UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine System
May 19, 2013

Meeting with Student Representatives


Absent: Stephen Bowen and Kevin McCarthy

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

The Student Representatives meeting was chaired by Mr. Shawn Staples, Student Representative from UMA and Mr. Andrew Carlson from UMF was the facilitator for the meeting.

Student Representative Mentorship Program Update. Mr. Shawn Staples explained the Mentorship Program and the assignments will be as follows:

- Melinda Torrens will mentor Alex Greenlee
- Colin Buttarazzi will mentor Charles Rodda
- Jeff Rhoads will mentor Jacob Snyder and Irene Levesque-Rowe
- Shawn Staples will mentor Andrew Carlson

The things the mentors will assist with are:

- Understanding the Board book
- Understanding how the Board meeting is run
- Understanding what is a System issue versus a campus issue
- How the Student Representative should prepare the reports to their universities and committee reports back to the Board
- Who should the Student Representative speak to about issues on their campus

Mr. Staples also proposed a “Board” Mentorship. This would involve a Board member assigned to each student representative.

Residential Life. Mr. Andrew Carlson explained that the Student Representatives met with the campus Residential Life Directors, Provosts and Presidents to discuss how to improve the residential life experience and enhance customer service. The following comments are the suggestions and improvements to residential life:

Andrew Carlson, UMF

- UMF Residential Life Director stated that he is changing the residence halls to improve customer service with the hope to increase occupancy.
- The UMF residential life survey that is distributed to students in the fall is being reworked.
Andrew Carlson reported on behalf on Alex Greenlee from USM

- At USM residential life is a cultural issue and many students prefer to life off campus with numerous other economical living options available in the Portland area.

Colin Buttarazzi, UM

- UM is at capacity for residence hall occupancy and last year had its largest freshman class.
- Improvements to the dorms are ongoing – increase wireless coverage, electronic locking systems for the dorm buildings, receipt of a text message when laundry is done.
- UM has an amazing first year experience program and is looking into extending the program for 2nd year students.

Campus update

- The Student Government awarded two Blue Sky scholarships to study abroad - one student will be going to Russia and one student to Argentina.

Charles Rodda, Graduate Student at UM

- This is his first meeting as the Graduate Student Representative and is excited to continue the relationship developed with Brianna Hughes.
- Meetings have taken place with campus administration regarding residential life.
- The dorms are full at UM and the current reporting from Axillary Services does not correctly reflect actual capacity. Therefore, UM will be modifying the occupancy report detailing how the residence halls are being used. For example, there are 40 Residence Hall Assistances assigned to help freshman students who live in the dorms and as part of their compensation are not charged for their rooms. These rooms historically have been counted as empty rooms because there are not occupied traditional paying students. Also double rooms are sometimes used as single rooms when required for medical reasons and the second bed has been historically counted as an empty bed.

Campus updates

- The Graduate Student Expo was the most successful Expo so far with 130 students presenting and all graduate departments participating.
- Next year’s Expo will be April 3 & 4, 2014.
- The Graduate Student Hooding ceremony had 300 students participating.

Jacob Snyder, UMM

- Residential life at UMM has developed “team housing” for first year students. Each hall has a theme – Outdoor & Recreation, Arts & Science, Biology, etc. with a lounge dedicated to the interests of the students.

Irene Levesque-Rowe, UMFK

- This is her first meeting as the Student Representative from UMFK.
- She talked about the new Biomas project. The Biomas building will be built between UMFK and the high school. It will encompass 13 buildings.

Project Lever

Andrew Carlson, UMF

- Explained Project Lever which is a website that pulls all of a university’s undergraduate and graduate research resources into one place and uses a search tool to help students find 1) previous student research projects, 2) faculty and graduate student profiles, 3) courses, 4)
research grants and scholarships, and 5) library resources, all organized in a user-friendly way. Subscriptions to Project Lever are available to universities, who offer them to their students for free.

- They would like to have a Trustee appointed as their contact person to provide more information about the Project and the financial obligations.
- Ms. Rosa Redonnett, Chief Student Affairs Officer, will work with the Student Representatives to learn more about the Project.

Trustee Collins commented that the UMS will review how it is tabulating the residence hall occupancy rates. He also stated that he finds these sessions with the Student Representatives very valuable and the 360° feedback is critical. He thanked the students for their leadership.

**Mentoring Program for Trustees with Student Representatives.** Trustee Collins asked the Board if they had any questions or comments about the Trustee mentoring program suggested by the Student Representatives.

- Trustee Baker asked what would be the Trustee’s role and expectations.
  - Mr. Staples responded that it would provide more feedback to the students. Each student representative would have their own Trustee mentor to help eliminate further any disconnect between the students and the Trustees.
- Trustee Johnson suggested assigning a Board member to each campus versus to a particular Student Representative.
- Trustee Fournier commented that he feels it’s a good concept but it would need structure and boundaries.

Adjournment.

Ellen Doughty for
J. Kelley Wiltbank, Clerk