

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

November 16, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Board of Trustees Meeting

Present: James Erwin, Chair; Mark Gardner, Vice Chair; Kelly Martin, Trish Riley, Lisa Eames, James Donnelly, Pender Makin, Emily Cain, Sam Collins, Tim Doak, Trevor Hustus, David MacMahon, Sven Bartholomew, Michael Michaud, and Betsey Timm. **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **University Presidents:** Glenn Cummings, Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ray Rice, Edward Serna, Becky Wyke, and Deborah Hedeon. **Faculty & Student Representatives:** Clyde Mitchell, Kennedy Rubert-Nason, Harlan Onsrud, Ameya Karaparkur, Abigail Despres, David Ballard, Nathan Carlow, and Salvatore Cardinale. **System Staff:** Robert Placido, Ryan Low, Ellen Doughty, Dan Demeritt, Chip Gavin, Carol Corcoran, Rosa Redonnett, Tracy Elliott, Sam Warren, and James Thelen.

Absent: None.

Monday, November 16, 2020

Trustee Erwin, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the public meeting to order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Riley, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees meeting went into Executive Session under the following provisions:

- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-A to discuss the evaluation of personnel and the consideration and discussion of appointments, evaluations, employment and duties.
- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-C to discuss the condition, acquisition or disposition of real property or economic development if premature disclosure of the information would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the UMS.
- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-D to discuss planning for negotiations and communications with AFUM, UMPSA, ACSUM, Police, PATFA, and Service and Maintenance Units.
- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-E to consult with its attorney concerning legal rights and duties of the university.

On a motion by Trustee Donnelly, which was seconded by Trustee Eames, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees concluded the Executive Session.

PUBLIC SESSION

Following the Executive Session Trustee Erwin, Chair, reconvened the public meeting and welcomed everyone. He stated that the meeting was being held by Zoom and was being live streamed to YouTube for the public. The Clerk performed a roll call of the Trustees present.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Citizen Comment is a time regularly set aside for comments from the public. The following individuals spoke during the Citizen Comment period:

Barbara Fraumeni – Retiree Healthcare

Suan Feiner – Retiree Healthcare
Jim McClymer – Retiree Healthcare
Frank Wertheim – Retiree Healthcare
Cathleen McAnneny – Retiree Healthcare
Jan Hitchcock – Retiree Healthcare
Bonnie Cashin Farmer – Retiree Healthcare
Eve Raimon – Retiree Healthcare
Jennifer Perry – Retiree Healthcare
Laurie Cartier – Retiree Healthcare
Daine Haslett – Retiree Healthcare
Gene Kilpatrick – Retiree Healthcare
Paul Johnson – Retiree Healthcare
William Steele – Retiree Healthcare
Eliot Estabrook – Retiree Healthcare
Jerry LaSala – Retiree Healthcare
Richard Brucher – Retiree Healthcare
Nancy Gish – Retiree Healthcare
Lisa Feldman – Retiree Healthcare
Ron Mosley – Retiree Healthcare
Kenneth Taylor – Retiree Healthcare
Steven Colburn – Retiree Healthcare
Janet Carper – Retiree Healthcare
Grace Leavitt – Retiree Healthcare
Malcolm Shick – Retiree Healthcare
Susan Anzivino – Retiree Healthcare
Lydia Savage – Retiree Healthcare
Charlie Cooper – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Natalie Nahabedian – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Jessica Doherty – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Jeff Nasse – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Ennis Marshall – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Ryan O'Leary – Fossil Fuel Divestment

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Erwin stated that on behalf of the Board, there is great understanding of how personal and deeply concerning the change to the retiree healthcare plan is to the UMS retirees. He said the Trustees are paying very close attention to the retiree comments and feedback and stressed that the Trustees and System Leadership view this as an extremely important matter. He thanked everyone who participated in Citizen's Comment for taking the time to share their personal experiences and feedback on this issue. Chair Erwin asked Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration (VCFA) and Treasurer Ryan Low to provide an update on UMS retiree healthcare.

Retiree Healthcare Update

VCFA Low acknowledged the comments and concerns that were brought to the Board this morning through Citizen's Comment and through emails sent to the Board and System staff since the transition of retiree healthcare to Aon was announced. He stated that he appreciates the feedback that has been received and that the System has taken details from that feedback to make improvements in the communications to the retirees to address some of the concerns listed in the provided feedback.

VCFA Low stated that not all UMS retirees are having similar experiences to that of the retirees who spoke during Citizen's Comment. UMS has received many testimonials from retirees that were able to join an Aon plan that was at a comparable or better price than they were paying for Aetna and sometimes with better coverage and added benefits. Over 230 retirees have signed up with Aon with added dental and hearing benefits, which are not available through the current Aetna plan. He emphasized that this information is not being provided to diminish the experiences described during Citizen's Comment this morning. He explained that UMS understands that healthcare is an essential and personal issue and assured the retirees that their healthcare remains a priority for the System. Enhanced outreach to retirees who have yet to sign up for a plan continues, to ensure all retirees sign up before the deadline. The deadline is December 21, 2020 to avoid any lapse in coverage with a final cutoff date of February 28, 2021.

VCFA Low stated that while the retirees will still have full access to the Employee Benefits Center and Human Resources department as they have been, the System has also begun to launch a comprehensive initiative to offer impartial advice and direction to retirees and their qualified spouses, to help them to select the very best plan for their healthcare needs. Additionally, an impartial ombudsman will be contracted to act as the point person for retirees, to field and address inquiries and keep the System Leadership and Trustees apprised of implementation progress, current concerns, and other data surrounding this issue. The ombudsman will be supported with a consortium of five local agencies on aging to provide additional information on state assisted healthcare, such as Medicare and Mainecare. Once the ombudsman has been selected, this information will be communicated to all UMS retirees. VCFA addressed retiree concerns about buying power and stated that UMS is committed to an HRA of \$2100 for retirees and \$800 for qualifying spouses, commencing with calendar year 2021 and commits to maintaining at least this level for eligible participants. He stated that UMS commits to increasing the HRA to maintain the overall purchasing power of UMS contributions, based on premiums and plan designs of a reasonable market of individual plans change over time. UMS will work with Aon to develop an indexing process and methodology for biennial reviews. The biennial reviews will begin in 2022 to discuss with the Employee Healthcare Task Force or a similarly constructed group, before making any indexing decisions for 2023. Out of 3032 UMS retirees and eligible spouses, 2656 have interacted with Aon. As of this morning, 1333 people of enrolled in Aon plans and collectively UMS is engaging with 88% of retirees and enrolling approximately 44% to date.

The Trustees recommended that surveys be completed by retirees after the new Aon plans take effect to gauge the retiree experience with the transition and quality of the plan provided, with regular updates to the Board about this information.

Harold Alfond Foundation Grant

Chair Erwin stated that this is the first full Board meeting since the announcement of the \$240 million grant to UMS from the Harold Alfond Foundation (HAF) was announced. He expressed deep appreciation to HAF for their confidence and support of the System. The HAF Grant funds will be used for UM Athletics and UMS in three primary academic pursuits. He stated that this is phenomenal opportunity for the System and although it is coming at a very challenging time due to the pandemic, it is also arriving at a great time to help continue the work to transform the System.

Pandemic Response Acknowledgment

Chair Erwin acknowledged and thanked System and campus communities including faculty, staff, and students, for the excellent way they have navigated through the pandemic throughout this semester. He stated there is just about a week left in the semester and he is hopeful that this great work will continue to ensure everyone gets home safely for break.

Ad Hoc Working Group for Naming of Physical Facilities Update

Vice Chair Mark Gardner stated that the Ad Hoc Working Group for Naming of Physical Facilities was formed after the September 28, 2020 Board meeting to review Board Policy 803 – *Naming of Physical Facilities*. The working group was charged to consider the factors relied upon by the C.C. Little Hall Name Task Force in its June 23, 2020 report and recommendation for this name change and determine whether these factors or others should be expressly incorporated into Board Policy 803 to guide the Board's consideration of future naming recommendations of this nature. Members of the Ad Hoc Group are: Trustee Mark Gardner, as Chair; Trustee Emily Cain; Ainsley Wallace, USM Foundation President & CEO; Liam Riordan, UM Professor; and Ellen Doughty, Clerk of the Board. A proposed revision to Board Policy 803 was developed by the group in early November and has been submitted to key stakeholders for feedback. The working group will meet in early December to consider the feedback and make any final revisions before submitting the proposed revisions as an information item at the January 2021 Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee and January 2021 Board of Trustees meeting.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Malloy acknowledged the Citizen's Comment participants and stated that many salient points were raised during Citizen's Comment this morning. He explained that he had full confidence that VCFA Low and Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) Carol Corcoran will address the concerns raised by the retirees and that he was grateful for the announcements made during the retiree healthcare update, of which should help to mitigate some of these growing concerns. He commended CHRO Corcoran for personally engaging with over 150 retirees directly and thanked her for dedicating her time to this important matter.

Pandemic Response Update

Chancellor Malloy stated that he believes the UMS decision to send students home and begin remote learning in March 2020 was important for protecting UMS students, faculty, and staff and the citizens of Maine from infection from outside sources, as well as an appropriate response to the pandemic, which was just starting to increase its presence in the nation at that time. He explained that UMS along with other Maine higher education institutions presented a plan to Governor Janet Mills to describe a path to open for the Fall semester with various modalities of learning, to address the concerns of reopening during the pandemic. When the Fall semester started UMS performed rigorous Phase I testing on students who were coming from out-of-state and those students who would be living on campus during the semester. There were very few cases identified during the first phase of testing. Following shortly after, Phase II testing started which included random testing of a sample of people across all campuses, every ten days. Additionally, UMS began testing sewage at three campuses to analyze if COVID-19 was present on campus and to what level. During Phase II testing, Presidents were able to request amplified testing at their campus if there was a spike in cases in their local community. Phase III testing began last week and will test around 8000 residential students to ensure that they test negative for COVID-19 before they begin traveling and returning to their home communities. Chancellor Malloy thanked Chief General Services Officer Chip Gavin and his team from each campus for the extraordinary job they have done working with State and Federal agencies provide scientifically backed pandemic guidance to ensure the safety of the UMS community. Additionally, Chancellor Malloy thanked the UMS leadership and staff, and campus presidents, faculty, and staff for the extraordinary work that they have done to ensure students remain safe and able to continue learning through the pandemic.

Chancellor Malloy reminded Trustees that there was an adjustment made to the academic calendar. He explained that students will be leaving next week for Thanksgiving break and after the break is over, will remain off campus to finish the Fall semester through an online modality. After finals, Winter break will start and when students return for Spring semester, they will start one week later than normal on January

25th. Additionally, it was decided to eliminate the Spring break that is traditionally held in mid-March, in order to prevent students from traveling during that time and promoting the spread of the virus. UMS will start the Spring semester in a similar fashion as this past Fall, with a combination of in person and online learning modalities and with the same rigorous testing protocol.

HAF Grant Commitment

Chancellor Malloy stated that with the HAF grant and the UMS match commitment, a little over \$360 million will be invested in the UMS over the 12 year period. He explained that UMS will be working with campuses and their foundations to establish fund raising initiatives for UMS' matching commitment. Additionally, teams are being formed to make critical decisions about how these funds will be awarded to determine how each campus will benefit from the funds, with particular attention on retention and student success.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration (VCFA) & Treasurer Ryan Low provided the following update.

Investment Update

The Managed Investment Pool has a current market value of \$370 million. It experienced a negative return of 1.2% for the month of September, while maintaining a return of 6.1% for the fiscal year to date. The Pension Plan has a current market value of \$26 million. It experienced a loss of 0.5% for the month of September, with a fiscal year to date return of 4.2%. The Operating Fund has a current market value of \$311 million. It experienced a loss of 0.2% for the month of September, with a fiscal year to date return of 2.1%. Net investment revenue stands at \$5 million for the fiscal year to date, which is \$1.7 million over the FY2021 investment income budget of \$3.25 million.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS' UPDATE

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA) Dr. Robert Placido provided an update on the following Academic Affairs items:

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Chunzeng Wang, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, provided an overview of his "Discovery of the giant Fish River post-Acadian rift system and its contribution to the recognition of the great Fish River geoheritage in Northern Maine". Launched in 2016 and Funded by the USGS and Maine Geologic Survey, Dr. Wang discovered the giant post-Acadian rift system, referred to as the Fish River post-Acadian rift system, along the geographically and recreationally well-known Fish River chain of lakes. It is the largest rift system of this kind ever discovered so far in North America. Dr. Wang explained that recognition and promotion of the Fish River geoheritage would also provide local and regional economic benefits for years to come.

Nursing & Education Statewide Strategic Program Planning

VCAA Placido introduced a new initiative sponsored by the Academic & Student Affairs department and supported by the Presidents Council and the Chief Academic Officers Council. The proposed Statewide Strategic Program Planning (SSPP) initiative seeks to bring together similar university programs as a way to address state workforce development needs and explore statewide service opportunities. The SSPPs will also help address New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) expectations 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 include university distinctiveness, program

data and economics, a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, & Threat (SWOT) analysis, partnership development and constituency feedback, and goals for the next year. Education and Nursing program leaders have completed drafts for this year's SSPP pilot, which VCAA Placido shared with the Board of Trustees.

Early College

Executive Director for Early College Amy Hubbard provided an update on the UMS Early College (EC) program. The State of Maine and UMS have made a significant investment in EC programs, in which high school students take college courses. As a result, EC programs at all universities have grown considerably in response to the Board of Trustees Strategic Goals. Dr. Hubbard provided program updates and explained how barriers to course access were removed while meeting the needs of Maine's students and high schools. She also provided student success data, as well as a summary of how EC is aligning courses to career exploration pathways to address regional and state workforce needs. Dr. Hubbard explained that despite program success, impending Aspirations funding limits will create a budget shortfall that will result in enrollment caps.

Fall Enrollment Report and Return Rate

VCAA Placido presented trending application data for Fall 2021 and elements of the 2020 Fall Enrollment Report. As of census, October 15, 2020, UMS is only a 0.6% behind on enrollment when compared to 2019 data for the same date. 250 students chose to defer enrollment after acceptance, meaning that UMS 2020 enrollment figures would actually have been ahead of 2019, if those students had not deferred. Overall, public higher education enrollments are down approximately 4% across the nation. VCAA Placido explained that USM, UMFK, and UMPI are working with Academic Partnerships (AP) on various accelerated online course programs. When UMS first started working with AP initial enrollment totals were less than expected; however, the total enrollments have jumped from 60 in October 2019 to 490 as of October 2020. Even with this increase, numbers are still lower than expected but UMS is hopeful that new program offerings and increased communication with AP will continue to grow enrollment. VCAA Placido stated that application data for Fall 2021, indicates that UMS totals are up in both admitted students and matriculations when compared to the same time last year. This is largely due to the increased efforts and initiatives from Chancellor Malloy, Executive Director of Public Relations Dan Demeritt, and campus enrollment management teams. Additionally, UMS is currently trending well for Spring 2021 enrollment.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Credential Attainment Rosa Redonnett, provided a brief update for Board members on the results of 2020 student return rates. Ms. Redonnett explained that most of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) information is based on first time, full-time students. UMS developed a new alternative metric that provides a more accurate analysis and reflection of the range of the UMS student population. She explained that the best way to positively impact student retention rates is through putting emphasis on student success System-wide. Ms. Redonnett stated that a System-wide Student Success Steering Committee has been put in place and described some of the ways that they have been working with campuses to enhance student success initiatives.

ACTION ITEMS

Proposed Change to Board of Trustee Policy 308 – Accreditation

Chief of Staff (COS) and General Counsel James Thelen provided a brief overview of the proposed changes to Board of Trustees Policy 308 – *Accreditation*. As a result of Trustee discussion at previous Board and Committee meetings, it was suggested that the draft proposed Policy 308 include a direction to

consider and, where appropriate, incorporate unified accreditation principles in all future System and university-specific work on mission, strategic planning, and academic program review and approval. COS Thelen prepared revised language to address the Trustees' request, which was reviewed with UMS Presidents and shared with Board faculty and student representatives during presentation to the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) Committee at its October 26, 2020 meeting. The ASA Committee agreed to forward the revised policy as proposed to the Board of Trustees for consideration and approval at today's meeting.

On a motion by Trustee Collins, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approved the proposed changes to Board of Trustees Policy 308 – Accreditation Policy to incorporate the principles of Unified Accreditation.

Honorary Degree Nomination for 2021, UMFK

This item was removed from the agenda. UMFK will resubmit this item at future Board meeting.

Confirmation of Faculty and Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees

Dean of the Maine Law School Leigh Saufley provided a brief introduction for the proposed Law School Faculty and Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees. The two candidates are Faculty Representative Dimtry Bam to be appointed for a two year term from November 2020 to November 2022 and Student Representative Paige Eggleston to be appointed for a two year term from November 2020 to November 2022. UMFK President Deborah Heeden provided a brief introduction for the proposed UMFK Student Representative, Rajay Marah, to be appointed for a two year term from November 2020 to November 2022.

On a motion by Trustee Donnelly, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees approved the appointments of the Faculty and Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Trustee Gardner, which was seconded by Trustee Donnelly, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees as follows:

Acceptance of Minutes

September 2, 2020 – Finance, Facilities, Technology Committee
September 14, 2020 – Academic & Student Affairs Committee
September 14, 2020 – Human Resources & Labor Relations Committee
September 28, 2020 – Board of Trustees Meeting
October 13, 2020 – Executive Committee Meeting

The Board of Trustees reviewed the following agenda items as forwarded by the Academic & Student Affairs Committee to the Consent Agenda from its meeting on October 26, 2020:

Awarding of Academic Degrees

The Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and authorized the awarding of degrees during Commencement ceremonies for the 2020-2021 academic year to those students fully recommended by the appropriate faculties and the presidents of the respective institutions of the University of Maine System.

The Board of Trustees reviewed the following agenda items as forwarded by the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee to the Consent Agenda from its meeting on September 2, 2020:

Lease Authorization Request, Cutler Health Center, UM

The Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee and authorized the University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine to enter a lease with Eastern Maine Medical Center for approximately 11,763 net square feet of space at the Cutler Health Center, subject to review and approval of all final terms and conditions by the University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

Lease Authorization Request, Kell Street Interceptor Pumping Station, UM

The Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee and authorized the University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine to enter a continued lease with Town of Orono for a parcel of land known as the Kell Street Interceptor pumping station, subject to review and approval of all final terms and conditions by the University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Rural Health and Wellbeing Grand Challenge Pilot Initiative Update

UM President Joan Ferrini-Mundy and UM Director of Research Development Jason Charland, provided an update on the Rural Health and Wellbeing Grand Challenge pilot initiative. The UMS Research and Development (R&D) Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2024 was developed to promote industry, business, and community growth in Maine and articulates key goals through which research can be expanded across the System. The R&D Plan recommends that the System launch a series of grand challenges over the next decade. Grand challenges are problems of global, national, and regional significance that require interdisciplinary teams to work together to develop and implement innovative solutions. Such initiatives are ambitious in scope, long-term in scale, and convergent in design. Research universities across the country are engaging in grand challenges that focus their research, education, and outreach efforts to promote discovery, develop the workforce, and engage the public in solving intractable societal problems. Through the UMS Research Reinvestment Fund (RRF), a System-wide Grand Challenge Pilot Initiative was launched in Fall 2019 with the thematic focus of “Rural Health and Wellbeing.” Three two-year pilot projects were competitively selected by the RRF Advisory Board from a field of 30 concept papers. These interdisciplinary and intercampus teams were introduced at the Jan. 26-27, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting. The “Rural Health and Wellbeing” theme was established before the global pandemic and is more relevant now than ever. The teams have been working together over the last several months to identify interdisciplinary solutions in biomedicine, telehealth, and injury prevention, respectively. The teams comprise researchers from UM, USM, UMPI, and UMA.

Additional information about the meeting can be found on the Board of Trustees website:
<https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/meeting-agendas-materials/board-of-trustees/>

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on January 25, 2021, via Zoom.

Adjournment
Heather A. Massey for
Ellen N. Doughty, Clerk