Academic and Student Affairs Meeting


Absent: Jean Flahive, Susan Gendron, Krisandra Horn, and Paul Mitchell.

Trustees Medd and Johnson called the meeting to order.

Academic Year Calendars. Dr. James Breece, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, explained the 2010-2011 Academic Year Calendars for the seven Universities and the Law School. Discussions are currently underway, as part of the New Challenges, New Directions to move the Universities towards a common calendar. The primary principles of a common calendar are to assist multi-campus students and to assist with offering of multi-campus collaborative programs. A Work Group made up of the Chief Academic Officers and the presidents of the faculty senates has been established to work on the common calendar. The Work Group had a beneficial discussion on the guiding principles and best practices. As a result the Work Group discovered that the concept of a locked step calendar would not be the best option but rather some flexibility and a set of parameters which could be outlined in an Administrative Practice Letter (APL). It should be one with flexibility to protect the missions of the universities and to respect the different student bodies.

Academic Program Proposal. Trustee Medd recused herself from the discussion and motion for the Academic Program Proposal. Trustee Johnson introduced the topic and Dr. Breece explained the UM proposal for the creation of a Master of Arts in Global Policy from the School of Policy and International Affairs (SPIA), a unit of the Graduate School. The MA in Global Policy is intended as a final degree for most professions in International Commerce, Global Health, and Security. Building on existing International Connections, this program will also focus on international opportunities for teaching, research, and study through collaborations with international partners, such as the University of Montenegro and the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research. Maine has no comparable graduate program with this focus and the program is designed to attract and carry approximately 10-15 new students each year. No additional funding is required.

On a motion by Trustee Fournier, which was seconded by Trustee Grieshaber, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the recommendation to the consent agenda for action.

Annual Report on Degrees Conferred (2008-09). Dr. Breece provided an overview of the 2008-2009 Degrees Conferred Annual Report. UMS awarded 5,389 degrees during the 2008-09 academic year which is a decrease of 221 over the previous year. Nearly 74% of the degrees
conferred are at the baccalaureate level, over 6% are at the associate level, over 16% are at the masters level, and nearly 3% are at the doctorate level. UM and USM conferred 70% of the degrees with UMA at 10%, UMF at 8%, UMPI at nearly 6%, UMFK at 4% and UMM at 1.5%. Over 63% of the degrees conferred were awarded to women and 37% to men. The three most popular disciplines are Education, Health Professions, and Business and Management. The Board was concerned about the reasons for the under representation of men.

**Distance Education Summary Statistics.** Dr. Breece explained that as part of the New Challenges, New Directions initiative, the System has begun compiling and reporting data of its distance education activities in a new report. Highlights from the Distance Education Summary Statistics are as follows:

- The UMS has 9,902 students served through Distance Education course delivery in the Fall 2009. This is an increase of 1,216 students or nearly 14% from the Fall 2008.
- As of the Fall 2009, 13.6% of all UMS credit hours were taken through a Distance Education course and 18.2% more Distance Education credit hours were taken in the Fall 2009 than in the previous Fall.
- Online courses are the most-utilized delivery mode for Distance Education making up 56.2% of all Distance Education credit hours, this is followed by ITV with 21%, then Distance Onsite with 18%, and Distance Video Conference with 4.8%.
- By delivery site, 56.2% of Distance Education credit hours were offered through online courses, 25.2% through University College Centers, 9.6% through campuses, 4.9% by sites, and 4.1% at the Hutchinson Center.

**Maine Economic Improvement Fund.** Dr. Breece distributed to the Board of Trustee the 2009 Annual Report on the Maine Economic Improvement Fund.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk