

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting
January 8, 2024

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Present: Committee Members: David MacMahon; Chair, Lisa Eames, Emily Cain, Barbara Alexander, Trish Riley. Kelly Martin **Presidents:** Joseph McDonnell, Ray Rice, Jenifer Cushman, Jacqueline Edmondson, and Leigh Saufley **Faculty Representatives:** William Otto, Ivan Manev, Clyde Mitchell, Lisa Leduc, Joseph Staples, Libin Thaikkatti-Louis, Dmitry Bam **Student Representatives:** Deb Doherty, Aidan Mulrooney, Andrew Seile and Alec Brooks **Presidents:** Jenifer Cushman, Joseph McDonnell, Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Leigh Saufley and Jacqueline Edmondson **System Staff:** Chancellor Malloy, Jeffrey St. John, Paul Chan, Carolyn Dorsey, Ryan Low, Jamie Ballinger, Paul Chan, Kayla Flewelling, Rosa Redonnett **Others Present:** Giovanna Guidoboni, John Volin, Megan Walsh, Joseph Szakas, Kathy Yardley, Grace Garland, Steve Quackenbush

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

Student Representative Discussion

The Board of Trustees Student Representatives brought forward discussion items relevant to their university communities and the University of Maine System with particular focus on the Status of Student Government on the campuses across the System. Working in conjunction with Chair MacMahon, the Student Representatives decided this presentation would focus on the ‘Coupling of Arts and Athletics’.

Faculty Initiated Discussion – ChatGPT and Faculty Feedback

Vice Chancellor Jeffrey St. John began the discussion by briefly providing some background information regarding work that faculty have completed as far back as Spring of 2023 regarding research and different discussions of the potential use of ChatGPT being used as a pedagogical tool with faculty, particularly in a focus of course development, syllabus structuring and statement creation and some research work. The Faculty Governance Council and Faculty Senate and Assembly Presidents have held discussions around the use of ChatGPT with Faculty feedback taken into deep consideration in furthering the interest and development of the understanding of conclusions around using ChatGPT. The need or lack of a need for system policy regarding using ChatGPT has been considered by faculty and the ask is that faculty be the ones to determine how best to use or either not use ChatGPT in course construction and the desire to leave decisions around using ChatGPT be left to faculty and individual campuses, departments and courses. The Faculty Governance Council has requested that work be done to provide guidance and resources together for faculty to reference when needing to determine if ChatGPT should be used or not – internally and externally to the System.

The floor was opened for discussion with the Faculty Representatives and Provosts in attendance regarding the ongoing work and their perceptions of the use of ChatGPT.

Update on the AY23-24 ASA Work Plan

A work plan guiding the business of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee has been formulated for this academic year and has been provided to committee members for review. The plan is intended to cover action items required for governance of the University of Maine System and topics of import and interest to the Board and is a living document that will be updated as needed.

Vice Chancellor Jeffrey St. John reviewed briefly the proposed work plan with the committee and fielded questions from Trustees as presented.

Maine College of Engineering and Computing (MCEC) Update

President Edmondson began this conversation by providing a presentation of what MCEC is, the history and development of this initiative. The Maine College of Engineering and Computing (MCEC) is a statewide, integrated solution for the technical workforce and innovations critical to moving Maine's economy forward (improving R&D for Maine-based industry) and will expand educational opportunities in emerging fields of artificial intelligence, renewable energy, advanced materials, biomedical and industrial engineering. Dean of the Maine College of Engineering. It is intended to bring faculty together from the schools of engineering and computing science at both the University of Maine and the University of Southern Maine with the intention to meet the needs for thousands of new students who are entering these emerging fields and programs.

In January a new Dean of MCEC, Giovanna Guidodoni, was welcomed and was able to provide her update on the collaborative efforts that have been ongoing between UMaine and USM in regards to MCEC initiatives.

MISSION STATEMENT

Maine Law's mission is to advance justice and leadership in a changing world. We provide an exceptional, inclusive, and student-centered legal education and serve our local and global communities through teaching, scholarship, and public service.

VALUES

We pursue our mission through the implementation of our values by an engaged faculty and staff who encourage the advancement of justice for all members of society, promote a system of just laws, and provide students with the knowledge, ethical framework, and skills needed for a career in the law.

- 1. Inclusion and community:** Creating a collaborative culture for the study of law that supports diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- 2. Academic excellence:** Providing students with an exceptional legal education through a comprehensive and diverse course of study.
- 3. Experiential learning:** Preparing the next generation of lawyers and legal professionals for the modern practice of law through practical opportunities inside and outside the classroom.
- 4. Professionalism:** Instilling the highest ethical standards and a strong sense of professional identity.

5. **Public service:** Promoting service to our community and the legislative, judicial, and executive branches.
6. **Leadership:** Training the next generation of leaders in Maine and beyond.
7. **Collaboration:** Fostering an interdisciplinary approach to teaching, research, and service.

The proposal was reviewed at all appropriate faculty and administrative levels at University of Maine School of Law. Chancellor Malloy signed his approval of the proposed University of Maine School of Law mission on October 3, 2023. Upon approval of the committee, this item will be forwarded to the November 2023 Board of Trustees meeting for approval.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, and seconded by Trustee Riley, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee forwarded this item to the November 6, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approves the updated Maine School of Law Mission and forwards this item to the November 6, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting for approval.

Proposed Changes to Board of Trustee Policy 301.9 – Maine School of Law Mission

The Board of Trustees, as the legal governance body for the University of Maine System, establishes the policies that enable the System institutions to provide higher education of excellent quality to Maine and its citizens. One of the most important Board responsibilities is the approval of mission statements and strategic plans for the System and for the universities.

The current Board Policy Section 301 addresses the mission statements of all universities within the System. However, the Maine School of Law does not have a sub-section with a Board-approved mission statement represented. Therefore, a resolution was presented to add sub-section 301.9 to Policy 301 to appropriately document the Maine School of Law mission statement.

On a motion by Trustee Riley, and seconded by Trustee Cain, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee forwarded this item to the November 6, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approves this change to Board Policy 301.9 – Maine School of Law Mission and forwards this item to the November 6, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting for approval.

Review and discussion of the AY 23/24

Each year, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees develops a work plan. The work plan is intended to cover both action items required for governance of the University of Maine System and those topics of import and interest to the Board. Trustee MacMahon will reviewed the draft FY 2023-2024 Work Plan with the Committee in preparation for its adoption at the next available Board of Trustees meeting.

Executive Session

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Riley, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee agreed to go into Executive Session under the provisions of:

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

On a motion by Trustee Riley, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee concluded the Executive Session.

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,
Kayla Flewelling, Interim Clerk