Meeting with Faculty Representatives


Absent: Susan Gendron, Tamera Grieshaber, Kevin McCarthy and Lyndel Wishcamper.

Trustee Fournier welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Robert Rice, UM
- Inquired about the current Board of Trustees calendar and when the Board meetings would return to the campuses
  - Trustee Fournier commented that the Trustees adjusted the location and meeting calendar for the Board meetings as a cost savings venture
  - Trustee Murphy stated that the Trustees Affairs Committee will take this under consideration
  - Professor Williams commented that a number of faculty at USM have also raised the issue of the Board of Trustees returning to the campuses

Bert Jacobs, UMF
- Raised a concern about the recommendation to eliminate the Senior Citizen Waiver. He has several students over the age of 80 in his classes and he believes it would be a serious mistake to put in place a financial obstacle that might eliminate this group of students. He feels these students are not there for the credit but are interested in the course topic and because enrollment is based on availability there is little budget ramifications or financial impact. It would be a disservice to the senior citizens and the System as a whole if this waiver was changed from the current policy.
  - Chancellor Pattenaude stated that in FY08, 165 Senior Citizen Waivers were granted. If seniors were charged regular fees they would be valued at $162,000.
  - USM President Selma Botman commented that each of the campuses have Life Long Learning Centers and Senior Colleges for seniors. The classes are not for credit and have a minimal fee but may be a reasonable alternative for seniors interested in academic engagement.

Terry Colby, UMA
- While the UMS is focusing on increasing enrollments, the System needs to be sure the students are academically challenged and engaged in a social environment.
- She has received emails from students interested in the UMA Nursing Program and inquiring about transfer of credits. The students were enrolled at the Community College for their general education courses and non-nursing courses because of the tuition savings and now want to transfer to UMA to finish. Professor Colby explained to the students the differences in the courses at UMA and why the tuition is higher. She feels it is important to get that message out to the students at the Community Colleges.
- She shared an email message regarding the UMS billing process. The student’s bill in July was paid in full prior to transferring to another higher education institution. This fall an email
message was sent to the student stating there was an unpaid balance of $15.94 and if this is not paid the student would not be able to attend class at any of the UMS universities. She shared this because she questioned if this was really the appropriate message to students when the circumstances are likely a communication issue.

- Trustee McCrum commented that the use of technology could alleviate this lack of communication

**Shallee Page, UMM**
- Inquired about Strategic Sourcing for Procurement
  - Chancellor Pattenaude commented that this project will go forward and the work plan has been developed.
  - Ms. Janet Waldron, Vice President for Administration and Finance at UM, commented that she is the Chair of the Task Force to review the process. The Strategic Procurement software has been recommended and it is anticipated that there will be savings associated with the software

Trustee Fournier asked Professors Rice and Jacobs if they had any feedback on the final report of the New Challenges, New Directions (NCND) Plan.

**Robert Rice, UM**
- The NCND Task Force subdivided into groups. He participated in the subcommittee that reviewed funding formulas. Many university systems use incentives related to graduation rates, recruitment, etc. It was his understanding that the Task Force agreed that any incentives would go toward rewarding goals relating to education attainment and student quality. He was surprised to see the Plan moves away from this strategy.
  - Trustee Fournier commented that the Task Force was only one of the three reports submitted to the Board
- He shared a number of good things resulting in the final report including streamlining the academic program reviews; the new areas related to energy and nursing programs; streamlined the financial systems; and the review of different financial models
  - He is concerned that the UMS is not moving fast enough in the Energy area
    - An example is the concept brought forward by Jim McClymer for an “Energy Grant Institution”.
      - President Kennedy commented that this concept was forwarded to the appropriate political leaders.
      - Chancellor Pattenaude commented that he would support this initiative.

**Bertram Jacobs, UMF**
- He stated that he is very comfortable with the Board’s discussion of the final report.

Chancellor Pattenaude commented that there will be New Challenges, New Directions updates as a regular part of the Board meetings. He also reminded the faculty representatives that in FY2010 there is $3,000 set aside from the Strategic Investment Fund for the Dialogs in the Disciplines program.

Adjournment

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk