relations at the UMS, Ryan Low, provided an update on the System’s work with the legislature and noted that the System would have an $8M bond issue on the election ballot this November. Ryan then provided an update on the System wide Facilities Administrative Review. Dick Barringer, Chair of the Metropolitan University Steering Group (MUSG), provided the Board with an overview of the Group’s work thus far. The Board then went into an Executive Session.
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