

Trustees,

No week is insignificant in our work. Even as I challenge our universities and our System as a whole to do a better job telling our stories publicly -- which usually means news releases, marketing and advertising, headlines, and public attention -- very significant work continues quietly in the background, sowing the seeds for future opportunities, indeed, for future success.

[Confidential Board information redacted.]

Other work outside the public eye continues, which will bring new leadership to two of our institutions.

I had introductory meetings this week with two of the four named UMFk finalists for our combined President/Provost position there: Dr. Kenneth Newbold (<https://www.umfk.edu/about/presidential-search/finalists/kenneth-newbold/>), who most recently served as provost and executive vice president and a short stint as interim president at Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana, and Dr. David Harris (<https://www.umfk.edu/about/presidential-search/finalists/david-harris/>), who is dean of the Herberger Business School at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Although we have further to go to conclude a successful search, I want to thank the Board members and System staff leading the search to this point. It's clear you've done good work. Similarly, our search for the Law School's next Dean continues confidentially. With the Law School Dean reporting to me in the new governance model you approved last September, Jim Thelen in my office is leading the Law Dean search, which is nearing the stage of identifying finalists who would visit the Law School sometime in March. We will maintain the confidentiality of that search as long as possible to ensure we have a high-quality pool of finalists from which I'll choose the next Dean.

I closed Thursday publicly by joining Presidents Joan Ferrini-Mundy and Becky Wyke at the 3rd annual Women of Power networking reception at the Senator Inn in Augusta. Women of Power is an annual networking event held to support Maine NEW Leadership (NEWL), a nonpartisan program of UMaine's Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center designed to educate and empower Maine's next generation of women leaders, here by celebrating Maine's women legislators. To that end, Thursday's reception feted the Honorable Joyce Maker, a three-term former State Representative and now Senator from Washington County with deep roots in higher education leadership there. Senator Maker was presented with NEWL's Minerva Award, given to a Maine woman leader who exemplifies the values of the program: leadership for the betterment of our state; a commitment to civil dialogue; and a passion for civic engagement.

I slowed down Friday to share some time with my wife Cathy on Valentine's Day and through the extended holiday weekend. I'll be back at it Tuesday when my senior team and I head to Machias to continue our campus engagement on unified accreditation work and the general business of bringing renewed focus on enrollment and retention.

Regards,

Dan