Meeting with Student Representatives


Absent: Eleanor Baker, Angela Faherty, Benjamin Goodman, and Tamera Grieshaber.

Trustee Fournier called the meeting to order and welcomed the Student Representatives.

Nathan Grant, Graduate Student Representative, USM
- USM is involved in several energy upgrades and improvements to campus facilities.
- Today the student representatives met with Frank Gerry, Director of Labor Relations, to discuss collective bargaining issues.
- Students at USM have been reaching out to Legislators to advocate for higher education.

Ashley Willems-Phaneuf (for Anastasia Alexis), USM
- USM Student Higher Education Alliance held a meeting with 20 student and 7 Legislators to talk about the importance of higher education.
  - System-wide course transfer credits was an important topic discussed by this group.
  - The students would like to make this Alliance state-wide.

Trustee Wishcamper
  - It may be helpful for students to meet with the new Governor.
  - It is important for the Legislature to see the impact of financial aid.

Zole Hawthorn, UMA
- Many students at UMA took advantage of the five trips organized for community service.
  - Community service trips have been to the following areas: Haiti, Pennsylvania for Habitat for Humanity and New Orleans for the hurricane clean up.
  - Many of these trips are for alternative spring breaks.
  - The trips are financed partly by the campus and the remainder by the student.
- The external review of the UMA President went well and several students participated in the process.

Evan Scott-Pollock, Graduate Student Representative, UM
- UM graduate student newsletter was distributed
The Graduate Student Government awarded $29,000 in grants funded from student activity fees. Graduate Research Exposition will be held on April 21 & 22 in Wells Common with a focus on Humanities and New Media.

**Residence Hall Occupancy Rates**

Trustee Wishcamper
- The occupancy rate in the residence halls is 91% and asked the student representatives what suggestions they have to help increase these rates.

Evan Scott-Pollock
- A dedicated dorm for graduate students has helped increase the occupancy rates at UM.
- Cost of room and board is the main factor.

Zole Hawthorn
- Housing for UMA would be beneficial.

Ashley Willems-Phaneuf
- At USM the first and second year students traditionally live in Gorham and older students prefer Portland.

The group had a general discussion about how room and board fees for the UMS could become more competitive with the private sector.
- President Kalikow spoke on the impact on the room and board fees such as staffing, programming, and financial aid. There was further general discussions.
- It was suggested that it could be beneficial to use scholarships to assist with housing and more strategic marketing of the housing and dining plans. Part of the high cost of housing was the mandatory inclusion of dining plans.
- Trustee Wishcamper asked the Chancellor to review the cost structure so UMS can become more competitive because he feels 91% occupancy rate is not acceptable.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk