Meeting with Faculty Representatives


Absent: Tamera Grieshaber, Kevin McCarthy, and Lyndel Wishcamper.

Trustee Fournier welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Robert Rice, UM
- Thanked the Board for a good discussion at the retreat.
  - He said at the retreat, there was some talk of formulating a business plan and putting it together with elements of Advancing Maine.
  - The System needs to communicate the strengths of the System to constituencies like guidance counselors and Legislators.
- Suggested making changes to the beginning of the Advancing Maine document to emphasize the positive things the Universities are doing.
- Asked that the System ensure there is faculty buy-in of enrollment management/marketing work.
  - Chancellor Pattenaude said the System has included faculty in the RFP process, and each campus will have faculty on its enrollment team, because what happens in the classroom has a big effect on retention.
- In response to a question from Trustee Fournier on faculty responses to student concerns on tuition hikes, Professor Rice said when this comes up, they point out that it is attributable to the higher costs of operation.
- Has heard feedback that some comments and feedback were not well-represented in the Portal final report based on the portal survey.
  - Chancellor Pattenaude said he will look into that.

Terry Colby, UMA
- She commented that during the student meeting, there were a lot of questions around rising tuition. She asked whether, as part of the Noel-Levitz work or other studies, the System will try to learn the reasons students leave.
  - Chancellor Pattenaude said tuition and fees will be part of the conversation on retention.

Kim-Anne Perkins, UMPI
- For many students, financial aid equals debt.
- The System has to work on ways for the people of Maine to understand that tuition is worth the higher earning power a degree will give graduates.
Lois-Ann Kuntz, UMM
- Room and board is an important consideration for out-of-state students.
  - In focus groups at UMM with student athletes, it was communicated that many were losing their out-of-state teammates because they couldn’t afford to come back to Maine.
- Asked whether the percentages that go to the small university fund would change if the MEIF fund gets an additional Appropriation.
  - Chancellor Pattenaude said he would look into that, if the Appropriation increases.

Joanne Williams, USM
- Inquired about the status of the portal project is at this time.
  - Chancellor Pattenaude said most university systems have some sort of broad based student portal that increases student satisfaction.
  - Ms. Wyke said at this point, the status hasn’t changed much. She said her staff is working on a business case that would investigate the issue and make recommendations, and that report would go to the IT committee when it’s complete.

Adjournment

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk