Academic Affairs Committee Meeting


Committee Members Absent: None

Trustee Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Executive Session

On a motion by Trustee Grieshaber, which was seconded by Trustee Hood, the Academic Affairs Committee went into Executive Session under the provisions of 1 MRSA Section 405 6 A for the purpose of discussing personnel issues.

On a motion by Trustee Hood, which was seconded by Trustee Medd, the Academic Affairs Committee concluded the Executive Session.

International Student Centers Update. Dr. James Breece, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided an update of the International Student Centers. The University of Maine System recently issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), seeking a partnership with a private firm to establish international study centers within the University of Maine System. The partnering firm would recruit international students and operate the study centers that would teach them English, study skills, and introductory courses. After a year at the study centers, the students will matriculate into one of the seven UMS universities.

Academic Programs. Dr. Breece explained that the University of Maine at Augusta is proposing the creation of two academic programs: an Associate of Science in Rehabilitation Therapy and an Associate of Science in Nutrition. Both of these programs are designed to fulfill requirements with international institutions of higher education and as a gateway of entry to the UMS, these programs will act as an intermediary step toward baccalaureate degrees when combined with additional study at other UMS universities. New personnel will not be needed to implement either program. Existing full-time faculty will teach the courses.

Dr. Breece explained that at the Board of Trustees meeting on May 23, 2011, the board approved three new academic programs. They approved the creation of an Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies and an Associate of Science in Applied Sciences at the University of Maine; and an Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies at the University of Maine at Farmington. These associate degree options were intended to serve foreign students who transfer to and matriculate at those universities under the terms of a specific articulation agreement as required by a foreign partnering university. During the implementation process, officials from both UM and UMF encountered
obstacles and decided not to pursue the next step of seeking approval from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). In order to maintain an accurate academic program inventory, Vice Chancellor Breece is requesting that the Board rescind the programs approved in May of 2011.

On a motion by Trustee Medd, which was seconded by Trustee Newsom, the Academic Affairs Committee agreed to forward to the Consent Agenda for action the creation of an Associate of Science in Rehabilitation Therapy and an Associate of Science in Nutrition at UMA; and that the Board rescind the degree programs that were approved for UM: the Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies and Associate of Science in Applied Sciences and UMF: Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies.

**Student Learning Outcomes Measures: Discussion.** Dr. Breece explained the Student Learning Outcomes Measures. The University of Maine System provides students with high-quality, accessible and affordable learning opportunities. As part of this effort, UMS continuously works to enhance student achievement and success. In order to determine how students are performing, the universities regularly assess student learning outcomes. Each of the universities in the System is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE), of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Accreditation with NEASC is an affirmation of overall institutional and educational quality.

The Chief Academic Officers from four universities provided an overview on how student learning outcomes are assessed in the UMS. Dr. Michael Sonntag, Vice President for Academic Affairs at UMPI, spoke about the NEASC accreditation. Dr. Rachel Albert, Vice President for Academic Affairs at UMFK, discussed the Voluntary System of Accountability. Dr. Susan Hunter, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at UM presented an overview of the National Survey of Student Engagement. Dr. Stuart Swain, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at UMM discussed program assessments.

After consultation with the Human Resources and Labor Relations Committee, the Academic Affairs Committee voted on the following agenda item.

**Awarding of Tenure.**

On a motion by Trustee Medd, which was seconded by Trustee Collins, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward to the Consent Agenda for action the recommendation to grant tenure to Dr. Michael Stevenson, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Southern Maine on the date that he assumes a full-time faculty position after leaving the position of Provost. Trustee Newsom opposed the motion.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk