

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting
July 12, 2021

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Present: Committee Members: Lisa Eames; Chair, Timothy Doak, Beth Dobson, Roger Katz, Michael Michaud, Trish Riley, Mark Gardner, David MacMahon, and Emily Cain. **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **Presidents & Law School Dean:** Glenn Cummings, Deborah Hedeem, Leigh Saufley, Edward Serna, and Joan Ferrini-Mundy. **Faculty Representatives:** Lisa Leduc, Harlan Onsrud, William Otto, and Clyde Mitchell. **Student Representatives:** Eli Rubin. **System Staff:** Robert Placido, Ellen Doughty, Rosa Redonnett, Carolyn Dorsey, James Thelen, Laura Cyr, Jeff St. John, and Laurel Hyle. **Others Present:** Jeannine Uzzi, Rachel Groenhout, John Volin, Donna Seppy, and Laura Rodas.

Committee Members Absent: Pender Makin and James Donnelly.

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

Proposed Changes to Board of Trustee Policy 501 – Student Conduct Code, 2nd Reading

UMS Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Credential Attainment, Rosa Redonnett and UMS Deputy General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer Laurel Hyle 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, with Board approval at the March 19, 2018 Board meeting. In keeping with the University of Maine System Board Policy approval process, the recent updates to the Student Conduct Code received a first read at the May 3, 2021 Academic & Student Affairs (ASA) Committee meeting and the May 24, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting. This year's review will include fundamental changes to the Code. 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.

The changes made to the Code since the last reading are mostly focused on formatting, grammar, Just prior to today's presentation the UMS General Counsel's Office found some non-substantive edits that need to be made to the proposed version being presented at the meeting today. Associate Vice Chancellor Redonnett asked the ASA Committee to move forward with the presented version today, with the caveat that these small changes would be made before submitting the proposed changes for approval as the July 26th Board of Trustees meeting. Deputy General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer 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. The Student Conduct Code dovetails with Board of Trustee Policy 402. 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 explained that the plan is to have the current version of the Code approved by the Board at the July 26th meeting, so

that implementation is possible for the return of students this Fall. After implementation in Fall 2021, a small group will be formed to include General Counsel Staff, Trustees, other key stakeholders to review the code over the next year with a specific lens on due process and the intersection with Board Policy 402. She also explained the minor changes that have been made to the proposed Code since the last reading at the May Board of Trustees meeting.

Chair Eames explained that the Clerk of the Board has already started the process of polling to find a date for the first meeting of the smaller group of stakeholders that will review the Code over the next year. Chair Eames asked the ASA Committee members to demonstrate their interest in attending the meeting by a show of hands. In addition to Chair Eames, Trustees Katz, Dobson, and Cain indicated they were interested in attending. Additionally, Director of Student Success Initiatives Donna Seppy also indicated she would like to be involved.

On a motion by Trustee Doak, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, 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 26, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the proposed changes to Board of Trustee Policy 501 - Student Conduct Code, to go into effect August 1, 2021.

Student Health Insurance Update

Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs (VCAA), Dr. Robert Placido and Academic & Student Affairs Strategic Projects Director Laura Cyr 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. 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. The System is being responsive to student body feedback and at the same time, UMS 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 resources most effectively.

Ms. Cyr stated that the System has been meeting twice a week with the Student Health Insurance Program (SHIP) teams. The first meeting of the week is with key stakeholders at the campus and System level and the second meeting is with the Gallegher, the broker representatives. These meetings are designed to discuss the change from mandatory to voluntary student health insurance and communication about that change to the students and campus service professionals. The meetings have also contained discussions to determine whether a wider public message is necessary. Since the last meeting of these groups, communication about the student health insurance change has been sent to all

UMS students via email and a student activity account message. Additionally, the System has developed a website based on the student health insurance change, which includes a list of frequently asked questions that will help direct students to the appropriate services. UMS is partnering with the State to offer assistance through the Maine Healthcare Navigators to offer access and one on one support for Maine healthcare options. The Silvercloud Mental Health Services, Covid-19 Hotline, and a designated email for student/family questions and complaints are also being offered to students. VCAA Placido stated that UMS has received an email from a husband and wife student duo from UMA, thanking the System for this change and expressing that they most likely would not have been able to continue their education if mandatory student healthcare remained in effect.

Trustee Riley cautioned System leadership to revise the wording used in the message to the public surrounding the change in student healthcare. She stated that she has great concern with the System's messaging that student healthcare is a "great burden" and is "impeding their ability to seek higher education". She explained that this sends a message that it is acceptable to not have health insurance due to financial hardships. She stated that as a teaching institution, UMS has an opportunity to send the message that health insurance by any means should be attained because poor health is also an impedance to receiving an education and that uninsured people are less likely to seek the health care they need. VCAA Placido agreed with Trustee Riley and stated that the System would make the change before submitting any messaging to the public.

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. The Council was not created to replace the current faculty governance structure at each campus but to support their work and assist in providing information concerning System level policy and procedure information. 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 data teams, consisting of research and data professionals at the campus and System level, have been developed to work on the Fall 2022 NECHE self-study report. The first team will focus on general institutional data such as, enrollment, number of faculty at each institution, and credit hours. The second team will focus on assessment, which is the evidence UMS provides to show concrete evidence that UMS students are learning. The two teams will work in complementary fashion over the next year to populate NECHE supplied forms, as part of the larger self-study. The data generated will be provided at a campus level and at an aggregate System level.

The System will be seeking feedback from the UMS community concerning the self-study, over the coming academic year. Although many campus and System level community members participated in preparing drafts for the self-study, many other UMS community members were not a part of those groups and the System is committed to providing transparency and opportunities for input from all UMS community members. A call for feedback will be submitted to the UMS community in September 2021, February 2022, and May of 2022. The feedback received will be shared publicly so that everyone is able to see what contributions have been made to the report.

Trustees asked for clarification concerning if the information included in the self-study is based on the past year or future data. Dr. St. John clarified that UMS is assessing where we are currently and where we are headed. He stated that the NECHE self-study is written in three dimensions; we describe, we appraise, and we project.

Chair Eames asked Dr. St. John to provide an update on the exciting and new benefits realized by moving to unified accreditation at a future ASA Committee meeting.

Data Governance Update

Rachel Groenhout, Director of Institutional Data Management, provided a brief update on data governance projects that directly impact Academic and Student Affairs. UMS established a Data Governance Program in 2017 to protect and leverage data assets to benefit all UMS institutions and stakeholders. The mission of the program is to improve consistency, integrity, and access for the use of data. Higher education institutions need data to make good decisions. The same high-quality data that can feed relevant, timely reports and analyses also feeds all of our systems that support day-to-day operations and make or break student, faculty and staff experience. One example of a seemingly simple activity that is rendered more difficult is searching for available courses that meet program requirements and students' scheduling needs. Consistent data can make a sleek search tool easy to create, use, and understand. Data silos and coding differences can make a high quality search tool complex to use, and even require interpretation of returned results. As UMS works to make searching and signing up for classes an easier, more successful and satisfying process, high quality, consistent data is just one of the puzzle pieces that will help reach those goals.

The UMS Data Governance program has grown over the years to include many functional areas. Work groups form to address data issues identified by the Data Advisory Committee and endorsed by the Data Governance Council. Currently, UMS has just over 80 people actively working on projects; however, because many members participate in multiple projects, the total workgroup participation rate is 166 memberships across 21 active projects. Data Governance has a broad project portfolio, ranging from production of global data policies and trainings to discrete coding improvements for specific use cases. Data Governance works across Student, Human Resources, and Financials data. Dr. Groenhout provided a brief overview of a few of these projects and explained how they contribute to UMS strategic goals, support for faculty & staff, and student experiences improvement. Specifically, Dr. Groenhout provided some details on Early College, First Generation Students, and student race/ethnicity data. Following the presentation there was discussion amongst the ASA Committee members concerning strategies to improve the collecting race and ethnicity data for UMS.

Faculty Representative Discussion

UMPI Faculty Representative Lisa Leduc stated that student research that was submitted through the UMPI Maine Policy Scholar program indicated that there is a lack of consistency of policy implementation from campus to campus. Professor Leduc stated that much time and effort is put into

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creating the policies; however, she has concerns that the same effort is not exerted in maintaining consistent implementation of these policies. VCAA Placido was also on the panel where this research was presented and he agreed that the System needs to take a closer look at making sure that policies and procedures remain consistent across UMS, where possible.

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,

Heather A. Massey for
Ellen N. Doughty, Clerk