Presidents’ Meeting with the Board and Chancellor


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

Trustee Wishcamper called the meeting to order and asked the Presidents for comments on the discussions from the morning’s Committee meetings.

President Allyson Handley, UMA
- Thanked the Board for their support for the Gannet building gift
- The distance on-line area has very complex issues in the academic area as well as with hardware and software.
  - One priority is to have a unified marketing approach for on-line courses
  - Some recommendations in the Distance Education area will be brought forward to the Board at the March meeting

President Richard Cost, UMFK
- Raised a concern that the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) not become so structured that it would impede the process and lose the ability to have some flexibility to address Board priorities.
- The Board needs to control the final decisions on the SIF.

President Selma Botman, USM
- Shared several positive things happening at USM
  - Hannaford Corporation has provided a $250 thousand donation towards replacing the athletic field.
  - Wright Express Corporation has donated $40 thousand for a merit scholarship program.
  - Becky Stockbridge, a USM graduate, was named by Business Week as one of the top 25 finalists for the 2009 American Best Young Entrepreneurs Award.
  - USM has hired a Director of Development to work with Meg Westin.
President Robert Kennedy, UM
- UM received a $12.4 million grant for the wind energy. The grant allows for expansion of the wood composites lab which will set the stage for prototypes and allow 145 people to be hired.
  - Strategic Investment Fund (SIF)
    - Suggested an outside merit review of the SIF proposals.
    - The number of proposals being submitted may become problematic; therefore, a pre-review would be beneficial to cull out the proposals that do not qualify.

President Donald Zillman, UMPI
- Strategic Investment Fund (SIF)
  - The UMS needs to be specific on how the Board will use the Fund.
  - Presidents need to have specific guidelines to assist the faculty with their proposals
- Maine’s Public Agenda
  - Commented that two of the critical players are the Maine Community College System and the gubernatorial candidates and both need to be involved in the development of the Public Agenda.

Chancellor Pattenaude
- Clarified that SIF proposals will be brought forward by a president or a group of presidents.

President Cynthia Huggins, UMM
- Distance Education is a very important topic for UMM
  - 30% of UMM tuition is from Distance Education.
  - UMM has been waiting for approval on an existing program to be offer through Distance Education.
  - Other campus decisions are pending the Distance Education decisions.
- UMM enrollment and budget has stabilized.
- UMM Environmental Liberal Arts Brand is now established.
  - A couple of new Associate Degree programs are being developed.

President Theodora Kalikow, UMF
- Public Agenda is fabulous but there is work to be done with gubernatorial candidates.
- The criteria for the SIF needs to be focused more on revenue generation and savings.
- UMF is engaged in a campus-wide process for long term systemic change.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk