Meeting with Faculty Representatives


Trustee Collins welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Professor Robert Rice raised the following points:

Faculty Teaching Loads
- Average teaching load for full-time faculty members, by survey of over 500,000 people, is 50 to 60 hours per week. This is compared with industry positions which average 41 to 45 hours per week.
- Faculty teach the same classes for numerous years, but the content is always changing.
- Beyond the classroom, the professorship engagement in scholarship, research, and maintain currency.
- UMaine is conducting a Graduate Research Expo in March and 120 to 140 posters will be on display outline research projects that are ongoing under faculty members. There are also projects on display in the hallway for today’s meeting. These are all the result of dedicated faculty and hardworking students.

Tenure
- The concept of tenure has been challenged in every court level in America and it always prevails. People who challenge individual tenure decisions find that the fight is not worth it in the long run.
- The idea that tenure guarantees a job for life is absolutely incorrect. What tenure grants is a right to due process.
- UMS has compiled the age statistics for faculty. UMS needs to find a way to regularly infuse the institutions with new dynamic faculty. Is there a faculty replacement plan for the System?

Adjuncts
- Adjuncts have a good place in the UMS and do their jobs very well. However, with the Board initiatives to increase STEM graduates, strong recruiting efforts, and increased retention efforts are not possible with temporary personnel. The System will need long term tenure track and tenured faculty to accomplish these initiatives.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk