Academic Affairs Committee Meeting


Committee Members Absent: Michelle Hood.

Trustee Johnson called the meeting to order.

**Awarding of Academic Degrees.** Trustee Grieshaber explained that Board approval is needed for the awarding of degrees during Commencement ceremonies for the 2011-2012 academic year to those students fully recommended by the appropriate faculties and the presidents of the respective institutions and/or divisions of the UMS.

On a motion by Trustee Medd, which was seconded by Trustee Newsom, the Academic Affairs Committee agreed to forward the recommendation to the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Johnson suggested that the Board permanently delegate to the Presidents the authority to approve the Awarding of Academic Degrees. Dr. James Breece, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs agreed to pursue this delegation of authority.

**New Academic Program: Bachelor of Architecture, UMA.** President Allyson Handley, UMA, explained the proposed creation of a Bachelor of Architecture Degree (BArch) at UMA. The five-year professional degree builds on UMA’s four-year pre-professional degree to establish professional training for a career as a licensed architect or in a related field. The professional degree is an essential requirement toward the licensure of an architect, and currently no such degree exists in Maine at either the undergraduate or graduate level.

On a motion by Trustee Collins, which was seconded by Trustee Medd, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the recommendation to the Consent Agenda.

**Update on new Program Development & Tourism Report for the Legislature.** President Selma Botman, USM, explained that last spring, the Maine Legislature asked the UMS to work with the Maine Community College System and representatives from the State’s tourism industries to explore the creation of a Hospitality and Hotel Management baccalaureate degree program. This stakeholder group was charged with submitting a report on the necessity, feasibility, and financial implications of creating such a program to the Board of Trustees.

This workgroup met several times and proposed the development of a new interdisciplinary program in Tourism and Hospitality at USM that would collaborate with the other six UMS universities statewide. The program would consist of core courses and concentrations in Tourism Promotion,
Dean Ivan Manev from the UMaine College of Business, Public Policy and Health and Dean Joseph McDonnell from the USM College of Management and Human Services as well as Mr. Steven W. Hewins, Vice President for AAA Northern New England spoke about the importance of an interdisciplinary program in tourism and hospitality and reinforced the industry’s support for the program.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk