Meeting with Faculty Representatives


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

Trustee Fournier welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Robert Rice, UM

- Distance Education
  - It would be beneficial to determine who is taking the Distance Education classes – is it UMS students enrolling in Distance Education instead of traditional classes resulting in a revenue shifting?
  - Be sensitive to the competitive price of the distance education courses in Maine and out-of-state.

- Public Agenda
  - Understanding the State’s needs and translating that need into revenue from programs offered by our System.
  - Suggested that some academic representatives serve on the Steering Committee.

- Strategic Investment Fund
  - Suggested an independent group rank the proposals and make recommendations
    - Trustee Wishcamper commented that there is a representative from each campus working in a committee structure.

Joanne Williams, USM

- Distance Education Planning Process
  - Ask about the strategies to accomplish the goals for Distance Education and how are the challenges regarding the programmatic approach and the lack of centralization being resolved.
    - Chancellor Pattenaude responded that several groups will provide input to the development of a comprehensive approach on what will be taught and how, through Distance Education.

Shallee Page, UMM

- Asked about the Distance Education timeline
  - President Handley commented that a national search is underway to replace Chris LeGore, Director of Distance Education, who is retiring and the position description is being reviewed and expanded. The Search Committee has broad System representation.
  - President Botman feels that the UMS needs to accelerate the Distance Education planning process. Currently UMS has a moratorium on adding on-line degree programs. She suggested developing a different process for approval of new degree programs versus offering an existing degree program using a different delivery mode.
- Dr. Jim Breece, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, spoke about the new Distance Education Summary Statistics Report. There has been an explosion in on-line courses and credit hours. The UMS has experienced a growth of 18% in Distance Education within the last year. The moratorium on Distance Education programs was a short-term decision in order to develop a coordinated approach.
- Trustee Wishcamper suggested that the UMS set deadlines and introduce some flexibility into the process with a focus on outcomes.
- Dr. Breece stated that a Distance Education program approval process is currently being reviewed by the Chief Academic Officers.
- Trustee McCarthy commented that the Technology Committee has been working on a delivery mechanism and there are two proposals being reviewed. A consultant has been hired to help the Committee with the technology options that would be fully integrated with PeopleSoft and on-line delivery.

Adjournment

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk