

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
December 16, 2024
Zoom Meeting

Present: Committee Members: David MacMahon; Chair, Roger Katz, Emily Cain, Barbara Alexander, Kelly Martin, Will Kemler; **Other Trustees:** Pat Flood. **Presidents:** Joseph McDonnell, Leigh Saufley, Ray Rice, Jacqueline Edmondson, Jenifer Cushman, and Joan Ferrini-Mundy **Faculty Representatives:** William Otto, Clyde Mitchell, Tim Surette, Jeff Maine, Ivan Manev and Lisa Leduc. **Student Representatives:** Tristan Mitchell and Anna McLaughlin. **System Staff:** Chancellor Malloy, Jeffrey St. John, Carolyn Dorsey, Ryan Low, Paul Chan, Heather Ball, Jamie Ballinger, Elizabeth Stickler and Sam Warren **Provosts:** John Volin, Kathy Yardley, Megan Walsh, Joseph Szakas and Alana Margeson **Others Present:** Erin Soucy, Claire Sullivan

Trustees Absent: Trish Riley, Lisa Eames, Donna Loring, Pender Makin, Elise Baldacci

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 Academic and Student Affairs Committee invited student representatives of the Board Of Trustees to bring forward discussion items relevant to their university communities and the University of Maine System. Jeff St. John noted that student representative Camille Alipalo had the idea to make Green Zone training systemwide, and he is meeting with the School Certifying Officers who lead veterans' services at the universities to figure out how to make that training available across the system. The student representatives were in the middle of finals week.

Faculty Initiated Discussion

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee invited faculty representatives to the Board of Trustees to bring forward discussion items relevant to their university communities and the University of Maine System. The faculty representatives brought up the proposed changes to Board policies 212 and 214. Trustee Alexander noted that the process has been going on for several months, and that she met with the student representatives and faculty representatives in the fall. The revised policies are working to remove restrictions on free speech. Trustee Alexander met with four students who spoke at the November board meeting regarding their concerns with the changes to the policies.

New Academic Program Proposal: M.S in Business, UMPI

The Master of Science in Business aims to develop business leaders with specialized knowledge in key areas of business practice targeted to address specific industry needs. The proposal is driven in part by growth in competing degree programs that reach the same or similar student populations in the competency-based education market. Some faculty representatives addressed the process of developing this degree.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

On a motion by Trustee Katz, which was seconded by Trustee Cain and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded to the consent agenda of the January 13, 2025 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 M.S in Business, UMPI.

New Academic Program Proposal: B.A in Criminal Justice, UM

The B.A. in Criminal Justice will help to address the continued demand for law enforcement and other criminal justice related workforce opportunities. This program offers educational opportunities unique to the University of Maine. Trustee Alexander asked if there is sufficient faculty at UM to offer this degree and how would new faculty be budgeted for; Provost Volin noted that new faculty may be needed eventually. Trustee Alexander wanted to get clarity on when new faculty would be hired based on student enrollment. She was also concerned with the process by which the program was developed in terms of collaboration with UMPI.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Cain and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present with Trustee Alexander voting against, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded to the January 13 2025, 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 B.A in Criminal Justice, UM.

Informational item: A.A. in Behavioral Science to A.A. in Psychology

This change reflects our universities' collaborative strengthening of academic program name recognition and resultant marketing/recruitment opportunities.

Following institutional consideration of curricular alignment, enrollment, and factors influencing potential growth, the University of Maine at Fort Kent submitted a request to change the name of the A.A. in Behavioral Science to A.A. in Psychology. The new name, Psychology, improves program marketability and recruitment opportunities and aligns more accurately with the current program curriculum.

Pathways to Learning Report: Micro credentials

This presentation reflected the advancement of Unified Accreditation through creating and supporting alternative pathways to education to meet diverse learner needs.

Vice Chancellor St. John updated the committee on non-traditional pathways to learning available within UMS, including micro credentials and competency-based education. Claire Sullivan, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Innovation in Digital Badges and Micro-Credentials, and Jamie Ballinger, Director of Academic and Enrollment Initiatives, also presented.

UMS Strategic Plan updates: UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION:

Vice Chancellor St. John & Heather Ball shared updates with the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs-related goals in the UMS Strategic Plan.

Executive Session

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, 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 Cain, 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

Elizabeth Stickler, Clerk