

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM  
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine System  
Rudman Conference Room, 253 Estabrooke Hall, Orono

May 15, 2019

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting**

**Present: Committee Members:** Lisa Eames, Chair (at UMA); James Erwin (at USM), Betsy Timm (at USM), David MacMahon (at USM), Kelly Martin (by phone), Trevor Hustus (at USM) and Grog Johnson (by phone). **Presidents:** Glenn Cummings (at USM), Rebecca Wyke (at UMA), Joan Ferrini-Mundy, and Ray Rice (at UMPI). **Faculty Representatives:** Lisa Leduc (at UMPI), Clyde Mitchell (at UMA), and Heather Ball. **System Staff:** Ellen Doughty, Robert Neely (at UMA), David Demers, Kay Kimball (at UMA), James Thelen (at USM), Dan Demeritt (at UMA), Ryan Low (at UMA) Donna Seppy (at UMA), Carol Kim (at UMA), Robert Placido (by Zoom) and Rosa Redonnett (at UMA). **Others Present:** Jeannine Uzzi (at USM), Kathy Yardley (at UMA), Nancy Davis Griffin (at USM), Jeff Hecker, Tex Boggs (at UMFK), Sarah Hardy (at UMF), Jason Charland, and Bob Zerker (at UMA).

**Committee Members Absent:** Michelle Hood.

Trustee Eames, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

**UM Draft Strategic Vision and Goals.** UM Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost, Mr. Jeff Hecker presented an update on the draft UM Strategic Vision and Goals. Over the past nine months, the University of Maine and its regional campus, the University of Maine at Machias, have been engaged in an open and inclusive process to develop a new strategic vision and plan. The Strategic Vision and Values process has included a series of town-hall style forums, pop-up meetings, web-based information gathering, and formal input gathering by college deans and the university's vice presidents. Well over 1,000 members of the university community have provided input. Through this process UMaine has articulated a set of strategic values that provide the foundation for developing the broad institutional goals that will realize those values. With input from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners, UM has identified goals that will guide decision making over the next five years as well as broad strategies that will be utilized to pursue those goals and key indicators to track progress.

**UMS Research & Development Plan, FY 2020.** UM/UMM President Joan Ferrini-Mundy provided an update on the FY2020 UMS Research & Development Plan. The University of Maine System Board of Trustees Declaration of Strategic Priorities identified an immediate deliverable of a multi-year plan for prioritizing expanded research and development across the University of Maine System by March 2019. The plan was developed, written, and presented at the March 24-25, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting. Since that time, the plan has been distributed to various constituencies for review and feedback. President Ferrini-Munday provided an overview of the updates to the plan since receiving the feedback about the plan.

**Increasing Affordability and Decreasing Student Debt.** UMA President Rebecca Wyke provided information on the UMS plan for Increasing Affordability and Decreasing Student Debt. Student debt is a complex problem requiring a comprehensive set of solutions involving the federal and state governments, as well as higher education. The report explores the current perceptions on student debt held nationally, Educate Maine's goals for affordability, and how Maine's Public Universities are

currently performing. Additionally, the report outlines current programs offered by the federal and state governments, as well as the University of Maine System's own programs and progress towards reducing the use of loans by its' students. President Wyke concluded the presentation with suggestions for additional efforts by the State and the UMS, towards increasing affordability and decreasing student debt.

**Update related to Naming of Institution, USM.** USM President Glenn Cummings provided information on the findings of a market research study recommending the University of Southern Maine change its name to the University of Maine - Portland. For the past year, the University of Southern Maine has been exploring a possible name change to the University of Maine - Portland. There are several reasons for this name change, including better alignment with the rest of the University of Maine System. The primary driving reason, however, is to attract out-of-state students, crucial to USM's and the System's continued growth, as well as to meeting Maine's workforce challenges. In the fall of 2018, the University of Southern Maine engaged Market Decisions and Broadreach Communications to conduct a market research study to ascertain whether a name change would generate greater interest among out-of-state students. Conducted among several hundred prospective students, guidance counselors and the parents of prospective students from Northern New England to the New York metropolitan area. Based on the data from the report and the recommendation of the market research firms, President Cummings is recommending to the Board of Trustees that USM change its name to the University of Maine – Portland. If the Trustees approve the recommendation, it would then go to the State Legislature for approval next year.

**Program Innovation Fund (PIF) 2018-2019.** UMS Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Neely provided an update on the 2018-2019 Program Innovation Fund (PIF). The UMS 2018-2019 PIF process began on September 21, 2018, with a request for pre-proposals from interested faculty on each of the seven campuses. This year's criteria is closely aligned with Board priorities to address workforce needs, increase adult attainment, and develop credentials of value, with enrollment growth, collaboration, feasibility, and expediency completing the list. A total of twenty pre-proposals were submitted. Of these, fifteen were selected by the Chief Academic Officers Council (CAOC) to move forward to the full proposal stage and twelve were finally submitted. Eight of those proposals have been selected for full or partial funding.

**Academic Partnerships (AP) Update.** UMS Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Placido provided an update on the Academic Partnerships (AP) progress. Dr. Placido summarized the work underway at UMF, UMPI and USM and explained the final steps leading into the launch of AP in the Fall 2019. There were some technological and integration issues that had to be resolved prior to the launch of AP; however, the implementation team has recently overcome those challenges and things are on-track for launch in the coming weeks. UMF Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Katherine Yardley provided an update on the AP progress at UMF. Dr. Yardley explained that there was only one UMF academic program that would be appropriate for the AP program at this time and after consultation with AP, UMF has decided to wait to launch AP at their campus until they have additional programs ready. USM Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jeannine Uzzi provided an update on the AP progress at USM. Dr. Uzzi explained that USM is moving forward with a Fall 2019 AP launch of Master's programs in Special Education, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), and Nursing.

**Revisions to Board Policy: 305 – Program Inventory and 305.1 – Academic Program Approval.** Vice Chancellor Neely provided information on the proposed revisions to Board Policies 305 and 305.1. The Administrative Procedures for Section 305.1 of Board Policy governing academic program approval took effect in 1987 and were last revised in 2010, although the accompanying program proposal form

has not been updated since 2001. In order to advance One University goals, and as part of a general review of Board policies pertaining to academic programs, the office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA) submitted a set of proposed revisions as an information item to the Academic and Student Affairs committee. One of the revisions state that Board Policy 305 - *Program Inventory*, be revised to include all academic programs, not just majors and degree programs. The revised inventory would include all concentrations, minors, associate degrees, and credit-bearing certificates. Additional revisions propose that Board Policy 305.1 be revised to streamline the approval processes and timelines, include a market research expectation, eliminate the formal intent to plan process, and make the requirement for an external review for new programs seeking approval optional. Vice Chancellor Neely is collecting feedback for these proposed revisions and will submit a final list of proposed revisions to Board Policies 305 and 305.1 at the July 15, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting for approval.

**New Academic Program Proposal: MS in Special Education (UMF).** UMF Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Ms. Kathy Yardley provided information on the UMF request to offer a Master of Science in Education (M.S.Ed.) in Special Education. The proposed program would help to alleviate a shortage of Special Education teachers in Maine, which was also confirmed by a UMS-level analysis of workforce demand. The proposed program includes an accelerated 4+1 track for students to earn both their bachelor's and master's degrees in Special Education at UMF, as well as adding a new dimension to the graduate programming at UMF. Due to UMF's long history of education and expertise in Special Education, the proposed program fits the mission of UMF, and serves as a pathway for helping UMF attract new students, as well as meeting a documented need in the State of Maine. The proposal was reviewed at all appropriate faculty and administrative levels at UMF, and was endorsed by the Chief Academic Officers Council at their April 14, 2019 meeting.

On a motion by Trustee Hustus, which was seconded by Trustee Erwin, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward this item to the Consent Agenda at the May 19-20, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and authorizes the creation of the Master of Science in Education in Special Education for the University of Maine at Farmington.

**New Academic Program Proposal: Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (USM).** Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jeannine Uzzi provided information on USM's request to offer a doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD) at their Lewiston Auburn College. The intention is to offer two tracks leading to the doctorate: the entry level OTD and the post professional OTD to bridge students from the current master's in occupational therapy to the doctorate. The primary rationale behind this request is that the accrediting body for occupational therapy (Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education – ACOTE), is moving toward a requirement for a doctorate as the entry degree to practice in the discipline. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA) is requesting an exception to UMS Board of Trustees policy to waive the requirement for external review of the proposal. Given the current master's degree in occupational therapy at USM, the existing faculty and other resources are sufficient to support this program without funding from the UMS and the program will be self-supporting

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That the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and authorizes the creation of the Doctorate in Occupational Therapy for the University of Southern Maine.

**First Year Review of Board Policy 214 – Institutional Authority on Political Matters.** Chief of Staff and General Counsel, Mr. James Thelen provided a brief update on the feedback that has been received concerning Board Policy 214- *Institutional Authority on Political Matters*, in the first year since its adoption. Mr. Thelen stated that there have been a few letters submitted from the UMA and UM Faculty Senates with questions concerning guidelines for adhering to Board Policy 214; however, he was able to provide guidance in response to each of the letters. Mr. Thelen stated that there has not been substantial feedback outside of the Faculty Senate letters, which were provided to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee in the materials for the meeting.

**Student Representatives Discussion.** The Student Representatives who were present had no items to discuss.

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Additional information about the meeting can be found on the Board of Trustees website:  
<http://staticweb.maine.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/MtgMat-ASA-051519-rev-051619.pdf?0d0f03>

Adjournment,

Heather A. Massey for  
Ellen N. Doughty, Clerk