

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM

Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine at Presque Isle

November 4, 2012

**Academic and Student Affairs Committees Meeting**

**Present:** **Committee Members:** Gregory Johnson, Chair; Samuel Collins, Tyler Hadyniak, Marjorie Medd and Bonnie Newsom. **Other Trustees:** Stephen Bowen, James Erwin, Norman Fournier, Victoria Murphy and Karl Turner. **Chancellor:** James H. Page. **Faculty Representatives:** Chris Bates, Andrea Ednie, Valerie Hart, and Kim-Anne Perkins. **Student Representatives:** Katherine Crepeau, Mary-Elizabeth McAdams, Jeffrey Rhoads, Matthew Roy, and Shawn Staples. **University Presidents:** Paul Ferguson, Kate Foster, Allyson Handley, Wilson Hess, Cynthia Huggins, Theodora Kalikow, and Linda Schott. **System Staff:** Rosa Redonnett, Kelley Wiltbank and Rebecca Wyke.

**Committee Members Absent:** Michelle Hood

Trustee Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order.

**Awarding of Academic Degrees.** Trustee Johnson explained that the Board of Trustees authorizes the awarding of academic degrees during Commencement ceremonies for the 2012-2013 academic year to those student fully recommended by the appropriate faculties and the presidents of the respective institutions and/or divisions of the University of Maine System.

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 Awarding of Academic Degrees.

**Adult Baccalaureate Completion/Distance Education (ABCDE) Steering Committee.**

Chancellor Page explained the charter of the Adult Baccalaureate Completion/Distance Education (ABCDE) Committee. As identified in the Board of Trustees Goals and Actions and also in the UMS Strategic Enrollment Plan, the development of a comprehensive approach across our institutions to serve the non-traditional, adult students in Maine is a critical next step in our ongoing efforts to meet the needs of Maine's workforce, enhance economic development within the state, and, most importantly, provide the best opportunity for all of Maine's citizens to attain baccalaureate degrees. With estimates of Maine citizens who have some college but no degree ranging from 150,000 - 230,000, it is evident that there is significant demand and need for this initiative. The ABCDE Committee will develop a comprehensive, System-wide plan to enhance baccalaureate degree attainment and completion by Maine's adult and non-campus based citizens.

On a motion by Trustee Collins, which was seconded by Trustee Medd, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the charter of the Adult Baccalaureate Completion/Distance Education (ABCDE) Committee to the Consent Agenda for action.

**Credit Transfer Steering Committee: Intra-System Recommendations.** President Wilson Hess explained that the proposed Credit Transfer Project Plan Design Recommendations are aimed at improving the college credit transfer process and making it easier for students to move among Maine's public universities. The Credit Transfer Project, guided by a Steering Committee, followed a four-stage process common to all three Strategic Goals and Action projects. These recommendations of the Credit Transfer Steering Committee (CTSC) are to be fully implemented by the end of the 2013-14 academic year.

Dr. Wilson Hess, chair of the CTSC, provided an update on the progress to date and the recommendations for the intra-System component of this important work.

The CTSC has identified national best practice solutions which can be implemented to create a comparative advantage for Maine's public universities. The Steering Committee finds it imperative that Maine's public universities create State-wide and System-wide policies, processes, and infrastructure to facilitate implementation of national transfer credit best practices to offer Maine's students model pathways toward baccalaureate degree completion. In order to establish a reliable, robust credit transfer architecture, the CTSC's Plan Design recommends implementation of the following System-wide Credit Transfer best practices:

- Electronic communication tools
- Block Transfer /General Education Common Core
- Major (program-to-program) Articulation
- Adult & Transfer degree completion - including Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

Engagement of the campuses in an implementation process which is based upon learning outcomes and is focused on transfer student success, rather than transfer mechanics - should begin immediately.

On a motion by Trustee Newsom, which was seconded by Trustee Medd, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the recommendation to approve the Credit Transfer Steering Committee Plan Design and direct that an implementation plan be presented at the January 2013 Board meeting.

**Calculating the Economic Value of Increasing College Credentials: Update on**

**NCHEMS/CLASP Project.** Mr. Dennis Jones, President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) presented the tool to calculate the economic value of increasing college credentials. NCHEMS is a private nonprofit (501)(c)(3) organization whose mission is to improve strategic decision making in higher education for states and institutions in the United States and abroad. NCHEMS, in partnership with the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), set out to investigate the college-completion agenda that is based on the premise that higher education produces both private and public financial benefits and thereby encourages economic prosperity. The project estimated the monetary returns the United States as a whole and each of the 50 states would experience as a result of increasing the numbers of college graduates they produce. Two of the major initiatives of the Board, credit transfer and adult baccalaureate completion, are components of Maine's completion agenda. The tool is located on the NCHEMS website at NCHEMS.org. The Committee had a lengthy discussion on various scenarios for Maine using the NCHEMS and CLASP tool.

**Fall 2012 Enrollment Report.** Ms. Rosa Redonnett, Chief Student Affairs Officer, presented the Fall 2012 Enrollment Report. Highlights from the report include the following:

- There was a slight increase in total FTE and credit hours, 0.3% respectively, from 2011. The average number of credit hours taken during the fall semester also increased slightly from 10.6 in 2011 to 10.7 in 2012. Total credit hours are down 3.2% from 2008.
- Part-time student headcount continues to drop - down 1.7% for the year and 9.6% since 2008. Full-time student headcount increased slightly for the year but is down 2.1 % since 2008.

- The incoming class of degree/certificate-seeking students is up 5.6% from last year's incoming class thanks to a 4.7% jump in first-time students and a 14.1% increase in transfer students. The number of first-time students from out-of-state increased 21% for the year. The number of transfer students has increased 26.4% since 2008. Four out of seven campuses welcomed a larger incoming class this year.
- The total number of transfer students increased 14.1% for the year. The number of transfer students coming from the Maine Community College System increased 19.9% for the year, while the number of transfer students coming from external institutions increased 16.4%. 38% of all transfer students this year enrolled at USM, followed by 25% at UMA and 20% at UM.
- Credit hours derived from distance education increased 8.6% from last year. Distance education credit hours have increased 43.4% since 2008, with the largest growth coming from online credit hours. Online credit hours grew 18.1% from last year and 95.1% since 2008.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for  
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk