Update on Academic Transformation Initiatives

1. **Program Innovation Fund** – nine projects were launched this fall as a result of the 2016-2017 UMS Program Innovation Fund, spanning disciplines from Engineering, to English, to Marine Science and beyond. The recent call for pre-proposals for the 2017-2018 Program Innovation Fund resulted in 39 submissions, currently being reviewed by the Chief Academic Officers Council. This year’s projects are required to include a component to address student career readiness.

2. **Academic Program Integration Teams** – of the 17 teams that were formed two to three years ago, seven teams were identified by the Chief Academic Officers Council (CAOC) to remain active in the coming year because of initiatives, goals and ongoing work identified by those teams. The remaining 10 teams are in recess pending resolution to some of the administrative barriers to multi-campus collaboration (see administrative program integration teams below).

3. **Administrative Program Integration Teams** – three program administrative teams are currently working to resolve barriers that face students, faculty, and institutions for multi-campus programming. The teams are in the areas of student issues, financial issues, and access to library resources. The student and financial teams are making substantial progress, with the student team piloting a cross-listing methodology to ease students’ ability to take courses throughout the UMS and the financial team putting the final touches for critique on a revenue-sharing model for shared academic programs.

4. **Early College (EC)** – The UMS has a goal of increasing EC enrollments by 1,800 students within two years, but also ensuring due attention to the quality of EC offerings. To that end, the recent $3M in state funding is partitioned into about $2.7M for campuses in support of faculty, to provide professional development opportunities, and to support EC students (including scholarships to matriculate to one of the UMS universities). The remaining funding supports centralized oversight, with an institutional research agenda to evaluate the effectiveness of EC.

5. **Institutional Research (IR)** – The UMS plan to build a data-rich culture is evolving quickly. The hire of two senior research analysts and the Associate Vice Chancellor over the summer accelerated progress. Although the basic data infrastructure and governance are being reconstructed, the UMS Office of Instructional Technology and IR are already opening the doors for advanced reporting and dashboard capabilities.

6. **Programs for Examination** – The new Programs for Examination process has been put into place across the UMS to be used this academic year. This process uses the number of graduates, majors and faculty to provide insight into program function and the need for action, with review by the CAOC.

7. **Maine Nursing Summit** – The focus of the October 27, 2017 Summit was to develop an action plan to address Maine’s nursing shortage. The event, held in the UMaine Wells Conference Center, was attended by >80 leaders representing more than 40 organizations from the major healthcare systems, the State, many of the independent hospitals, and nursing educators.