



OFFICE OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

EMBARGOED 1.27.2020

January 22, 2020

ORONO, Me. — On January 27, 2020, **Nathan M. Carlow**, Student Representative to the Board of Trustees for the University of Southern Maine, released the following public statement under the direction of the Board of Student Representatives.

“My colleagues and I have worked diligently to collect information about student perceptions regarding the subject of unified accreditation. I commend each of them for their tenacious efforts in explaining this intricate proposal and for providing relevant historical information to their respective constituencies.

“As a result of this exchange between my colleagues and the groups and individuals they are tasked with representing, a common theme emerged. A theme that revealed a clear and concordant endorsement of the unified accreditation plan that the Board of Trustees is being asked to approve.

“We concluded that the goals contained in the plan will attempt to innovate the way that we educate by streamlining access to academic programs and promoting a culture of partnership between the schools in our proud System. This spirit of collaboration is both advantageous to students and promotes a cost efficient model that includes a wide variety of rigorous curriculum.

“It is exceedingly important to note, however, that our support for single accreditation is by no means limitless, and the student representatives do not support the potential outcome wherein the custodian of accreditation is placed solely in the flagship university.

“My colleagues and I further recognize the existence of financial conditions that generate an urgent necessity for sustained and legitimate cooperation between our schools, and we concur with the Chancellor’s recommendation that a single accreditation will partially obviate these urgent financial conditions.

“When I was appointed to the Board one year ago this month, the question on our minds was whether or not the goals of One University were attainable and realistic. I said then that the One University structure was a revolutionary proposal that truly put students at the forefront of the conversation. I am very pleased to see those same basic principles have been honored by this unified accreditation plan.”

###

131 Woodbury Campus Center
P.O. Box 9300, Portland, Maine 04104-9300
(207) 420-7424, TTY (207) 780-5646, FAX (207) 228-8509
nathan.carlow@maine.edu

A member of the University of Maine System