UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
at the University of Maine System  
July 9, 2012  

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting


Committee Members Absent: Tamera Grieshaber

Trusted Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Executive Session

On a motion by Trustee Newsom, which was seconded by Trustee Medd, the Academic Affairs Committee went into Executive Session under the provisions of 1 MRSA Section 405 6-A for the discussion and consideration of the appointment of tenure.

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

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. William Dee Nichols, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development and tenure as Professor of Education at the University of Maine.

Chancellor Update on Academic Affairs Office

Chancellor James Page stated that he suspended, for the time being, the Office of Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs pending a review of the services that are provided to the campuses. The System level Academic Affairs responsibilities have been redistributed. The Chancellor has asked the Chief Academic Officers to engage in a self-study and hope to have delivery of the results by the end of the calendar year. This self-study will outline their views on the type and level of leadership and administrative support that the System should be offering to the campuses on Academic Affairs.

Strategic Plan, UM

University of Maine President, Dr. Paul Ferguson, stated that in November 2011, the strategic planning process was initiated at the University of Maine. The Strategic Planning Leadership Team met weekly from November of 2011 until April of 2012 and engaged in a consensus-driven process that included substantial outreach to the university community and feedback from University constituents. The result is the "Blue Sky Project: Reaffirming Public Education at Maine's Flagship University." This plan sets a framework for innovative and entrepreneurial growth, and charts a course for fiscal sustainability through 2017. The plan consists of five pathways, each with a series of metrics and implementation strategies:

1. Serving our State: Catalyzing Maine's Revitalization
2. Securing our Future: Ensuring Financial Sustainability
3. Embracing a Culture of Excellence: Promoting Spirit, Community, and Collaboration
4. Transforming Lives: Strengthening the UMaine Undergraduate and Graduate Student Experience
5. Restoring the Dream: Renewing Pride and Stewardship of Place

On a motion by Trustee Newsom, which was seconded by Trustee Medd, the Academic Affairs Committee agreed to forward to the Consent Agenda for action the University of Maine Strategic Plan.

**UMM Mission Statement.** University of Maine at Machias President, Dr. Cynthia Huggins, commented that the Board of Trustees Policy 301 states: "The Board of Trustees, as the legal governance body for the University of Maine System, establishes the policies that enable the System institutions to provide higher education of excellent quality to Maine and its citizens. One of the most important Board responsibilities is the approval of mission statements and strategic plans for the System and for the universities." Consistent with that charge, the University of Maine at Machias is requesting Board approval for a change to its mission statement.

The proposed Mission Statement for the University of Maine at Machias is as follows:

Through our Environmental Liberal Arts core, distinctive baccalaureate programs, and student-centered community, the University of Maine at Machias creates enriching educational opportunities that prepare graduates for professional success and lifelong engagement with the world. UMM embodies an active community of diverse learners who share a commitment to exploration, leadership, collaboration, and interdisciplinary problem solving. Inspired by our unique coastal location, UMM's creative energy, applied research, and community engagement enhance the social, cultural, economic, and natural environments of the State of Maine.

On a motion by Trustee Collins, which was seconded by Trustee Medd, the Academic Affairs Committee agreed to forward to the Consent Agenda for action the UMM Mission Statement.

**Program Elimination, UM.** Dr. Susan Hunter, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at University of Maine, explained the proposal to eliminate an academic program: the Master of Science Degree in Accounting based on the following:

- Between 2009 and 2011, the MS in Accounting Program was transformed into a concentration within the MBA Program;
- In May 2011, a formal proposal for completion of the elimination in 2012-2013 was completed; and
- In March 2012, The Final Report for the elimination of the MS in Accounting Program was submitted by Dean Ivan Manev.

The Program Creation and Reorganization Review Committee (PCRRC) assessment and recommendations provided the following rationale:

- There is a clear outline of the transformation rather than the elimination of the program.
- There is a compelling case for the reasons why the former Master of Science in Accounting Program did not meet its original expectations after approximately 10 years of operation. In
addition, it explains the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation issues that would be encountered if a Master of Science in Accounting Program were to continue with the current number of accounting faculty.

• The transformation has had minimal impact on the cost of instruction, research and public service. Moreover, no faculty were retrenched or reassigned during the restructuring. Finally, the restructuring from an Master of Science in Accounting Program to a concentration within the MBA Program does not negatively impact the mission of the University of Maine Business School.

On a motion by Trustee Hood, which was seconded by Trustee Newsom, the Academic Affairs Committee agreed to forward to the Consent Agenda the elimination of the Master of Science Degree in Accounting at UMaine.

UM Academic Program Reinstatement. Dr. Hunter explained that UMaine will be reinstating an academic program. The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre at the University of Maine was suspended in 2011, due to the anticipated loss of faculty in the Theatre/Dance division. Subsequent to the suspension the remaining faculty analyzed and revised the program to ensure a quality educational experience in Theatre consistent with the workload of three full-time faculty members. The new B.A. in Theatre proposal was reviewed and approved by the College of Liberal Arts Academic Council and the Undergraduate Program Curriculum Committee.

The new program has also been recommended for reinstatement by the department chair, the dean, the vice president for academic affairs and provost, the faculty senate and the president. Chancellor Page approved the reinstatement of the program. This action is based on the program's importance to the University of Maine's mission and the state, the anticipation of increased enrollment in the major, and a plan for financial stability and viability in the future.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk