

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting
September 14, 2020

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Present: Committee Members: Lisa Eames; Chair, Timothy Doak, Michael Michaud, James Erwin, David MacMahon, and Betsey Timm. **Other Trustees/Non-Voting:** Trish Riley and Jessica Nixon (for Pender Makin). **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **Presidents:** Glenn Cummings, Deborah Hedeem, Edward Serna, Rebecca Wyke, Joan Ferrini-Mundy, and Ray Rice. **Faculty Representatives:** Lisa Leduc, Harlan Onsrud, Tim Surette, Clyde Mitchell, Kennedy Rubert-Nason, and Harlan Onsrud. **Student Representatives:** Ameya Karapurkar, Salvatore Cardinale, and Eli Rubin. **System Staff:** Ellen Doughty, Robert Placido, Kay Kimball, Rosa Redonnett, Carolyn Dorsey, James Thelen, and Ryan Low. **Others Present:** Leigh Saufley, John Volin, Jeannine Uzzi, Joe Szakas, Eric Brown, Cynthia Dean, and Kathy Yardley.

Committee Members Absent: Mark Gardner 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.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA) Dr. Robert Placido stated that the UMPI Strategic Plan was going to be removed from the agenda and presented at a future Committee meeting.

State-wide Strategic Program Planning Initiative

VCAA Placido introduced a new initiative sponsored by his office and supported by the Presidents Council and the Chief Academic Officers Council. The proposed State-wide Strategic Program Planning (SSPP) initiative seeks to bring together similar university programs as a way to address state workforce development needs and explore state-wide service opportunities. The SSPPs will also help address New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) expectations, so that the UMS realizes and leverages the benefits of unified accreditation. Leaders for each set of programs will develop a vision for the State that includes research and service as well as economic and workforce development potential. Additional components of each SSPP will include university distinctiveness, program data and economics, a Strength-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threat (SWOT) analysis, partnership development and constituency feedback, and goals for the next year. The UMS Education and Nursing program leaders have completed drafts for this year's SSPP pilot. Dr. Placido stated that these programs were chosen to go first because UMS has already developed a collaborative initiative for them across the System and they hope to use these programs as models as they incorporate SSPP into other UMS programs. The SSPP process is still in development and that it will be presented at the November 16th Board of Trustees meeting.

Dr. Placido explained that he discussed the SSPP item first in the agenda so that it would add context for the program approvals that will follow in the agenda. He stated that many of the program proposals have been on hold pending NECHE's approval of UMS unified accreditation. Trustee Committee members expressed concerns about standing up new academic programs amidst the current UMS financial environment. Dr. Placido explained that all of the new program proposals up for approval in this meeting will cost UMS little to no funding and will help UMS immensely when pulling together collaborative programs throughout the System.

New Academic Program Proposal: Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education, USM

President Glenn Cummings and Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Jeannine Uzzi presented information about USM's request to offer a Bachelor of Science in Elementary

Education program. The program would replace the current approach of providing program content through minors. This change would better attract prospective students and support current students by providing a relevant credential that is recognized in the state. It also draws from USM's urban location and supports the state's workforce needs.

On a motion by Trustee Doak, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, 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 Consent Agenda at the September 28, 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 authorizes the creation of a B.S. in Elementary Education at the University of Southern Maine.

New Academic Program Proposal: Bachelors of Science in School of Health Education - Physical Education Concentration, UMF

Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost Eric Brown provided information about UMF's request to offer a Bachelor of Science program in School Health Education: Physical Education Concentration. The proposed program emerged from an Enrollment Innovation Fund initiative and is undertaken in collaboration with the University of Maine at Presque Isle. It will prepare students to meet the licensure requirements for teaching both school health and physical education, thus meeting both the career goals of those students and the workforce needs of rural schools in Maine.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Timm, 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 Consent Agenda at the September 28, 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 authorizes the creation of a B.S. in School Health Education: Physical Education Concentration at the University of Maine at Farmington.

New Academic Program Proposal: Masters of Science in Education in Mathematics Education, UMF

Provost Brown provided an overview of UMF's request to offer a Master of Science in Education program in Mathematics Education. The program would both develop leaders in mathematics education and address state and national teacher shortages in mathematics. Additionally, the new program would complement UMF's existing graduate certificates in mathematics coaching, intervention, and leadership and aligns with the statewide math pathways work currently underway.

On a motion by Trustee Doak, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, 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 Consent Agenda at the September 28, 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 authorizes the creation of a M.S.Ed. in Mathematics Education at the University of Maine at Farmington.

New Academic Program Proposal: Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education, UMA

Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost Joseph Szakas provided information about UMA's request

to offer a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education program. The program would replace the current approach of providing program content through minors. This change would better attract prospective students and support current students by providing a relevant credential that is recognized in the state. The program also draws from UMA's expertise in distance learning and supports the state's workforce needs.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Timm, 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 Consent Agenda at the September 28, 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 authorizes the creation of a B.S. in Elementary Education at the University of Maine at Augusta.

New Academic Program Proposal: Bachelors of Science in Secondary Education, UMA

Provost Szakas also provided an overview of UMA's request to offer a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education program. The program would replace the current approach of providing program content through minors. This change would better attract prospective students and support current students by providing a relevant credential that is recognized in the state. It also draws from UMA's expertise in distance learning and supports the state's workforce needs.

On a motion by Trustee Doak, which was seconded by Trustee Timm, 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 Consent Agenda at the September 28, 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 authorizes the creation of a B.S. in Secondary Education at the University of Maine at Augusta.

New Academic Program Proposal: Masters of Science in Data Science and Engineering, UM

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost John Volin provided information about UM's request to offer a Master of Science program in Data Science and Engineering. This program would also include a graduate certificate and 4+1 matriculation option for qualified students. These features make the program more competitive and help maximize its enrollment and workforce development potential. The program also provides both thesis and non-thesis options to better attract and serve students from a variety of undergraduate majors beyond the traditional STEM fields.

On a motion by Trustee Erwin, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, 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 Consent Agenda at the September 28, 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 authorizes the creation of a M.S. in Data Science and Engineering at the University of Maine.

Unified Accreditation Update & Board Policy 308 Discussion

VCAA Placido and UMS General Counsel and Chief of Staff (COS), Mr. James Thelen provided an update on UMS unified accreditation progress. COS Thelen reminded the Board that the New England

Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) approved the UMS request to move to unified accreditation in late June. In July the System received a letter from NECHE that outlined their expectations for the University of Maine System in the next two years. Over the next two years all members of the System such as university leaders, System leaders, faculty, and staff will be working together to formulate and launch a plan to operate together as one accredited body, while improving program efficiencies, collaboration, and academic programming. Throughout the next two years, NECHE will be checking in with UMS to track and guide their unified accreditation progress. The first of these check-ins will be the NECHE confirming visit in late next Spring, where a small NECHE team will visit with UMS key leaders to evaluate whether UMS has made good progress towards achieving the plans laid out in the substantive change application provided to NECHE in June. NECHE has asked the System to provide information about the development and role of the UMS Faculty Governance Council and to prepare a report to show the steps UMS is taking to develop the self-study that will lead to the NECHE comprehensive evaluation visit, scheduled for Fall 2022. One of the initial steps taken to prepare the self-study is having each UMS university president and the dean of the Law School identify representatives from their individual campuses to work on the sub-committees that will address each of the nine NECHE standards for accreditation. Another step UMS has started is to administer an academic program review on a System-wide prospective. A good example of this is the State-wide Strategic Program Planning that VCAA Placido explained earlier in the meeting. NECHE has also asked the System to provide details about the UM plans to continue to grow their research program and attain R1 status. COS Thelen stated that there will need to be changes to Board Policy 308 – *Accreditation*, in order to reflect the Board’s support for the System to move to unified accreditation. The proposed changes were provided to the Committee in the meeting materials. The revisions to Board Policy 308 will be discussed as an action item at the October 26th Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting and the November 16th Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Erwin commented that he felt that there should be more emphasis on why the System moved to unified accreditation and the importance of how this will affect the System moving forward added to the policy revisions. Chancellor Malloy thanked Trustee Erwin for the suggestion and stated that he and COS Thelen would review the proposed policy language to see if a statement of that nature should be added.

Faculty Representatives Discussion

UMF Faculty Representative Clyde Mitchell thanked VCAA Placido and UMS Chief Information Officer David Demers for all of the work they and their teams have done to make sure that the transition to online learning was successful and to provide options for safe in class learning as well. He also stated that he was very excited to learn about the collaborative programs mentioned earlier in the agenda and is eager to see more System-wide collaborations in other academic programs in the future. UMA Faculty Representative Tim Surette thanked the Board for their support of the newly proposed Education degree programs. UMPI Faculty Representative Lisa Leduc also expressed thanks to the System and Campus leaders who worked to make sure that UMS students could return to class safely for the Fall semester. Additionally, she asked questions about if full Board of Trustees meetings were being live streamed to YouTube and the logistics of people participating in Citizen Comment at the Board meetings. The Clerk of the Board stated that while our full Board of Trustee and Committee meetings are in a virtual format, the Board Office will live stream all meetings to YouTube. The Clerk also explained that if anyone wishes to participate in Citizen Comment during a full Board meeting, they just need to send an email to the Board Office at ums.trustees@maine.edu by 5:00 pm, the Friday before the Board meeting occurs.

Student Representatives Discussion

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

University of Maine at Machias Financial Aid Update

President Joan Ferrini-Mundy and COS/General Counsel Jim Thelen provided a brief update on a recent change

in the administration of student financial aid at the University of Maine Machias (UMM). The implementation of the University of Maine at Machias's transition to being a full regional campus of the University of Maine is continuing under the primary partnership agreement. There has been a change required by the US Department of Education (DOE) in processes related to the administration of Title IV federal funding at UMM. Beginning in Fall 2020, UMM student financial aid falls under the oversight of the University of Maine. Going forward UMM students will need to use UM identification number on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms instead of a UMM number.

This change is different and independent from the discussions that NECHE, UMS and the US DOE have been having to ensure that each university will be allowed to manage their own federal financial aid programs, under unified accreditation. The reason this change is different is because as of June 30, 2020 all UMS universities had their own accreditation, with the exception of UMM. UMM relinquished its accreditation when the primary partnership with UM became effective two years ago. VCAA Placido thanked the UM financial aid team for their excellent work in making sure to reach out to affected UMM students to provide guidance as they complete their FAFSA applications.

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 of Trustee Policy 205 be amended to reflect the addition of a faculty and student representative from the University of Maine School of Law. This proposed change was discussed at the June 22, 2020 Academic and Student Affairs Committee. The Committee agreed to proceed with the proposed policy change, the agenda item was then included as an information item at the July Board meeting. If approved by the Committee it will be forwarded to the September 28, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Erwin, 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 September 28, 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 changes as outlined to Board of Trustee Policy 205 Faculty & Student Representation.

Executive Session

On a motion by Trustee Erwin, which was seconded by Trustee Timm, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee went into Executive Session under the following provision:

- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-A to discuss the evaluation of personnel and the consideration and discussion of appointments, employment and duties.

On a motion by Trustee Timm, which was seconded by Trustee Erwin, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Committee concluded the Executive Session.

Following the Executive Session, the Committee reconvened the public meeting to discuss the following items:

Tenure at Time of Hire, Professor of Forest Resources, UM

On a motion by Trustee Erwin, which was seconded by Trustee Timm, 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 September 28, 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 tenure at the rank of Professor of Forest Resources at the University of Maine to Dr. John Volin to be effective at the time of hiring.

Tenure at Time of Hire, Associate Professor of Computer Science, UMPI

On a motion by Trustee Doak, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, 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 September 28, 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 tenure at the rank of Associate Professor of Computer Science at the University of Maine at Presque Isle to Dr. Rafiul Hassan to be effective at the time of hiring.

FY2021 Academic and Student Affairs Committee Work Plan

VCAA provided a brief overview of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Work Plan. The work plan is intended to cover both action items required for governance of the University of Maine System and those topics of import and interest to the Board. Trustee Erwin recommended that the timeline for the campus 5-year strategic plans be adjusted to allow time for the System to provide guidance on the System-wide strategic plan, so that campuses are able to align their strategic plans with the overall System strategic plan. UMA President Rebecca Wyke stated that the campus strategic plan completion is heavily intertwined with the progression of unified accreditation and cautioned the Committee against stretching the timeline too extensively. Chancellor Malloy stated that this concern over the campus strategic plans would be discussed further at the next President's Council meeting.

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/12/2020/09/MtgMat-ASA-091420-rev-090920.pdf>

Adjournment,

Heather A. Massey for
Ellen N. Doughty, Clerk