Meeting with Student Representatives


Absent: Victoria Murphy.

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 Jeffrey Rhoads from UMPI was the facilitator for the meeting. For the benefit of the new Trustees, Brianna explained the role of the Student Representatives.

INTERNSHIP UPDATE

Jeff Rhoads, UMPI
- Internships are available through the campus career services and UMPI would like to increase the number of on-campus internships.

Melinda Torrens, USM – Grad. Student
- Currently the campus is gathering information on the internship offerings and exploring other options.
- She suggested a System-wide data base for internships and community service learning opportunities so the information would be available internally and externally.

Brianna Hughes, UM – Grad. Student
- UM has a current database and she is working with the Provost’s Office to find out where the gaps are and how the campus can increase accessibility and placement opportunities.
- The Graduate students are also a group that can offer opportunities for undergraduate internships.

Colin Buttarazzi, UM
- They have had discussions with departments that currently have internships to gather information about how the campus can increase the number of internships that are available and improve opportunities.

Mary-Elizabeth McAdams, UMM
- Most programs at UMM require internships or cooperative opportunities on and off campus.
• UMM is currently gathering information to compile a master list.

Shawn Staples, UMA
• UMA already has a database of internship opportunities and encourages the development of a System-wide data base. One primary focus of internships is on Maine graduates going into Maine jobs.

Matt Roy, UFM
• At UMF instead of internships, the campus has a strong service/experiential learning process which is a key component in the curriculum.

Trustee Collins stated that in his experience internships are critical for business and students. He asked if there are enough internship opportunities at each campus and what percentage of students are taking advantage of the opportunities.

• Brianne Hughes commented that the Student Representatives will look at the data and compile the results to bring it back to the Board.

Trustee Newsom commented that she has had interns working with her and as an employer she discovered there were gaps in their knowledge. She suggested that employers report back to campus to create a feedback loop so the curriculum can be adjusted so the students can be better prepared. The interns are wonderful assets for businesses and the communities and the campus should continue to improve on the experiences.

President Schott suggested the presidents can work with alumni for opportunities. In addition the UMS needs to make it easier for businesses by developing standardized policies and procedures.

President Kalikow stated that the campuses need to look at themselves because there are additional opportunities within each campus.

Trustee Hood stated that the Maine State Chamber already has an internship database established at internhelpme.com.

CAMPUS UPDATES

Jeff Roads, UMPI
• UMPI has had a great start to the new academic year.
• The campus moved and restored an important owl art structure on campus which was well received.

Melinda Torrens, USM – Grad. Student
• USM has had a good start to the academic year with a positive and upbeat atmosphere.
• The USM Graduate Student Government had its 1st meeting and discussed opportunities to work with student life, the commuter population and the alumni association.
• The T4 (Teacher for Technology) Committee is broadening discussions with other areas on campus.
Brianna Hughes, UM – Grad. Student
- They are continuing to work on the K-12 outreach initiative. They are placing graduate students in K to 12 classrooms to supplement the teachers’ programs. As part of this initiative the graduate students serve as mentors to the students and take on special projects.

Colin Buttarazzi, UM
- UM is focusing on increasing student attendance at sporting events to increase school pride.
- He thanked Trustee Johnson and the Chancellor for the campus visit at UM and he felt the visit went well.

Mary-Elizabeth McAdams, UMM
- The UMM English Department is producing a book, a gothic novel, in the book arts studio and the book is now available on Amazon. The book’s title is *Julia and the Illuminated Baron*.
- UMM has had changes in campus leadership positions and a new student senate.

Shawn Staples, UMA
- UMA’s community garden resulted in 1500 pounds of produce being donated to local food bank in Augusta.

Matt Roy, UMF
- At UMF the students are concluding their annual month of service. This includes service opportunities for students every weekend for the month of September.
- The campus welcomed their new president – Dr. Katherine Foster.

Questions/Topics the Board would like the Student Representatives to address at the November Board Meeting
- Discussion on a System-wide Student Governance model.
- What is percentage of internships that are filled and how many internship opportunities does each campus have?

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk