Meeting with Student Representatives


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

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

The Student Representatives meeting was chaired by Brianna Hughes, Graduate Student Representative from UMaine and Mary-Elizabeth McAdams from UMM was the facilitator for the meeting.

The two new Student Representatives were introduced:
  Rebecca Warren, from USM
  Melinda Torrens, Graduate Student Representative from USM

Online Course Evaluations and Advisor Evaluations Update
The Student Representatives have been gathering information from their campuses about course evaluations and advisor evaluations. The following information was compiled:

UM
Brianna Hughes and Colin Buttarazzi will be working together to coordinate the efforts at UMaine which will include consulting the administration, faculty, and union representatives as well as the students to gauge interest in moving towards course and advisor evaluations being available online. So far there is a great deal of support and optimism for the project. The concerns raised were related to implementation and faculty support.

UMA
Shawn Staples commented that he has received good feedback with no negative input at this point and logistics are being reviewed. They are approaching the project cautiously because they do not want to add more to the workload or responsibility of the faculty.

UMPI
Jeff Rhoads stated that the evaluation of academic advising has been the focus at UMPI and the campus is currently working on getting more feedback from the faculty and students. They are pursuing different methods to obtain more student feedback to ensure the project’s success.
UMM
Mary-Elizabeth McAdams commented that they have focused on advisor evaluations and UMM is increasing the number of course evaluations available online. UMM has a new Advising Center that will assist with the project. Ensuring the information from the evaluations remains confidential appears to be a major concern with the students at UMM.

Campus Updates
Mary-Elizabeth McAdams, UMM

- Earlier this year the Student Representatives developed a poll based on questions raised by the Board. The poll was randomly distributed to 50 students. The poll questions focused on student age; full-time or part-time status; was the student a resident or commuter; why the student chose to live on-campus or off-campus; meal plans; financial aid; on-line courses; and the best tool to evaluate academic quality. This poll was previously distributed at the other campuses and recently completed at UMM.
  - One of the major issues the campus hoped to identify is why do students choose to live off campus versus the residence halls. The poll results showed that commuter students do not want the meal plan. There were also different thoughts on how to measure academic quality. The campus administration feels the GPA is the best method to measure academic quality while students feel the ability to acquire a job after graduation is a better indicator.
  - She offered to email the survey results to the Board.

Chancellor Page commented that he appreciates the input from the Students regarding academic advising. The retention rate is tied to academic advising so any information in this area is very beneficial.

Questions/Topics the Board would like the Student Representatives to address at the September Board Meeting

- Trustee Turner asked whether the advisors counsel students beyond academic advising; for example, career planning or financial matters.
  - Brianne Hughes responded by stating there is a difference between an advisor and a mentor.
  - Jeff Rhoads inquired if every student is getting the same level of advising.
- President Foster inquired if advisors are sometimes paired with a student outside their academic area and if students are getting the help they need.
- Trustee Collins asked when do the students most need advising – in the first two years at the university, the last year or all four years.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk