

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine System
July 18, 2011

Meeting with the Presidents

Present: Michelle Hood, Chair; Samuel Collins, Vice Chair; Eleanor Baker, Norman Fournier, Benjamin Goodman, Tamera Grieshaber, Gregory Johnson, Kevin McCarthy, Marjorie Medd, Paul Mitchell, Victoria Murphy (by phone), Karl Turner, and Lyndel Wishcamper. **Chancellor:** Richard Pattenau. **University Presidents:** Selma Botman, Paul Ferguson, Allyson Handley, Wilson Hess, Cynthia Huggins, Theodora Kalikow, and Donald Zillman. **System Staff:** Tracy Bigney, James Breece, Rosa Redonnett, Kelley Wiltbank and Rebecca Wyke.

Absent: Kurt Adams, Stephen Bowen, and Bonnie Newsom.

Trustee Hood called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to President Wilson Hess to lead a discussion on academic quality. President Hess opened the discussion explaining that it is a major challenge is how to balance academic quality and “Systemness”. The “perception” of academic quality for our institutions is more important than the “actual” academic quality. He referenced points from the 2011 Pew Research Center Survey and documents from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) of benchmarks of effective educational practice and the hours per week full-time students spent on selective activities which he provided. The documents outlined some of the ways to measure academic quality. Examples are: student engagement surveys, student examinations, graduation rates, retention rates, and accreditation.

Discussions then centered around the following topics:

- College readiness and how it is defined
- The level of college readiness of students directly effecting the institution’s success rate
- What are the Governor’s expectations and desired outcomes for higher education in Maine
- What areas of investment are available and at what level will they be needed to increase graduation rates
- Establishment of standards or benchmarks that are acceptable for all campuses
- How to effectively use technology to collect better data on our students

Adjournment,

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk