

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting
June 22, 2020

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Present: Committee Members: Lisa Eames; Chair, Mark Gardner, Timothy Doak, Michael Michaud, James Erwin, David MacMahon, and Trish Riley. **Other Trustees/Non-Voting:** Trevor Hustus and Jessica Nixon (for Pender Makin). **Presidents:** Glenn Cummings, Edward Serna, Rebecca Wyke, Joan Ferrini-Mundy, and Ray Rice. **Faculty Representatives:** Lisa Leduc, Heather Ball, Clyde Mitchell, Kennedy Rubert-Nason, and Harlan Onsrud. **Student Representatives:** Ameya Karapurkar, Abby Despres, Salvatore Cardinale, Eli Rubin, and Nathan Carlow. **System Staff:** Ellen Doughty, Robert Placido, Kay Kimball, Rosa Redonnet, James Thelen, and Dan Demeritt. **Others Present:** Leigh Saufley, Faye Gilbert, Jeannine Uzzi, Gretchen Catlin, and Erin Soucy.

Committee Members Absent: Betsey Timm, Kelly Martin, and Pender Makin.

Trustee Eames, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The Clerk performed a roll call of the Committee members present.

New Policy Proposal: UMS Academic Integrity Policy

UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Kay Kimball provided an overview of a new proposed Board Policy on UMS Academic Integrity. The UMS has had a System-wide Student Conduct Code since 1972; however, there has not been a similar approach to academic integrity, the policies for which remain varied and at the campus level. The proposed UMS Academic Integrity Policy is intended as a counterpart to the Student Conduct Code, and will provide necessary fairness, transparency, and uniformity for students, faculty, and staff in the context of unified accreditation. In 2018, the office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA) convened a workgroup made up of representatives from each campus drawn from faculty, student affairs, and other relevant departments, to review existing campus Academic Integrity Policies and craft a new policy for System-wide implementation. The proposed policy was shared in draft form multiple times with all campuses, their Chief Academic Officers, and their Presidents. The policy was accordingly revised based on their collective feedback. It has also been vetted through the UMS General Counsel's Office to address any compliance and due process concerns. The VCAA Office is aiming to have final approval from the Board in time for a September 1, 2020 implementation.

At the last reading of this proposed policy at the May 28, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting, USM Student Representative, Mr. Eli Rubin voiced concerns about the policy and Dr. Kimball stated that she would schedule a meeting with the Student Representatives to discuss their concerns. Since then, she has met with the Student Representatives and they provided a document stating their concerns with the policy. Dr. Kimball stated that she explained to the Student Representatives that their concerns have been noted and will be further considered in the next round of revisions to the policy. UM Student Representative, Ms. Abigail Depres provided a brief overview of the document submitted to Dr. Kimball. One of the most pressing concerns was the lack of gender inclusivity in the policy. Dr. Kimball agreed that this should be revised and agreed to add gender neutral terms in the policy before submitting it to the Trustees for approval at the July 20, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.

On a motion by Trustee Erwin, which was seconded by Trustee Riley, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved this item to be forwarded to the July 20, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approves the proposed new Board Policy 314 on UMS Academic Integrity and its corresponding academic procedures as outlined by the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, to be effective on September 1, 2020.

Enterprise Risk Management Update

UMS Risk Manager, Ms. Gretchen Catlin, provided an update to the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) Committee regarding implementation of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM). Risk Management previously presented an ERM status update during the August 2020 ASA Committee meeting. The University is currently monitoring 20 enterprise level risks; four of those risks are assigned to the ASA Committee for oversight. Ms. Catlin provided a high-level overview of the ERM tracking tool and control strategies related to risks assigned to the ASA Committee.

Student Health Insurance

Ms. Catlin and UMS Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA), Dr. Robert Placido provided an update regarding UMS student health insurance. Risk Management, through support of Procurement Services, recently placed brokerage services for student health insurance for public bid. They provided information about the procurement process, coverage updates, and value-added benefits resulting from the new broker arrangement. UMS student health brokerage services were previously brokered by Cross Insurance; however, through a competitive bidding process, these services are now brokered through A.J. Gallagher, which is a firm based in Boston that specializes in providing student health, athletic, and travel coverage to Universities. In 2019 Anthem student health insurance for domestic graduate and undergraduate students was offered at a premium of \$2157, plus a \$400 deductible. When UMS asked the previous broker to quote the same level of coverage for 2020, they came back with a premium price of \$2224. After A.J. Gallagher was selected as the new broker, UMS asked them to quote the same level of coverage but with a lower \$250 deductible, to which they came back with a premium amount of \$2248. That is only a \$24 increase in premium, for a savings of \$150 in the deductible amount. Additionally, the quote they provided for graduate assistants and international students decreased \$514 from 2019, while increasing benefits such as a zero-dollar cap on athletic injuries. The rates have not been completely finalized yet because UMS is working with Anthem, through A.J. Gallagher to add some compliment discount plans for vision, dental, and mental health services.

Proposed Changes to Board Policy 205 - Faculty & Student Representation to the Board of Trustees

VCAA Placido provided a brief overview of the proposed changes to Board Policy 205 – *Faculty & Student Representation to the Board of Trustees*. It is proposed that Board Policy 205 be amended to reflect the addition of a faculty and student representative from the University of Maine School of Law. The ASA Committee agreed to proceed with the proposed policy change and the agenda item will be included as an information item for the July Board meeting. After discussion at the July Board meeting, it will then proceed as an action item for the next ASA Committee meeting and the September 28, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.

Strategic Academic Program Planning

VCAA Placido provided an update on UMS's approach to strategic academic program planning. He explained that the Academic Affairs department has been working on strategic academic program planning through pathways such as the Programs for Examination (PFE) process and varied discussions in President's Council, Chief Academic Officers Council and Faculty Governance meetings. Dr. Placido stated that due to the issues raised at the last ASA Committee meeting in April concerning new program proposals, it was imperative that UMS pivot to focus on shared programs across the UMS, especially programs that appear to be duplicative. VCAA Placido is proposing a new tactic in this broad initiative that will address seemingly similar academic programs across the System in the context of serving State need and thereby demonstrate System responsiveness. Toward that end, the VCAA office will create and maintain statewide strategic academic plans for sets of similar academic programs that will act as a strategic mechanism for academic planning, allowing UMS to survey the academic landscape, conduct a gap analysis of UMS offerings, and seek new program opportunities. Additionally, UMS will develop a communications plan to inform and engage the Board of Trustees and other stakeholders in the academic planning arena. Dr. Placido provided some examples of what this communication document would include such as cumulative data around State workforce needs, enrollment, program economics, and faculty resources that exist in similar or seemingly duplicative UMS academic programs. Dr. Placido used UMS's nursing program as an example and provided details on the type data that would be included in the strategic academic program planning report for the nursing program. Trustee Committee members expressed appreciation for this new initiative and thanked Dr. Placido for his quick action to respond to their requests for additional information on similar academic programs across the UMS.

Unified Accreditation Update

VCAA Placido and UMS General Counsel and Chief of Staff (COS), Mr. James Thelen provided an update on UMS unified accreditation progress. COS Thelen explained that the System would be meeting with the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) the next day, June 23rd to present and discuss the UMS unified accreditation request. The meeting will be in virtual format, via Zoom and is scheduled at 2:45 pm for approximately 75 minutes. The substantive change application was provided to NECHE 10 days prior to the meeting. The process NECHE follows to prepare for this meeting is to assign two commissioners to read the application in great detail and take notes to call out issues of particular note according to each of the nine NECHE accreditation standards. From there, they will prepare a summary briefing document that will be provided to the rest of the commissioners who will take part in the June 23rd meeting. The people presenting on behalf of the System at the meeting will be Chancellor Malloy; Board Chair, James Erwin; UM President Joan Ferrini-Mundy; UMPI President Ray Rice; UMA President Rebecca Wyke; VCAA Placido, COS Thelen, and UMS Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration, Ryan Low. The other UMS University Presidents have also been invited to listen in on the meeting. Most of the 75 minute meeting will be dedicated to a robust question and answer discussion lead by the two commissioners that read the substantive change application in detail. COS Thelen stated that the System will have the commission's preliminary decision as early as the end of day Wednesday. UMS will get some verbal indication on what NECHE's decision is on unified accreditation and that will be followed by a formal letter in a week or so, that will give the detail about what issues they feel UMS should focus on in the initial period of unified accreditation.

UM President Joan Ferrini-Mundy stated that the process to develop the substantive change application and prepare for the meeting with NECHE has been extraordinary. She noted that one thing she noticed through the process is that for every accreditation standard, there is a wealth of material about what

already is in place in the System, either through Board Policy or existing standing committees or existing processes for various types of review. She stated that the meeting would be intense but that the System is prepared for it and she is optimistic about the outcome. She thanked Jim Thelen for overseeing this process. UMPI President Ray Rice stated that he was in complete agreeance with President Ferrini-Mundy's comments and that moving to a unified accreditation model is the best way for UMS to remain competitive in the higher education industry and to best meet the needs of the UMS students. UMA President Rebecca Wyke concurred with both Presidents and there is still much work to be completed over the next two years to fully bring unified accreditation to fruition.

Faculty Representatives Discussion.

The Faculty Representatives who were present had no items to discuss.

Student Representatives Discussion

The Student Representatives who were present had no items to discuss.

Additional information about the meeting can be found on the Board of Trustees website:

<https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2020/06/MtgMat-ASA-062220-revised-061620.pdf>

Adjournment,

Heather A. Massey for
Ellen N. Doughty, Clerk