Meeting with Student Representatives


Absent: Eleanor Baker, Jean Flahive, Susan Gendron and Kevin McCarthy.

Trustee Fournier called the meeting to order.

Follow-up topics from previous meetings:

Visiting Home High Schools
- Ms. Rosa Redonnett, Executive Director for Student Affairs, provided the Student Representatives with an update on each campus program for utilizing student ambassadors to recruit students.
- Many of these programs include having Student Ambassadors, Tour Guides, and Tele-counselors.
- With some exceptions, these programs do not create formalized methods to send students home to their high schools.
- The Student Representatives will return to their individual campuses to ask the Admissions Departments if they would prefer that these programs be created through their Department or through other student groups to assure these are created in a manner that will best represent each University.

Course Cycling/Offering Availability
- This idea/recommendation has gone from Ms. Redonnett to each campus Student Records Office and the Chief Academic Officer’s to be reviewed. This information should be included during the creation of the course catalogs which will take place in the Spring (2010).

Portal
- There have been focus groups formed and there will be extensive student input during these groups about the issues that student may encounter with the portal and the features students would like to see.
- The Student Representatives will be attending the focus groups on their campuses and advocating for the needs of each campus’ students so this input can be conveyed to the Technology Committee.
Advocacy at the Maine Legislative
- Dustin Ward from USM and Rebecca Dyer from UM gave testimony about the burdens of the rising cost of education and the value of education for Maine students before the Legislative Committees on Appropriation and Financial Affairs and Education and Cultural Affairs on January 14th, 2010.
- The Student Representatives have been informed that a new Student Trustee has been nominated by Governor Baldacci. Mr. Benjamin Goodman from UM will be going before the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on Friday, March 19th for confirmation hearing. He is very enthusiastic about the prospects of stepping into this position and was introduced at the Board meeting.
- The Student Representatives will continue to get to know their local Legislators to advocate for the importance of education to Maine’s students and the future of the State of Maine.

New Topics:
University of Maine System Student Coalition
- The Student Representatives have developed the University of Maine System Student Coalition.
- The goal of the Coalition is to have more time to meet to discuss topics with students within the University of Maine System.
- The Coalition will include the Board of Trustee Student Representatives, but will also have other voices from the campus, such as student government leadership and other campus students.
- The Coalition will meet at times that surround the Board of Trustees meetings so that discussions, sentiments and input as a group can be presented to the Board of Trustees.

Chancellor Pattenaude suggested the bond referendum could be a possible agenda item for the Coalition. All of the UMS students need to be aware of what is included in the bond and encouraged to participate by voting in June. As part of the bond $9 million will be for the UMS for energy improvements and additional funds have been earmarked for UM for energy projects.

Trustee Johnson encouraged the Student Representatives and other students to attend the Advancing Maine Summit on April 6, 2010 at UM.

Trustee Wishcamper encouraged the Student Representatives to continue with the recruitment activities and to discuss other possibilities with Ms. Redonnett. Ms. Julie-Ann Scott, Graduate Student Representative from UM, commented that they want to connect with other stakeholders without duplicating the efforts of the campus staff.

Ms. Rebecca Dyer, UM, stated that this will be her last meeting as the Student Representative to the Board of Trustees and thanked the Board for their public service. Trustee Fournier stated that the Board has enjoyed working with her and thanked her for her energy, leadership and dedication to higher education in Maine.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk