

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM  
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting  
October 25, 2021

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting**

**Present: Committee Members:** Lisa Eames; Chair, Timothy Doak, Roger Katz, Beth Dobson, Michael Michaud, Trish Riley, Mark Gardner, and David MacMahon. **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **Presidents & Law School Dean:** Glenn Cummings, Deborah Hedeem, Edward Serna, Ray Rice, and Joan Ferrini-Mundy. **Faculty Representatives:** William Otto, Michael Scott, Patrick Cheek and Clyde Mitchell. **Student Representatives:** David Ballard and Valentina Annunziata. **System Staff:** Robert Placido, Ellen Doughty, Rosa Redonnett, Carolyn Dorsey, James Thelen, Laura Cyr, Ryan Low, and Jeff St. John. **Others Present:** Jeannine Uzzi and John Volin.

**Committee Members Absent:** Pender Makin, 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 Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Riley, 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.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Gardner, 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, Associate Professor in the Department of English, UM**

UM Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost John Volin requested that Dr. Ellen Weinauer be awarded tenure at the rank of Associate Professor, with an effective date of August 16, 2021. This coincides with the appointment as associate professor in the Department of English and Dean of the Honors College.

On a motion by Trustee Doak, which was seconded by Trustee Riley, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approves the following resolution to be forwarded for Board of Trustees approval at the November 15, 2021 Board Meeting.

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approves tenure at the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of English to Dr. Ellen Weinauer with tenure to be effective August 16, 2021.

**Tenure at Time of Hire, Professor in the School of Agriculture, UM**

UM Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost John Volin requested that Dr. Diane Rowland be awarded tenure at the rank of Professor in the School of Agriculture, effective August 1, 2021 in accordance with Board of Trustee Policy 310. This coincides with her appointment as associate professor in the University of Maine Department of English and Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture.

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 approves the following resolution to be forwarded for Board of Trustee approval at the November 15, 2021 Board Meeting.

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approves tenure at the rank of Professor in the School of Agriculture to Dr. Diane Rowland with tenure to be effective August 1, 2021.

**Tenure Request, Professor in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, UM**

Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Robert Placido requested that Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy be awarded tenure at the rank of Professor in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, effective on the date she would assume the full-time faculty position upon the conclusion of her service as University of Maine President. This request would serve as an exception Board of Trustees Policy 310 which states that “a chief academic officer or other university employee in a position at the level of vice president may be considered for tenure to be effective upon assuming a full-time faculty appointment after completion of service in the administrative position.” Dr. Ferrini-Mundy’s credentials have been reviewed by the peer committee in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and has received their full support.

On a motion by Trustee Doak, and seconded by Trustee Katz, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approves the following resolution to be forwarded for Board of Trustee approval at the November 15, 2021 Board Meeting.

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approves tenure at the rank of Professor in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics to Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy with tenure to be effective on the date she would assume the full-time faculty position, upon the conclusion of her service as University of Maine President.

**Awarding of Academic Degrees**

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Credential Attainment Rosa Redonnett asked the Board of Trustees to approve the awarding of academic degrees for 2022 commencement.

On a motion by Trustee Gardner, which was seconded by Trustee Riley, 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 November 15, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees authorize the awarding of degrees during Commencement ceremonies for the 2021-2022 academic year to those students fully recommended by the appropriate faculties and the presidents of the respective institutions of the University of Maine System.

### **Fall 2021 Enrollment Update**

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Robert Placido provided an update on Fall 2021 enrollment. Vice Chancellor Placido showed the Committee members live enrollment data from the UMS Dashboard on the maine.edu website. He explained that the UMS Academic Affairs Department has set it up so that all academic affairs dashboard data is located on one central page. As of close of census on October 15<sup>th</sup>, excluding Early College, the total Fall headcount enrollment is down approximately 0.5% and graduate Fall headcount enrollment is up approximately 8.7% compared to this time last year. Vice Chancellor Placido explained that undergraduate Fall headcount enrollment is down 2.3% compared to this time last year, which is much better than the 4% loss that was projected by his team. This decline in undergraduate enrollment is mostly due to the economic decline that the System has been watching for a while and covid pandemic related issues. UMS first-year student headcount enrollment increased 2.2% for Fall 2021; however, the student population continuing their UMS education saw a decrease of 4.4% in headcount enrollment from last year. There was an increase of almost 5% in out-of-state enrollment for Fall 2021. Conversely, UMS is still struggling with in-state enrollment. There was a 5.2% decrease in in-state enrollment for Fall 2021. The Chancellor has charged a UMS student success group to research the decline in in-state enrollment. Vice Chancellor Placido stated that Fall headcount enrollment for UMS accelerated programs has increased 102.5% since this time last year. Trustee Katz asked Vice Chancellor Placido if he had data concerning how many Maine high school graduates matriculate to UMS. Vice Chancellor Placido said he did not have that data today, but he would provide it at a future meeting.

Vice Chancellor Placido explained that it is extremely hard to move the needle when it comes to traditional retention rate data, due to the very narrowly defined cohort of students that are being measured. This cohort only includes first time, traditionally aged, college students. UMS has moved to return rate data, which measures all students on a Fall-to-Fall basis and allows for a greater data pool and inclusivity among the many diverse student demographic groups across the System. For Fall 2021 undergraduates, 73.4% returned to the same UMS institution, 1.4% returned to another UMS institution, and 3.5% returned to an external institution. One alarming data point on the undergraduate return rate chart is that only 60.7% of students who had over 90 credits earned during Fall 2021, returned this Fall. Vice Chancellor Placido and his team are looking into why a student so close to graduation that has invested so much into UMS already, would not return to finish their degree the following year.

Vice Chancellor Placido stated that it is evident throughout all the data that covid has had a major impact on enrollment numbers. He thanked Chancellor Malloy, Chief General Services Officer Chip Gavin and his incident commander group and all of the UMS community members for their great work in mitigating the impact of covid on the Fall 2021 semester to the greatest extent possible. He explained that as of this morning 92.7% of the student population is vaccinated and over 99% of students are complying with the vaccine mandate in one form or another. There are 215 students remaining who have not complied with the vaccine mandate. UMS has made many attempts to communicate with these students and continue communication so that they can continue their education at UMS. Another letter was sent out to the non-compliant students this morning alerting them again of the October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline to come into compliance. UMS is dedicated to working with these students to help them achieve compliance.

Chair Eames stated that she appreciates all of the diligence the System has put in to try to get everyone in compliance with the vaccine mandate and applauds UMS for getting the number of non-compliant students to just 215.

**Faculty Governance Council Update**

Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Carolyn Dorsey provided a brief update on the UMS Faculty Governance Council. After a short break over the Summer, the Faculty Governance Council has begun to meet again. The group now includes an expanded membership, which can be up to 4 faculty members from each campus; however, each campus only receives one vote for official tallies. The charter has been ratified by six of the campuses. The work has now turned from group development and governance to work on official council business such as discussions concerning collaborative program proposals and System-wide initiatives that would affect Academic Affairs throughout UMS.

**Faculty Representative Discussion**

Associate Vice Chancellor Dorsey welcomed new Faculty Representatives Michael Scott from UM and Patrick Cheek from UMA to the Committee.

**Student Representative Discussion**

UMF Student Representative David Ballard stated that he appreciated the enrollment data that was presented today and explained that it is a subject of which he has great interest. Associate Vice Chancellor Redonnett welcomed new Student Representative Valentina Annunziata from the Maine Law School to the Committee.

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