UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine System
January 23, 2012

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting


Committee Members Absent: None

Trustee Johnson called the meeting to order.

New Academic Program – USM Master of Laws (LL.M). Dr. Peter Pitegoff, Dean of the Maine School of Law, explained that the University of Maine School of Law is proposing the creation of a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree, a professional degree program directed primarily at educating foreign lawyers and graduates of law schools from foreign countries. It is intended to provide those students with a basic understanding of the U.S. legal system, as well as the opportunity to take advanced training in specialized areas of law. The demand from foreign lawyers for graduate degrees from U.S. law schools has greatly increased, as evidenced by the number of law schools offering successful post-professional degrees programs to foreign lawyers.

A current member of the faculty will assume the position of Director of the LL.M. program and current faculty at the School of Law will teach students in the program. Enrollment will be limited to ensure that the Law School’s existing resources are adequate to serve the student’s needs without placing any undue burden on the existing J.D. program, and to allow for individual attention to LL.M. students within the Maine Law community. If approved, this program will be implemented in the Fall of 2012.

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

Academic Program Suspension, UMPI. Dr. James Breece, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, explained that this is to inform the Board of Trustees that the Chancellor has recently approved the suspension of two academic programs at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. UMPI had requested the suspension of the B.A. in International Studies, Political Science concentration and the B.A. in Behavioral Studies, Sociology concentration due to low enrollments in both programs. AFUM and local faculty were consulted and the programs will be taught out for any students remaining.

The suspension of these two programs effectively suspends the B.A. in International Studies and the B.A. in Behavioral Studies as there are no other concentrations under these majors. According to procedure, none of these programs can remain suspended for longer than three years. By the end of the third year, the university must decide whether to restructure and re-institute the programs or to
eliminate them. In the case of a decision to eliminate, the university must initiate the formal elimination process for each academic program.

**Update on new Program Developments: STEM; Business-University Partnerships for IT & CS; and Innovation Engineering** Dr. Breeze provided an update on the new program developments. According to the Maine Department of Labor, one in seven new jobs in the state will be STEM-related over the next decade. In response, the University of Maine System is taking a multi-pronged approach to meet the needs of the state’s businesses and citizens to promote STEM education through a number of initiatives that include an over-arching system approach and a discipline-based approach. In these initiatives, many of which are funded through the Strategic Investment Fund, the UMS is working with private industry and policymakers to expand existing capacity to be responsive to State programs that promote STEM education.

**STEM Initiative**
Dr. Susan Hunter, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of Maine, provided an update on STEM activities. Faculty and staff in the University of Maine System are collaborating on a Science and Technology Strategic Initiative. The goals of this initiative are to identify opportunities to fill needs and tap existing academic resources and capacity, determine which existing programs can be expanded, and investigate collaborative opportunities to meet existing and future workforce needs. The initial goal of this initiative is to increase the number of STEM graduates by 25% over the next five years. In addition, the UMS is an active participant in the Governor’s newly-created STEM Council.

**Computer Science and Information Technology Partnership**
Mr. Glenn Wilson, Associate Professor of Technology and Senior Research Scientist at the University of Southern Maine, and Mr. George Hogan, Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer at Wright Express provided an update on the Computer Science and Information Technology Partnership. The University of Maine System is working with representatives from private industry in Maine to address the projected shortfall in the number of Baccalaureate and Masters graduates in Information Science and Technology from Maine’s public universities. The partnership will produce recommendations and action steps for both business and higher education that will increase enrollments and graduation rates. The goal is to double the number of annual graduates within four years.

**Innovation Engineering**
Mr. Jake Ward, Assistant Vice President for Research, Economic Development, and Governmental Relations and Ms. Renee Kelly, Director of Economic Development Initiatives, both from the University of Maine provided an update on Innovation Engineering. Innovation Engineering teaches students a systematic approach to innovation. The fundamental concepts of the program include tools and methods for creating, communicating, and commercializing ideas. The University of Maine is leading a system-funded effort to support programs on each campus. The Innovation Engineering minor is currently offered at four UMS universities and by May of 2013, it will be expanded to each of them.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk