Meeting with Faculty Representatives


Absent: Kurt Adams, Stephen Bowen, Tamera Grieshaber, Gregory Johnson, Kevin McCarthy and Lyndel Wishcamper

Trustee Collins welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Robert Rice, UMaine
- Academic quality: All of the campuses have faculty specialists in academic quality and suggested including the faculty in the academic quality discussions
- Indicators of quality: Each campus has a different mission and competes differently so there needs to be clear distinctions when defining quality
- Distance Education and Return on Investment (ROI): Nationally distance education is costly. Is UMS tracking the ROI on its distance education program?

Karen Barrett, UMF
- Distance Education: Asked if the UMS is targeting new markets or are students moving from classroom instruction to distance education. She also asked what are the demographics of the on-line students.
- Perception versus Truth: The current perception is our on-line learning is an initiative of UMA not a System initiative and that perception needs to the changed.
- UMS has to get the OnlineMaine business plan correct the first time in order for it to succeed.

Chancellor Pattenaude stated the UMS is addressing the needs of the students while at the same time managing resources so UMS is not duplicating it efforts. Many of the UMS students currently enrolled in classroom instruction are also taking on-line classes because of scheduling challenges in order for the students to graduate on time. He suggested a survey of students taking on-line courses. UMS has needed to centralized distance education and now with OnlineMaine the student data can be tracked. Chancellor Pattenaude stated the online learning business plan continues to be refined.

Chris Bates, UMA
- Asked if there would be benefits to standardization of on-line classes such as: class size and compensation and is there a saturation point for on-line classes
Chancellor Pattenaude commented that the Teaching for Technology Committee (T4) is looking into many of these issues regarding distance education. Professor Rice asked if the current timeline is appropriate for getting OnlineMaine up and running with a sufficient number of offerings.

Trustee Turner commented that he feels the UMS is not moving quickly enough. Trustee Medd agreed with Trustee Turner’s comments and feels expanding OnlineMaine is a way to keep students in the State and to keep tuition costs down, making higher education more affordable. Trustee Murphy commented that we need to keep in mind the UMS is not the only competition in the State. Trustee Collins stated that OnlineMaine needs to be promoted as a cost savings and recruitment tool.

Valerie Hart, USM
- The faculty worry about the quality of on-line classes and some courses cannot be effectively delivered on-line.

President Zillman commented that UMS needs to have flexibility on tuition for on-line courses and to think outside of the box.

Kim-Ann Perkins, UMPI
- She is working with some of the new Chinese students and the effort is going well. The Chinese students add diversity to the campus. The level of appreciation from the students is immeasurable and there is a great deal of respect. She has a concern that UMS may not be meeting their English as a Second Language (ESL) needs and asked what is the responsibility to offer additional services to these students that need an increased level of ESL assistance.

Dr. James Breece, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, commented that he shares the concern about unmet ESL needs for the Chinese students. He differentiated that there are multiple Chinese initiatives. The Chinese students currently at UMPI are from the UMPI initiative not the System initiative. With the System initiative the students must meet the university’s admission criteria. All of the Chinese student admissions are being processed through a central office coordinated by Karen Boucias, Director of the UMaine International Programs Office, and the students who do not meet the ESL criteria are sent to ESL programs at USM and UM and will not be matriculated until the student meets the campus ESL criteria. The System hosted a System-wide summit last year to identify and focus on the Chinese student needs.

Ray Albert, UMFK
- Health and Wellness Efforts: He commented that there is a concern about the collection of health data by a 3rd party. For privacy and security reasons the health data should remain with the Primary Care Physician (PCP) and the PCP could be the agent. A 10% discount price on premiums is not the issue and some would be willing to pay the additional premium cost to ensure the data is not being shared. He is very concerned about how the health data will be used by the 3rd party vendor.

Tracy Bigney, Chief Human Resources and Organization Development Officer, stated that the UMS doesn’t want the employee’s health information and the Committee also had concerns with the health plan provider having the employee’s health information; therefore a 3rd party
vendor was selected. One very important aspect and benefit to using a 3rd party vendor is the ability to provided aggregate information about the UMS population which will then help to focus on the needed activities.

Professor Karen Barrett announced that there will be a memorial service for Bert Jacobs on September 30th at 11:45 am in the Nordica Auditorium in Merrill Hall at UMF.

Adjournment

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Witbank, Clerk