Technology Committee Meeting


Trustee McCrum called the meeting to order.

Information Technology Portal Project Update. Mr. Ralph Caruso, Chief Information Officer, explained that in the New Challenges, New Directions Arena 1 report there was a recommendation to assess the design parameters for a UMS Portal. Portals are being developed at institutions across the country as a way to deliver a broad range of student services but also to greatly expand the virtual ability of a student to manage their entire academic career, including their academic portfolio. Numerous “virtual” student services could be combined into a front end portal through which students could receive any number of services. The development of such a portal is an expensive proposition for any individual campus and even for the System but, in the long term, this sort of development is needed if the UMS is to both deliver the kind of service our students expect and that the System remain competitive.

Through a virtual presentation, CampusCloud from Austin, Texas provided a demonstration of their Portal design. Mr. Fred Brittain from UMF provided a demonstration of the Curry College Portal and of the eCampus Portal that UMF is currently using.

Mr. Caruso stated that on the suggestion of Trustees McCarthy and McCrum an additional review of the business case for a portal is needed to see if there are can be any revenues attributed or savings gained as a result of this project. President Allyson Handley, UMA, observed that our portal products, has to first, be user friendly particularly for the students. Secondly, the product needs to be compatible with Black Board and other systems the faculty use, as well as, compatible with PeopleSoft. The adaptability of the product to all of the users will be critical.

Dr. Alan Berger, Vice President for Academic Affairs at UMF, discussed the experience with and benefits of the UMF eCampus portal. UMF has operated the eCampus since 2001.

Adjournment

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk of the Board