

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting
May 3, 2021

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Present: Committee Members: Lisa Eames; Chair, James Erwin, Timothy Doak, Beth Dobson, Roger Katz, Michael Michaud, Mark Gardner, David MacMahon, and Emily Cain. **Other Trustees/Non-Voting:** Irene Neal and Trish Riley. **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **Presidents & Law School Dean:** Glenn Cummings, Deborah Hedeem, Ray Rice, Edward Serna, Joan Ferrini-Mundy and Leigh Saufley. **Faculty Representatives:** Lisa Leduc, Harlan Onsrud, William Otto, Kennedy Rubert-Nason and Clyde Mitchell. **Student Representatives:** Ameya Karapurkar and Eli Rubin. **System Staff:** Robert Placido, Ellen Doughty, Rosa Redonnett, Carolyn Dorsey, James Thelen, Laura Cyr, Jeff St. John, Dan Demeritt and Ryan Low. **Others Present:** Eric Brown, Laurel Hyle, Jeannine Uzzi, John Volin, Donna Seppy, Laura Rodas and Sara Mlynarcheck.

Committee Members Absent: Pender Makin.

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

Executive Session

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 & 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 Dobson, which was seconded by Trustee Doak, 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 Electrical and Computer Engineering, UM

Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation/University of Maine President, Joan Ferrini-Mundy and University of Maine Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, John Volin, presented the request that Dr. Vijay Devabhaktuni be awarded tenure at the rank of full Professor, effective June 7, 2021 in accordance with Board of Trustee Policy 310. This coincides with his appointment as professor of electrical and computer engineering and chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Devabhaktuni was selected after an extensive international search and rigorous evaluation process. He holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. This recommendation has the full support of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering peer committee.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Doak, 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 May 24, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees approves tenure at the rank of Professor to Dr. Vijay Devabhaktuni with tenure to be effective June 7, 2021.

Academic Program Proposal: BS in Business Administration in Sport Management, UM

UM Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, John Volin presented the request to seek permission to offer a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) in Sport Management. This is a collaborative degree that addresses important economic and workforce development opportunities locally and statewide, and beyond. The new major allows for collaboration across academic and non-academic units, including stakeholders on and off campus. The proposal outlines the goal to collaborate, not compete, with the major at the University of Southern Maine, “in the spirit of the University of Maine System’s newly launched Unified Accreditation initiative.” Examples include cross-listing courses, shared opportunities for practical experiences, and potential joint sports-related international student trips. The UM program will focus on Division I athletics. With this program and the program at USM, UMS will be able to increase the number of graduates in Sport Management.

The proposal was reviewed at all appropriate faculty and administrative levels at USM, UM, and UMA and was reviewed and subsequently recommended by the Chief Academic Officers Council. Dr. Robert Placido, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs recommended the program to the Chancellor. Chancellor Malloy signed his approval of the BSBA in Sport Management on April 5, 2021.

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 the following resolution to be forwarded to the Consent Agenda for Board of Trustee approval at the May 24, 2021 Board meeting:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, and approves the creation of a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Sport Management for the University of Maine.

Academic Program Proposal: MS in Data Science, USM

University of Southern Maine Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Jeannine Uzzi presented the request to seek permission to offer a Master of Science in Data Science (MSDS). This is a multidisciplinary, involving existing and proposed courses at USM primarily from Computer Science and Statistics, with additional support from Business and optional concentrations in Business Analytics, Geographic Information Systems, Public Health, in addition to Computer Science and Statistics. Courses will be delivered on campus and in hybrid formats. As described in the included proposal from USM, the MSDS is designed to appeal primarily to undergraduate majors with an interest in computing and data analytics, along with working professionals involved in analytics. Provost Uzzi stated that USM and UM worked collaboratively on development of this program and she explained the differences between the two programs.

Professor Harlan Onsrud, Interim Director for the Data Science and Engineering Graduate Program at UM and Graduate Student Coordinator, stated his support for the USM MS in Data Science program and thanked USM for collaborating with UM on this program. The proposal was reviewed at all appropriate faculty and administrative levels at USM, UM, and UMA and was reviewed and subsequently recommended by the Chief Academic Officers Council. Dr. Robert Placido, Vice

Chancellor of Academic Affairs recommended the program to the Chancellor. Chancellor Malloy signed his approval of the MSDS on April 5, 2021.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Dobson, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded to the Consent Agenda for Board of Trustee approval at the May 24, 2021 Board meeting:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, and approves the creation of a Masters of Science in Data Science for the University of Southern Maine.

UMFK Academic Restructuring

University of Maine at Fort Kent President Deborah Hedeon provided an overview of the UMFK restructuring proposal. UMFK is requesting approval of an academic structure that aligns with the administrative change in 2019-2020 that combined the President and Provost as one position and effective for 2021-2022 changing to two divisions, each led by a Dean. Each Dean would have two unit chairs, one for each unit within the division. The Dean positions would not be AFUM members because of the administrative and supervisory authority include faculty performance, evaluation and decision making responsibilities. The two divisions would be:

Nursing, Behavioral Science & Allied Health
Arts & Sciences and Professional Studies

The UMFK budget was adjusted in 2019-2020 during the pilot process for this new academic structure. The UMFK Faculty Assembly approved this proposal on January 20, 2021.

On a motion by Trustee Dobson, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded to the Consent Agenda for Board of Trustee approval at the May 24, 2021 Board meeting:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves and ratifies the UMFK Academic Restructuring proposal to go into effect June 1, 2021.

UMPI Academic Restructuring

University of Maine at Presque Isle President Raymond Rice provided an overview of the UMPI restructuring proposal. The UMPI proposal would add a third academic unit – the College of Competency-Based and Degree Completion Programs (CBDCP). The Dean of the CBDCP would be responsible for leading the university's academic unit dedicated to educating adult learners in market-responsive undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs that are both credit and non-credit bearing. Reporting to the Provost, the Dean would be a key thought leader in developing UMPI's YourPace competency-based program portfolio, workforce-oriented credentialing programming, and incorporating the university's Employer U offerings within both degree and non-degree initiatives. The Dean would provide strategic leadership in developing affordable programs that meet student, workforce, and societal needs, as well as deliver academic programs and certificates with alternative access points, including those that address the lifelong learning needs of students and alumni. The Dean would be responsible for expanding the university's commitment to the "adult

market,” or nontraditional learners in Maine and beyond, who seek to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees and non-degree (but potentially stackable) credentials in service of dynamic career demands. The Dean would work closely with academic Deans, the Executive Director of Development, the Director of Early College Programming, and other cabinet-level leadership to chart UMPI’s overall approach to continuing studies.

On a motion by Trustee Doak, which was seconded by Trustee Gardner, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded to the Consent Agenda for Board of Trustee approval at the May 24, 2021 Board meeting:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves and ratifies the UMPI Academic Restructuring proposal to go into effect July 1, 2021.

Unified Catalog Update

Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives Jeff St. John provided an update on the UMS unified catalog initiative. Dr. St. John stated that the Chancellor has discussed the unified catalog initiative during his spring campus visits as well as during a few faculty senate sessions. There are three goals for this initiative on two different timelines.

The first goal is to bring all of our undergraduate and graduate course offerings together in one place and make them visible and searchable by September 2022. The academic oversight for the catalogs will not change. In the spirit of unified accreditation, we will make possible for all of our student to access in one place all of the UMS offerings. This will also provide an opportunity for faculty collaboration across our institutions.

The second and third goals include eliminating barriers within MaineStreet, particularly with multi-campus students and faculty who are active in multi-university programs. These improvements to MaineStreet and allowance of data to flow freely between and among our institutions will be multi-stage and multi-year but will get underway concurrently with the work on the unified catalog initiative.

Trustee Erwin expressed appreciation to the Chancellor and System Leadership for driving this initiative. It has been a State Higher Education Public Policy (Maine Statute 20A) that there be uniform numbering and a uniform course description system since at least 1991. It is really important that this initiative be completed.

Faculty Governance Council Update

Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Carolyn Dorsey provided a brief progress update on the UMS Faculty Governance Council. As part of the proposal to NECHE to seek unified accreditation UMS discussed creating a System-wide faculty governance body to ensure the faculty voice was heard often and early in the System work. In early 2020 the Chancellor brought together representatives from each of existing faculty bodies to talk about what this group would look like and how it would function. For the past year that group has been meeting regularly. They have developed a very robust channel of communication between the campus level faculty bodies and the various offices of the System. They have been working on creating a charter which included estimating a composition for the group and a charge in concert with their faculty bodies within their respective campuses. Composition does include equal representation from all of the campuses and the Law

School. More recently they have been actively working on committee business working on behalf of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Office to look at the policies, procedures and practices around academic affairs related initiatives, specifically around the multi-campus academic collaboration as well as writing pieces of the require NECHE report.

Unified Accreditation Update

Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives Jeff St. John provided an update on UMS unified accreditation progress. Dr. St. John stated that the Spring NECHE confirming virtual visit is scheduled for May 11-12, 2021. The two purposes of the visit will be for the UMS to update NECHE on our process toward unified accreditation and they will be meeting with President Rice, the faculty and students at UMPI about the CBE program to gauge their success on their ongoing work. The NECHE team will meet with 13 groups over the two days. The NECHE team will meet with the Chancellor and the System Leadership team, the UMS Presidents Council with the addition of campus Provosts; the campus Chief Business Officers; the campus NECHE accreditation officers; Trustees Erwin, Gardner, Eames and Donnelly; the System-wide Faculty Governance Council; meetings with students and a meeting for faculty members who are involved in multi-campus academic programs.

UMS will use the feedback from the visiting team to strengthen our ongoing work on unified accreditation and UMPI's CBE programs as well as to sharpen the focus on our self-study which is due to NECHE late summer of 2022.

In June UMS will be filing our first annual report to NECHE under unified accreditation. This will be the first time UMS has filed one report instead of individual reports from the campuses. The reporting form and structure have changed radically this year. NECHE is using a new form and portal for filing on-line submission of the annual report.

Trustee Cain asked to have more information about what goes into a self-study, what type of questions the visiting team will be asking, what type of feedback is anticipated, what measures will be reviewed and what happens with the self-study after it to completed. Dr. St. John offered to share that information and will be making a unified accreditation update at the May Board meeting.

Student Health Insurance Update

Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Placido provided an update on the Student Health Insurance. The University of Maine System has been working with students and student success advisors to assess the impact of a health insurance coverage mandate for full time students that was established in 2014 in response to the individual coverage mandates in the Affordable Care Act provisions. The insurance industry has been moving toward mandatory enrollment plans for student groups. The UMS implemented a mandatory plan with a new provider last year. The change was a great burden on students and caused many students' hardship. Student voices were loud and clear that this mandate was impeding their ability to seek a higher education. Approximately 2500 student enrolled in the insurance plan and over 1000 students were automatically enrolled because they did not submit a waiver that was accepted.

The UMS created a subcommittee to look into the issue. Moving forward we will no longer mandate insurance. However, the UMS is partnering with the State of Maine to provide advisors to students who need an insurance option. These advisors will help our students find a solution on the public market place. We are being responsive to our student body's feedback and at the same time we will continue to assist students and explore additional options for students who still need health insurance.

There will be certain groups of students that will be required to have health insurance i.e. graduate assistants, nursing students, international students and accidental insurance for athletes. The UMS goal is to be responsive to the many, provide the service to the few who need the help and leverage partnerships to use our resources most effectively.

Executive Director of Public Affairs, Dan Demeritt, provided the Committee an update on the market strategic for the change in the student health insurance. The current policy will end at the end of July 2021 so a communication plan is being developed to distribute to students who are enrolled. This communication will provide information to connect the students with an advisor to talk about the importance of health insurance as well as other public and private resources available off our campuses to help students with financial stability.

Committee members raised concerns about the optics, timing and communication of how UMS will make this transition, particularly due to the recent changes to the retiree health insurance plan. There were also concerns raised about students assuming they are automatically enrolled, as has been the past practice. It was suggested that UMS keep the current student health plan for one additional year to provide students more time to pursue other health insurance coverage. Trustee Erwin asked that appropriate Board members be kept informed through the process.

Programs for Examination (PFE) Update

Vice Chancellor Placido explained the revisions to the Programs for Examination (PFE) process and the anticipated impacts of those revisions. The iterative PFE process is intended to maintain quality and inspire continuous improvement of the portfolio of UMS academic programs while accurately and fairly identifying programs in need of deeper examination. Toward that end, there will be additional metrics and methods adopted for the PFE to improve its usefulness as a mechanism for analyzing program performance and quality. Three campuses presented their materials at the March Board meeting, UM and UMM will present their plans at the May Board of Trustees meeting and USM and UMF will present at the July Board meeting.

Student Conduct Code Update

UMS Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Credential Attainment, Rosa Redonnett, provided an update on the Student Conduct Code. The UMS Student Conduct Code applies to the entire University of Maine System. As mandated by Board Policy 501, the Code is reviewed and updated every three years, and is ultimately approved by the Board of Trustees. The last regular review occurred during the spring of 2018; Board approval occurred at the March 19, 2018 Board meeting. In keeping with the University of Maine System Board Policy approval process, the updates to the Student Conduct Code will receive a first read at the May 3, 2021 Academic & Student Affairs Committee with the expectation that the first read will continue at the May 24, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting. This year's review will include fundamental changes to the Code.

Laura Rodas, UMA Associate Dean of Students, Donna Seppy, UMS Director of Student Success Initiatives, Sara Mlynarchek, UMS Assistant General Counsel and Laurel Hyle, UMS Deputy General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer provided the Committee an update to the review process and proposed changes/clarifications to the Code. It is intended that the Board will consider the proposed Policy again at its July 2021 Academic Affairs Committee and July 2021 Board of Trustees meeting.

Some of the key updates to the Code include student rights and responsibilities section was added, academic misconduct violation definitions are aligned with the Board Policy 314 *Academic Integrity*

Policy, alternative resolution name change, administrative resolution section was added and interim measures or action hearing was added to align with case law. Two potential hearing formats have been added. There is also two levels of appeal – the appeal panel and the presidential appeal. Revisions to the Code were also made based on stakeholder feedback.

In response to a concerns raised by Trustee Katz and Dobson, Deputy General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer Hyle explained that the General Counsel’s office would like to have a closer partnership between the General Counsel’s Office and the people implementing the process of various university policies and procedures, including the student conduct code. Ms. Hyle explained that outside counsel has reviewed the code specifically related to Title IX, where the UMS can have flexibility, and where UMS will be required to adhere closely to the federal regulatory and legal landscape which is currently in a state of flux. It is anticipated that there will be changes to Title IX under the new administration which may require the UMS to update our practices. She also explained that processes have been carried out differently at the various locations because of interpretation and from a due process standpoint that creates issues. General Counsel’s office is working with the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to address those issues. The Student Conduct Code dovetails with Board of Trustee Policy 402 *Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Retaliation* which outlines Title IX matters in greater detail.

UMA Associate Dean of Students Rodas explained that in the past few years UMS has substantially increased and improved our formal investigation process. It now includes a written report and all of the evidence is provided and made available to involved parties where they can review the material ahead of time as well as at the hearing. The hearing is a formality where questions can and should be asked but the bulk of the work and the bulk of the inquiry around what did or did not happen is investigated thoroughly in a much more structured way.

Trustee Eames commented that if Trustees Katz and Dobson have additional questions, staff in the General Counsel’s Office would be available to provide additional information.

Faculty Representative Discussion

UMPI Faculty Representative Lisa Leduc raised a concern about the limited time scheduled for faculty to engage in the NECHE visiting team next week. Dr. St. John responded by clarifying there are four different meetings scheduled for faculty with the NECHE visiting team next week, including one with the Faculty Governance Council.

Student Representative Discussion

The Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees that 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/meeting-agendas-materials/academic-and-student-affairs-committee/>

Adjournment,

Ellen N. Doughty, Clerk