

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees

University of Maine System, Bangor
January 5, 2004

Strategic Planning Committee

Present: James Mullen, Chair; Gregory Cyr, Charles Johnson, Donald McDowell, Matthew Rodrigue, and Wickham Skinner. Absent: Susan Gendron and Margaret Weston. Chancellor Joseph Westphal. Staff: Elsa Nuñez, Judy Ryan, and Kelley Wiltbank.

Trustee Mullen, Chair, convened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Planning for the Strategic Planning Task Force Retreat on January 11-12, 2004.

Trustee Mullen stated the first topic to discuss was the planning for the January 11-12, 2004 Strategic Planning Task Force Retreat. In addition, he wants this group to have a candid discussion about where we are, where we are going, and what should higher education in Maine look like. The Board of Trustees will have to display willingness to recommend and accept change and it will be the Board that will approve the final strategic plan.

Dr. Elsa Nuñez, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, reviewed the role of the task force group which will continue to be an inclusive process with the Board, Presidents and System Senior Staff. Dr. Nuñez explained the agenda for the two day session. Sunday's meetings will start at 12:00 noon and will include a briefing on the campus visits, an overview of the external environment, and financial overlay. Monday morning will include discussions on higher education for the State of Maine and the preferred future state for the System which will identify different options to focus a continuum. In addition there will be a discussion of the concerns relating to the budget and programs. After lunch the group will refine the options that will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees Strategic Planning Committee. The goal for the two day session will be to provide to the Strategic Planning Committee with best options and next steps. Questions were asked about how best to approach making information public while the decision making process proceeds.

Trustee Mullen stated that the group will have to make assumptions on the vision for the State because that will impact our plan. Dr. Nuñez stated the University of Maine System can not come out of the Strategic Planning Process without more efficient administration.

Dr. Nuñez talked about defining programmatic issues, collaboration among the universities, distance education, campus identities and advocacy, and the creditability of the strategic plan. Chancellor Westphal spoke about centralization of back office operations. Trustee Johnson discussed the need to administer the principles and policies of the strategic plan equally across the state. Dr. Nuñez talked about the implementation process of the plan and the need to have very strong leadership to guide the System through that transition.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk