Meeting with Student Representatives


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

The Student Representatives meeting was Chaired by Anastasia Alexis from USM and Katie Foster from UM was the Facilitator.

- The Student Representatives explained that this is their first meeting with the chair/facilitator model and they hope the transition went smoothly. They thanked the Board of Trustees for their support during the structuring.

- The Student Representatives thanked the Board for implementing the tuition freeze which was approved at the January Board meeting.

- Ms. Katie Crepeau was introduced as the incoming Student Representative from UMFK.

- The Student Representatives thanked Chancellor Pattenaude for his service to the System and the Board and they welcomed Dr. Page and look forward to working with him.

- The Student Representatives approached the topic of a potential formal evaluation for academic advisors. The advisors are a critical component that assists with recruitment and retention. The students have the opportunity to provide feedback on their professors but not on their advisors. Some advisors are very effective and the students would like to have the opportunity for that skill to be acknowledged and have an impact on the advisors’ ability to gain tenure or a promotion.
  - Chancellor Pattenaude commented that the UMS needs to ensure all students have good advising and there should be an opportunity for the students to provide feedback.
  - The Presidents commented that there was the opportunity for this through the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) which evaluates advisors. There is also an opportunity to provide feedback and to nominate excellent advisors.

- The Student Representatives are also looking for innovative ways to unite communities and campuses. Examples of this would be student involvement by campus internships, sessions to assist students with creating resumes, and career counseling.
• The students suggested a “major events” link or section on the student portal that highlights the significant events on all of the campuses to encourage student attendance from other campuses.

**Campus Reports:**

**Brianna Hughes, Graduate Student, UM**
• The University of Maine Graduate Student Government is hosting the 14th annual GradExpo on April 12-13, 2012. She passed out invitations to the Trustees and invited UMF and USM graduate students to participate. More information on the GradExpo is available on their website at: http://www2.umaine.edu/gsg/grad-expo/.

**Anastasia Alexis, USM**
• USM Student Government is looking into restructuring in order to refocus student involvement and decrease apathy.

**Katie Foster, UM**
• Highlighted the success of the Engineers without Borders program and the $25,000 Newman’s Own Grant that the Program received in support of their student designed community sanitation program in Honduras.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk