



December 3, 2021

Mr. Dannel P. Malloy
Chancellor
University of Maine System
267 Estabrooke Hall, 15 Estabrooke Drive
Orono, ME 04469

Dear Chancellor Malloy:

I write to inform you that at its meeting on September 23, 2021, the New England Commission of Higher Education considered the public comment regarding the University of Maine System submitted by Dr. Jim McClymer, President of the Associated Faculties of the Universities of Maine, and the System's response to that comment, and voted the following:

that no further action be taken with regard to the public comment filed by Dr. Jim McClymer regarding the University of Maine System;

that the Fall 2022 comprehensive evaluation be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information included in all self-studies, as well as the matters specified for attention in our letters of July 17, 2020, November 6, 2020, and May 25, 2021, the self-study prepared in advance of the System's Fall 2022 comprehensive evaluation give attention to the System's success in evaluating the effectiveness of its governance structures with emphasis on establishing and maintaining effective channels of communication with faculty and other members of the campus community.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

After reviewing the public comment and considering the materials submitted by the University of Maine System in response, the Commission concluded that the comment related, primarily, to matters that are beyond the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction. For example, the Commission will not consider matters related to union contracts, and it does not hold meetings with faculty groups or faculty unions. Further, the Commission did not find evidence that the System was in violation of the *Standards for Accreditation* during its transition from accreditation of the separate universities to accreditation of the University of Maine System.

The Commission confirms the comprehensive evaluation of the University of Maine System scheduled for Fall 2022. In addition to the items specified for attention in our letters of July 17, 2020, November 6, 2020, and May 25, 2021, we ask that the self-study prepared in advance of the System's Fall 2022 comprehensive evaluation give emphasis to a matter related to our standard on *Organization and Governance*.

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As highlighted in Dr. McClymer's comment, some faculty members perceive the flow of information between the administration and faculty to be "one way, from the top down, with little effort made to have a quality communication." The Commission recognizes that establishing and maintaining effective channels of communication as faculty and other members of the campus community are adjusting to unified accreditation as well as new policies, procedures, and processes takes time. The self-study prepared in advance of the Fall 2022 comprehensive evaluation will provide an opportunity for the System to update the Commission on its success in evaluating the effectiveness of its internal governance with emphasis on ensuring that it provides for "the appropriate participation of its constituencies, promotes communications, and effectively advances the quality of the institution" (3.13).

Dr. Jim McClymer will be informed of Commission's disposition of this matter.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Lawrence M. Schall, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Tetler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "T".

George W. Tetler

GWT/sjp