

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting
October 20, 2021

Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning Meeting

Present: **Committee Members:** James Erwin, Chair; Mark Gardner, James Donnelly, Trish Riley, Emily Cain, and Roger Katz. **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **Staff:** James Thelen and Ellen Doughty.

Absent: Lisa Eames

Trustee Erwin, 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 Riley, which was seconded by Trustee Gardner, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning agreed to go into Executive Session under the provisions of:

- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-E to consult with its attorney concerning legal rights and duties of the university.

On a motion by Trustee Gardner, which was seconded by Trustee Donnelly, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning concluded the Executive Session.

Following the Executive Session, Trustee Erwin, Chair, reconvened the public meeting and discussed the following items:

Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning Role in Support of Strategic Planning

Trustee Erwin asked for input from Committee members on how this Committee can best support the Strategic Planning efforts going forward. Trustee Erwin and Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives & Chief Legal Officer James Thelen recommended the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning meet on a monthly basis via Zoom. Trustee Riley is a member of the review team for the selection of a consultant to assist with the UMS Strategic Planning process. At the monthly meetings the Committee will provide constructive feedback on the updates provided by System leadership to ensure that when the Plan is presented for final approval, the full Board will support it.

Vice Chancellor Thelen provided an update on the process to select a strategic planning consultant. The deadline for proposals is this Friday, October 22, 2021 and the review of the proposals has been fast-tracked with the idea of having selected a consultant by November 15th. Members of the review team include: Trustee Riley, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Legal Officer James Thelen, Vice Chancellor/UM President Ferrini-Mundy, USM Provost Jeannine Uzzi, UMPI Faculty member Stacey Emery, Vice Chancellor Robert Placido, and UMS Director of Organizational Effectiveness Kim Jenkins.

Vice Chancellor Thelen agreed that monthly updates with this Committee will be beneficial and on less frequent intervals more significant work can be done with this Committee. He reminded the Committee about the presentation he gave at the September Board meeting on the proposed process and timeline. There are a couple of important checkpoints within the timeline where we want to do very substantive work. One checkpoint is as we approach the finalization of the NECHE self-study

for Unified Accreditation, which will be early next spring, we will have enough early input gathered with our consultant, this Committee and appropriate internal and external stakeholders that we can be talking tentatively about draft tenets for a Strategic Plan that is in alignment with the NECHE self-study. This way when the written evaluation of our progress under unified accreditation is public, we will know that we are within some broad guiderails of where we expect the Strategic Plan to go. Looking ahead to next fall will be another important checkpoint when we have the comprehensive evaluation team from NECHE looking at our progress under unified accreditation. We will have a debrief session with that team and it will be important that the strategic planning is in harmony with the feedback from the accreditation team and their initial assessments. At that point, we will have significant confidence that it will be in alignment as we start compiling the draft Plan.

Vice Chancellor Thelen suggested scheduling a meeting of this Committee with the Presidents to provide short 10 minute updates on where they are on their own Strategic Plans. Generally Strategic Plans cover 5 year periods. Some universities are in the middle of their current Plan and others have drafted Plans which they have not brought forward but are waiting until the Board approves the System Strategic Plan. This will provide the Committee a holistic view of where we are across the System and where the universities will be working from when we have a System Strategic Plan.

Trustee Cain commented that she is very interested in the process after the consultant has been hired because the integrity of the process is critical. As a result of the pandemic, engagement in a virtual way is a more accepted platform and she hopes the consultant is prepared for that style of engagement.

Trustee Erwin suggested the consultant should join this Committee for a meeting when it is appropriate, hopefully before the end of this year.

Chancellor Malloy and Vice Chancellor Thelen spoke about the benefit of a “principles” document to describe the intent of the Strategic Plan. The principles document for Unified Accreditation was very helpful and a similar document is being developed for the unified catalog. They suggested an internal group start working on the development of this type of document for the Strategic Plan for the Committee’s review. Chancellor Malloy also commented that a website will also be established for the Strategic Plan.

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

Adjournment

Ellen N. Doughty, Clerk