Meeting with Faculty Representatives


Absent: Stephen Bowen, Tamera Grieshaber, Kevin McCarthy, and Lyndel Wishcamper.

Trustee Collins welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Robert Rice, UMaine
- He stated that the role of the Board of Trustees has changed over time and asked the Trustees their thoughts on whether Trustees viewed themselves as policy makers versus managers.
- He commented that it appeared that the Board has moved from high level initiatives and discussions to more detailed discussions
  - Trustee Medd commented that the Board Committee work is very different from the Board meetings.
  - Trustee Turner stated that Trustees should not be managers. The Board sets the policies and direction and allows the managers to manage the operation.
  - Trustee Murphy stated the composition of the Board and management change over time; therefore, the Board’s focus changes.
  - Trustee Collins commented that management asks the Trustees, particularly if the Trustee has a specific skill set, for opinion, guidance, and value. The Trustees are not interested in running the day to day operation of the System, but focus more of the policy side of the business.
  - Trustee Johnson stated that greater specificity is needed in looking at policy implementation. Trustees are looking at this in a more disciplined way and more objectively. It is a volatile time in public higher education and the Board needs to be engaged.

Karen Barrett, UMF
- She commented that faculty and staff are great assets and asked how the faculty can be more engaged with the Board to meet the significant challenges that the System is facing.
  - Trustee Hood stated that there is a delicate balance between governance and management and the right level of input from the faculty is needed. She commented that she would like the Faculty Representatives to develop an agenda for each meeting with the Board, like the Student Representatives have done. The agendas could raise very specific issues that could be addressed at the Committee level or topics for the entire Board to address. The Faculty Representatives’ role should be related to these issues. This input can that be incorporated into the Board Committee Work Plans.
  - Trustee Turner commented that one recent significant change has been adding the presidents to the Board table for Committee and the Board meetings. The Board needs
the Presidents to be fully engaged and part of one team with one direction so the System can be more effective.

- Karen Barrett commented that she suggests changing the Human Resources policies to have the faculty feel like they are part of the team instead of the ongoing adversarial relationship that currently exists. The Faculty Representatives are in an awkward position because of bargaining issues but want to be on the same team.
  - Trustee Johnson stated that he is not sure of the division of labor but the faculty have a vital role and we have to determine a way to have a strong and more substantive dialog with the faculty.
  - Trustee Baker commented that Karen’s comments were very heart felt and thanked her for expressing her concerns.

Kim-Anne Perkins, UMPI

- The Faculty Representatives want to be sure they are doing their part to assist the Board. All of the Faculty Representatives are assigned to Board Committees; however, currently there are no opportunities for the faculty to work with the Committees other than at the Committee meetings held as a part of the Board meeting. She believes faculty are not included in Committee communications or correspondences outside of the actual Committee meetings.
- She suggested that each Trustee be assigned to a particular campus in order to become more familiar with that campus and be an advocate for it. This would allow the Trustees to have firsthand knowledge of campus issues when raised at a Board meeting.

Valerie Hart, USM

- Now that the Presidents have been invited to sit at the Board table, the Faculty Representatives would like to be at the table participating more, as well. The faculty would like the opportunity to be asked questions and their opinions.
- She asked what does the Board need from the faculty and how should the faculty be used, specifically at the Committee level.

Anne Blanke, UMA (for Chris Bates)

- She stated that she has had the privilege of work at UMA for 31 years but she is the youngest member of her department. She feels this is an important concern because there is no deliberate succession planning to bring in new faculty to the System.

Raymond Albert, UMFK

- Asked if there will be a Trustee retreat this year?
  - Chancellor Page stated that there will likely be a Board Retreat but it would not occur until after the summer, because the Board needs to decide the strategic items to address.

Bob Rice commented that we all want to the System to be better and all of us have the System’s best interests at stake but the faculty are a resource that is underutilized.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Witbank, Clerk