

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine System
January 7, 2015

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Present: Committee Members: Gregory Johnson, Chair; Samuel Collins (at UMPI), James Erwin (at USM), Michelle Hood (by phone), Marjorie Medd, Paul Nelson (at USM), Bonnie Newsom (at UM) and Karl Turner (at UMA). **Presidents:** Kate Foster (at UMF), Linda Schott (at UMPI) and Wilson Hess (at UMFK), Glenn Cummings (at UMA) and Joyce Hedlund (at UMM). **Faculty Representatives:** Ray Albert (at UMFK), Uriah Anderson (at UMM), and Robert Rice. **Student Representatives:** Connor Scott (at USM), Jaelyn Jacobson (at USM), Brad O'Brien, Irene Levesque-Rowe (at UMFK), Charles Rodda (at UM) and Isabel Smith (for Jamie Austin at UMF). **System Staff:** Tracy Bigney, Lynda Dec, Dan Demeritt (by phone), Nathan Grant, Theo Kalikow (at USM), Peggy Leonard, Rosa Redonnett, Mark Schmelz, David Stevens, Donna Seppy, Richard Thompson and Rebecca Wyke (at UMA). **Others Present:** Jim McClymer, Robert Haley (at UMA), Amy Line (at UMA) and Ryan Neale (MDF at UMA), Ray Rice (at UMPI) and Jeff St. John.

Committee Members Absent: none

Trustee Johnson, Chair of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee, called the meeting to order.

Update on Credit Transfer and ABCDE Initiatives. Ms. Rosa Redonnett, Chief Student Affairs Officer, explained that these initiatives were implemented within the last year and are well underway.

Credit Transfer Steering Committee

Ms. Rosa Redonnett, Chief Student Affairs Officer and member of the Credit Transfer Steering Committee (CTSC), updated the Committee on progress being made to make it easier for students to move among Maine's public universities and to transfer from the Maine Community College System (MCCS) to the University of Maine System (UMS) and vice versa. Ms. Redonnett stated that progress is being made toward implementation of both the intra-system (within the UMS) component of this important work and the inter-system work with the MCCS.

Adult Baccalaureate Completion Distance Education (ABCDE)

UMPI President Linda Schott provided an update on the ABCDE initiative. As identified within the Board of Trustees Goals and Actions and also within the UMS Strategic Enrollment Plan, the development of a comprehensive approach across our institutions to serving the non-traditional, adult students in Maine is a critical next step in our ongoing efforts to meet the needs of Maine's workforce, enhance economic development within the state, and, most importantly, provide the best opportunity for all of Maine's citizens to attain baccalaureate degrees.

The Adult Baccalaureate Completion/Distance Education (ABCDE) Committee developed a comprehensive, System-wide plan to enhance baccalaureate degree attainment and completion by Maine's adult and non-campus based citizens; implementation of the recommendations is well underway with the awarding of our first adult degree completion scholarships and our first professional development workshops for the concierges.

APRIP Update. UMF President Kathryn Foster provided an update on the work of the Academic Portfolio Review and Integration Process (APRIP). The APRIP Oversight Committee identified five

areas for UMS action to facilitate success in the APRIP effort. These are: future state, incentives, budget/enrollment accounting reform, technology disparities and data consistency.

Academic Year Calendars for 2015-2017. Ms. Redonnett explained that as a result of the New Challenges, New Directions initiative, representatives from the faculty leadership of each university met to create the parameters for a common academic calendar – the first two cycles of this common calendar occurred during the years 2011-2013 and 2013-2015. At their September 2014 meeting, the Board of Trustees further directed the universities to bring the start and end dates for the spring semester into closer alignment as calendars were being prepared for the 2015-2017 academic years.

Providing An In-State Tuition Rate to Military Dependents Using a GI Bill. Trustee Johnson explained the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act (also known as the Choice Act) was signed into law in August 2014. There were two sections of this law pertaining to the GI Bill. The first, 701, expanded the Fry Scholarship to include spouses of service members who died in the line of duty. The second, 702, requires VA to disapprove programs of education at public schools (the law does not apply to private and for profit schools) if the schools do not offer in-state tuition to qualifying Veterans and dependents. In the case of the UMS, this would potentially impact 600-1000 students (both veterans and dependents)

Board action in 2014 already addresses the section pertaining to all current and former members of the US Armed Forces who were honorably discharged, regardless of whether or not they are receiving benefits.

Board action is required related to veterans' dependents in order to prevent disapproval of several hundred academic programs throughout all UMS campuses prior to the July 1, 2015 deadline. The fiscal impact throughout UMS is negligible as all campuses have reported fewer than 30 total current GI Bill students/veterans dependents that would be affected by the proposed Board Policy. UMS is positioned to leverage this new requirement as a tool to increase new enrollments by implementing a policy that is clear, concise, easy to administer, and easy to market.

On a motion by Trustee Medd, which was seconded by Trustee Newsom, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommended that the University of Maine System charge in-state tuition rates for terms starting after the end of the spring semester, 2015, to all military dependents using a GI Bill. Further, that once the in-state tuition rate is applied to the eligible individual, it shall remain in effect until the individual completes their academic program, even after GI Bill benefits have been exhausted, transferred, or are otherwise expired, and directs that this be included within the Consent Agenda for the January 2015 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Robert Haley, Director of the State Approving Agency for Veterans Education Programs, and Ms. Amy Line, Project Coordinator for Military Achievement Project, provided additional information about Veterans Affairs and recruitment. Ms. Redonnett provided information and data on veteran enrollment for the UMS.

Faculty Representatives Discussion. The Faculty Representatives to the Board of Trustees have determined an agenda of topical areas they would like to address with the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. As discussions continue within the University of Maine System around reorganization and realignment, issues related to quality emerge as critical decision factors in the determination and design of any models.

UM Professor Robert Rice provided a presentation on Accreditation. The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets an acceptable level of quality. The initial accreditations in the United States were for specific programs not University-wide. University-wide accreditation focuses on the following factors:

- Appropriateness of the institutional mission and objectives
- Effectiveness of the institution in meeting its mission and objectives
- Adequacy of financial and physical resources library, classrooms, labs, offices
- Quality of faculty
- Effectiveness of management, administrative structure and function
- Adequacy of personnel and student services offered by the institution

If an institutional did not have accreditation, it would not receive federal funding for student aid or for research.

Student Representatives Discussion. The Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees shared issues of concern and new initiatives at each of their campuses.

Charles Rodda, UM Graduate Student Representative

- He spoke about the graduate school initiatives to increase enrollment and recruitment
- He shared the virtual outreach initiative with 4-H programs interacting with graduate students performing research

Connor Scott, UM Student Representative

- He expressed accreditation concerns with the undergraduate programs
- He encouraged the UMS to continue the K-12 outreach as a component of recruitment
- He expressed concerns with the consistency of awarding of financial aid and assistance

Jaclyn Jacobs, USM Graduate Student Representative

- She also expressed accreditation concerns for graduate programs

Overview and Discussion: Making Maine Work – Preparing Maine’s Workforce. A collaboration between the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and the Maine Development Foundation, the Making Maine Work reports are designed to inform, engage and recommend to key policy leaders in Maine action items critical to the growth and enhancement of Maine’s economy. This report in the series, Making Maine Work: Preparing Maine’s Workforce is the companion to an earlier report: Making Maine Work: Growing Maine’s Workforce, and is focused on the quality of the workforce.

Mr. Ryan Neale, Program Director for the Maine Development Foundation and the editor/author of the report, presented an overview of the report. This overview is intended to increase awareness of the issues contained within the report, the recommendations posed, and to begin the dialogue around how the UMS is meeting the needs of the Maine economy.

Having enough workers with a diverse set of skills, training and education to meet the current and future needs of employers is a critical issue for Maine and is one which has been the center of several State initiatives ranging from Next Step Maine to Project>Login to the legislation known as LD 90. There are several recommendations within the report which have special import for the University of Maine System.

Overview and Discussion: Affordability – Trends in College Pricing. Trustee Johnson led a discussion on the current affordability efforts for the UMS. Issues of affordability are of paramount interest to potential students, parents, families and policy makers. From our own efforts to freeze tuition to the work of the legislative committee “Commission on Affordability and Completion”, addressing affordability in a way that permits students to pursue higher education and ensuring that they have the information both about the cost of education and how to best finance it as they make critical decisions about their higher education future is critical.

Mr. Dan Demeritt, Executive Director of Public Affairs, explained that each year, the College Board releases Trends in College Pricing which reports prices charged by colleges and universities within the 2014-2015 timeframe, how prices have changed over time, and how they vary by region and type of institution. Most specifically to the University of Maine System, this study shows how our tuition freezes have translated within the national and regional context, and presents an opportunity to leverage this as one component of our overall efforts to promote the UMS to potential students and their families. Led by the Chair of the Committee, this discussion item is intended to provide an overview of our current efforts.

Adjournment

Ellen Doughty for
Tracy B. Bigney, Clerk of the Board