

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine at Farmington
November 17, 2008

Academic and Student Affairs Meeting

Present: **Committee Members:** William Johnson, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee; Marjorie Medd, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee; Jean Flahive, Tamara Grieshaber, Barry McCrum, Paul Mitchell, Wayne Newell, and Charles O’Leary. **Other Trustees:** James Dowe, Norman Fournier, Charles Johnson, and Victoria Murphy. **Chancellor:** Richard Pattenau. **Faculty Representatives:** Gerald LaSala, Terry Colby, Harold Jones, and Shallee Page. **Student Representatives:** Meredith Hughes, Charles Weiss, and Catherine Siegel. **System Staff:** James Breece, Rosa Redonnett, Kelley Wiltbank.

Absent: Susan Gendron, Krisandra Horn, and Lyndel Wishcamper.

Trustees William Johnson and Marjorie Medd called the meeting to order. Trustees Johnson and Medd thanked the students for their poster sessions during the reception. The Faculty and Student Representatives on the Committee introduced themselves.

Trustee Medd reported that she attended the Climate Change conference at UM on October 21-22, 2008. The conference was excellent and very well attended.

University of Maine at Farmington Update. University of Maine at Farmington President Theodora Kalikow presented a video of UMF graduates as an illustration of the fact that the public liberal arts college experience at Farmington is a worthy alternative to the private liberal arts college experience.

UMF has a graduation rate that is above the average for its comparative cohort. Dr. Kalikow explored how the curricular experience at UMF is “redefining the liberal arts” in a way that “develops and nurtures creative leadership”. The product of this experience is successful graduates who gain admission to graduate and professional schools, enter careers, and grow into leadership positions.

Awarding of Academic Degrees. Trustee Johnson explained that in accordance with Board Policy it is required that the Board of Trustees authorize the awarding of degrees during Commencement ceremonies for the 2008-2009 academic year to those students fully recommended by the appropriate faculties and the presidents of the respective institutions and/or divisions of the University of Maine System.

On a motion by Trustee McCrum, which was seconded by Trustee O’Leary, the Academic & Student Affairs Committees agreed to forward the recommendation to the consent agenda.

Fall 2008 Enrollment. Dr. James Breece, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided an updated on the Fall 2008 enrollment. The total headcount enrollment is 23,688 which is down by 3% and full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment decreased by 1.5% compared to last year. The UMS has experienced record-high enrollments of 22,559 in its four year (bachelor’s) degree programs. Non-resident enrollment of 4,299 students is the second highest in UMS history, and includes students from 48 states and 60 countries. First-time, first-year students are up by 5.9% and first-

time, first year, out-of-state student enrollment has increased by 29.1%. The Associate Degree enrollment is down 9% which was planned as the universities move away from offering Associate Degree programs. Graduate student enrollment is down 7.6%. The Law School enrollment has increased by 5.9%. In the Distance Education area, the on-line, web based courses are up 19%.

Some of the enrollment changes are a result of a decline in in-state, part-time, non-degree, women. This group was likely impacted by the weakening economy. The area that is showing the largest increase is the first time, full-time, out-of-state baccalaureate student.

Two new reports will be available soon. The first report is on retention and the second is on admissions. These reports will provide additional data including transfer information.

Agenda for Action: a Discussion of Essential Disciplines in STEM, World Languages & Content Literacy. Dr. Breece explained that the Chancellor's Agenda for Action calls for the University of Maine System to broaden its impact on economic development through Research, Development, and Education initiatives that enhance the vitality of Maine's economy. Each of the universities in the system does teaching and research in disciplines that are essential to the future success of the state. The Committee heard from representatives from the universities who presented an overview of work being done in three essential disciplines: STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), world languages, and content literacy.

President Allyson Handley, UMA, and Provost Susan Hunter, UM, lead a discussion on the Science and Technology Strategic Initiative activities at the universities including classroom teaching, undergraduate research opportunities, and grant activity funded by the Strategic Investment Fund. The UMS Agenda for Action calls for a 25% increase in STEM graduates over the next five years. Under the adopted Maine Learning Results, by 2012 all students graduating from an accredited Maine secondary schools will be required to demonstrate that they are providing students with opportunities to access, understand, and evaluate current information and tools related to science and technology. The UMS has an obligation to prepare teachers who can offer instruction in science and technology. Further, the UMS needs to provide greater access and more in-depth instruction at the university level so that students looking to continue with their science and technology education may do so with any campus of the UMS. A cross-campus, cross-disciplinary task force develop an operational plan, which will collaboratively support the K-12 partners in mathematics and science education, and provide the framework and structure for university initiatives in promoting undergraduate and graduate degree attainment. Development of STEM capacity will only be achieved through partnership within the UMS, as well as with the public education system, the community colleges, state government, and the private sector.

Dr. Mark Lapping, Provost at USM, presented the World Language Initiative. Under the adopted Maine Learning Results, by 2012 students graduating from an accredited Maine secondary school will be required to demonstrate that they have taken a minimum of two-years of World Language study. The state of World Language instruction in Maine is currently insufficient to meet this need. The UMS has a special obligation not only to prepare teachers who can offer instruction in world languages but also to provide more instruction at the university level so that students entering the UMS institutions from Maine secondary school can continue with their World Language education. Instruction in World Languages and Cultural Studies is critical if Maine's economy is to grow and develop. It is a truism to note that increasingly Maine must trade to flourish in an ever increasingly globalized environment. Education and training in languages and cultural studies thus become more

crucial to the economic success and sustainability of Maine than ever before. Dr. Lapping discussed the World Language project, funded by the Strategic Investment Fund, and how the UMS can focus its resources in the most efficient and effective way possible to meet the challenges of an increasingly integrated world market and improve the teaching of World Languages through strategic partnerships. Central to this is the rationalization and expansion of World Language instruction across the entire System. Yet individually and collectively, the resources of the UMS institutions are limited. In an effort to redress this, the UMS is studying how and in what ways it might address and remedy this problem. The eight initiatives are as follows:

- Inventory all human resources, as well as programs and courses currently offered with the UMS in the areas of World Language and Cultural Studies
- Assess enrollment levels and capacity in current offerings for additional enrollments
- Determine how our own programs can best be expanded and in what languages and field expansion makes the most sense
- Define what “holes” exist in our current set of offerings
- Determine how the UMS can access resources and programs offered elsewhere to complement its own offerings
- Student effective collaborative approaches to World Language instruction in other states and systems, especially those in largely rural states;
- Define, through enhanced technology and other mechanisms, how current efforts might lead to a greater sharing of expertise and resources throughout the UMS; and
- Articulate a vision and a plan to meet the challenges of the Maine Learning Results as a system

Dr. Katherine Yardley, Dean of Education, Health & Rehabilitation at UMF, presented the Maine Content Literacy Project. The Maine Department of Education recently approved a \$2 million grant proposal from the University of Maine System for the Maine Content Literacy Project (MCLP). The Education deans and directors, working with the vice chancellor, submitted a grant that created collaboration between the UMS, state school districts, educational partnerships and other P-16 stakeholders to go forward with this project. The single most important school-related factor in determining student performance is the quality of teachers and this project will focus on the content area and content literacy professional development skills of PK-12 teachers, leadership skill development for administrators and collaboration between university and school faculties. The four goals of this project are:

- To increase the percent of highly qualified PK-12 teachers;
- To increase the number of teachers participating in high quality professional development activities focused on literacy in the content areas;
- To increase student achievement in the core content areas through the integration of content literacy strategies, reducing the need for remedial literacy courses at post-secondary level; and
- To create a model for sustainable, capacity-building content literacy professional development.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk