

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting
September 13, 2021

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Present: Committee Members: Lisa Eames; Chair, Timothy Doak, Roger Katz, Michael Michaud, Trish Riley, Mark Gardner, and David MacMahon. **Other Trustees:** Peggy Rotundo. **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **Presidents & Law School Dean:** Glenn Cummings, Deborah Hedeon, Leigh Saufley, and Joan Ferrini-Mundy. **Faculty Representatives:** Dmitry Bam, Michael Scott, Patrick Cheek and Clyde Mitchell. **Student Representatives:** Eli Rubin. **System Staff:** Robert Placido, Ellen Doughty, Rosa Redonnett, Carolyn Dorsey, James Thelen, Laura Cyr, Ryan Low, and Jeff St. John. **Others Present:** Jeannine Uzzi, Eric Brown, Ainsley Wallace, Dan Qualls, and Emily Haddad.

Committee Members Absent: Pender Makin, Beth Dobson, Emily Cain 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.

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 provisions:

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

On a motion by Trustee Riley, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, 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 Education and Human Development, UM

Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation/UM President Joan Ferrini-Mundy requested that Dr. Penny Bishop be awarded tenure at the rank of full Professor, with an effective date of July 1, 2021. This coincides with the appointment as full professor of education and human development and Dean of the College of Education and Human Development also effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Bishop holds an Ed.D. in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Vermont.

On a motion by Trustee Riley, 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 September 27, 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 tenure at the rank of Professor of Education and Human Development to Dr. Penny Bishop, with tenure to be effective July 1, 2021.

Tenure at Time of Hire, Professor in the Maine School of Business, UM

Vice Chancellor/UM President Ferrini-Mundy requested that Dr. Norman J. O'Reilly be awarded tenure at the rank of full Professor, with an effective date of July 1, 2021. This coincides with the appointment as full professor in the Maine School of Business and Dean of the Graduate School of Business. Dr. O'Reilly holds an MBA in marketing from the University of Ottawa and a Ph.D. from Carleton University.

On a motion by Trustee Riley, 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 27, 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 tenure at the rank of Professor in the Maine School of Business to Dr. Norman J. O'Reilly, with tenure to be effective July 1, 2021.

New Academic Program Proposal: Master of Legal Studies, Maine Law School

Vice Dean and Provost of the Maine Law School Dmitry Bam provided a brief overview of the University of Maine School of Law's request to offer a Masters of Legal Studies (MLS) program. The MLS will be a 30-credit degree designed for those who desire a better understanding of laws and legal systems but do not wish to practice law. The primary purpose of the program will be to provide non-lawyer professionals who work with lawyers or with laws and regulations a foundational understanding of laws and legal systems, as well as the opportunity to take advanced training in specialized areas of law most important to their current (or desired) fields and careers, without having to commit three years of full-time study necessary for a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree. The demand for non-J.D. degrees from U.S. law schools has increased significantly in recent years. The MLS will add value to Maine's economy as students will learn how to use legal and regulatory knowledge to help their existing and new employers gain a competitive advantage. The degree can help enhance the existing careers of professionals by increasing their value to employers and creating opportunities for advancement. An MLS degree provides non-lawyer professionals the opportunity to gain practical and theoretical knowledge in selected areas of law, and learn the skills of legal research, analysis, and communication essential to understanding and applying the law. Provost Bam also provided an overview of projected MLS program enrollment through 2025.

On a motion by Trustee Gardner, 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 Consent Agenda at the September 27, 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 creation of a Masters of Legal Studies (MLS) for the University of Maine School of Law.

Endorsement of University of Maine at Farmington Credit Hour Change

UMF Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Eric Brown provided an overview of the University of Maine at Farmington Credit Hour Change plan. Considering UMS's new unified accreditation model, UMF has determined that it was in the best interests of both the university and its students to begin the process of changing UMF's current 4-credit-hour academic model, which has been in effect since the mid-2000s, to align with the 3-credit-hour academic model used at all other UMS universities. Provost Brown explained that the UMF administration and faculty have begun the necessary academic planning for a successful multi-year implementation of the credit-hour transition framework so that student and financial systems may be properly updated. Additionally, he outlined some of the next steps for the plan that will take place over Fall 2021 semester and Summer 2022.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA) Robert Placido explained that UMF is bringing this agenda item forward for endorsement because it doesn't fit under any Board of Trustees Policy that requires approval; however, it is a substantial change for UMF and the System. He thanked Provost Brown, UMF President Edward Serna and the UMF faculty and staff for their diligent and cooperative work in bringing this proposal forward. VCAA Placido also explained that at the appropriate time, UMS will need to make a revision to Board Policy 303.1 to recognize that all UMS universities will utilize the same credit hour model following UMF's transition.

Chancellor Malloy and several Trustee Committee members commended UMF for making this important change and expressed their support for the decision.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee MacMahon, 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 27, 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 to accept and endorse the University of Maine at Farmington's transition plan to move to a three-credit-hour model as soon as practical and directs UMS to propose appropriate revisions to UMS Board Policy 303.1 for further Board consideration and action.

Faculty Governance Council Update

Associate Vice Chancellor (AVC) for Academic Affairs Carolyn Dorsey provided a brief progress update on the UMS Faculty Governance Council. As part of the proposal to the New England Commission of Higher Education (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. Over the past year the Council has developed its own internal leadership system and created a way to sustain their work. 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. The Council did not meet in July or August; however they will resume their regular meetings starting this month.

Unified Accreditation Update

Associate Vice Chancellor (AVC) for Strategic Initiatives Jeff St. John and AVC Dorsey provided an update on UMS unified accreditation progress and initiatives. Dr. St. John stated the report today is in response to a request that Chair Eames had made at the last Academic & Student Affairs Committee meeting to receive an update on the UMS work that has been done over the past year under the banner of unified accreditation. One area of focus is faculty governance. AVC Dorsey provided a more detailed overview earlier but she explained how unified accreditation has helped the System with a shared governance model, multi-campus programming, and strategic System-wide contributions. Unified accreditation has enabled Statewide Strategic Program Plans (SSPP) for the Maine Geospatial Institute (MGI), Nursing, and Education programs. UMS is building coordination of assessment across all UMS universities and has developed assessment teams to inform the NECHE self-study. Unified accreditation work in the area of strategic initiatives and accreditation include development of the unified catalog, communication/site visits with NECHE, and extensive work on the NECHE self-study, which is due to NECHE before their Fall 2022 visit.

Chair Eames thanked AVC St. John and AVC Dorsey for fulfilling her request and providing a very informative presentation on the unified accreditation work at UMS. Trustee Gardner also thanked the presenters and the UMS for all of their hard work to make sure unified accreditation is a success.

University of Maine at Machias Regional Campus Task Force

Vice Chancellor/UM President Ferrini-Mundy provided an update on the UM/UMM Regional Campus Task Force (RCTF), which was convened in April 2021. The RCTF was developed to review progress in key measurable areas and create realistic, accelerated timelines and implementation steps for completion of the transition as a regional campus, with major elements to be fully planned or in place by Fall 2021, and all elements completed by the end of July 2022. The RCTF is collectively responsible for progress toward these deadlines, with the work done primarily within topically focused working groups. The RCTF was also charged to organize itself into working groups with identified leads or co-leads. The RCTF Chair is Dr. Emily Haddad, Dean of the UMaine College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Seven working groups have been created that include a mix of faculty and staff members from UM and UMM. Each working group is assigned a specific focus from the following list:

- Tuition and Financial Aid
- Academic Program Alignment and the Single Catalog Project
- Admissions and Enrollment Management
- UM/UMM Faculty and Staff Interactions/Opportunities
- Stakeholder Relations
- Growth Strategies for UMM
- State and County Economic Possibilities, Workforce Development Opportunities

Vice Chancellor/UM President Ferrini-Mundy also provided a brief overview of the RCTF overall timeline, communication timeline, and organizational chart.

Trustee Riley stated that the presentation stated that the proposed UMM structure shows approximately

48 faculty members for roughly 500 students, which she does not believe is a sustainable faculty to student ratio. She asked the presenters to provide information on addressing this issue. Vice Chancellor/UM President Ferrini-Mundy, Dean Haddad, and UMM Vice President of Academic Affairs & Head of Campus Dan Qualls responded that the focus has been on bolstering programs that have the best chance for success and will increase student retention. UMM is also looking at some faculty positions that will support UMM and UM, meaning that the faculty in question would be supporting UM students too and more than just the UMM student indicated in the presentation.

Academic & Student Affairs Committee FY2022 Work Plan

Vice Chancellor Placido stated that the FY2022 Academic & Student Affairs Committee Work Plan had been provided in the meeting materials. He noted that a few changes have been made to the work plan including adding regular updates throughout the year on unified accreditation, faculty governance council, microcredentialing, and shared enrollment. He stated that the Academic Affairs Committee would look at redefining their agendas to be theme based to provide opportunities for different topics to be discussed in more detail at each meeting. Committee work plans are reviewed and adjusted annually and then forwarded as information to the following Board of Trustees meeting.

Faculty Representative Discussion

UMF Faculty Representative Clyde Mitchell thanked the Board of Trustees, Chancellor, VCAA Placido and his team and UMS leadership for their support both financially and on the UMF credit hour change. He stated that he and the other UMF faculty members are in support of the UMF credit hour change from four to three credits. Chair Eames thanked Dr. Mitchell for providing his thoughts on the matter.

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