Board of Visitors Meeting April 3, 2015

Present:

BoV: Kate Foster, UMF President, Wendy Ault, Jerry Cayer, Chair, Shelby Childs, Sharon Cullenberg, Al Feather, Fen Fowler, Ray Glass, Alison Hagerstrom, Valerie Huebner, Lisa Laflin, Betty-Jane Meader, Anne Richardson, Vici Robinson, Mark Shibles, Ray Therrien

President’s Council: Fred Brittain, Jared Cash, Jean Doty, Laurie Gardner, Joe McGinn

Special guests: Chancellor James Page, Tracy Bigney

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Cayer thanked everyone in attendance for their participation, acknowledging that their employers generously allow and encourage their participation in the Board.

One University – Chancellor Page

The Board of Visitors was joined by Chancellor Page and Tracy Bigney, Clerk to the Board of Trustees. The Chancellor presented a handout on One University, the objective of which is to have “seven mission-differentiated, mutually dependent campuses operating as one fully integrated university singularly focused on student success and responsive service to the State of Maine.”

One University provides the framework for everyone in the System to do what we do in a financially and strategically sound way as we look to the future of Maine’s public education. There will be changes, including the selling and moving of the System Office and incorporating people/services into existing spaces on campuses; redefining the academic portfolio through the APRIP process; and making some administrative changes. Single accreditation is also under consideration.

A board member asked about the current funding allocation formula. The Chancellor explained that the current model gives 50% of the allocation to UMaine, 25% to USM, and the remaining 25% divided amongst the five smaller campuses (UMF, UMFK, UMA, UMM, UMPI).

Another member described her work in private high school guidance counseling, noting that her large and very academically-minded international student population has no incentive to stay in Maine after high school if tuition to our universities is increased. The Chancellor explained that the tuition freezes have not been approved yet, but we are hopeful that they will be.

President’s Report – Kate Foster

Many exciting accolades and highlights this semester: BoV Vice Chair Lisa Laflin participated in the Community Engagement Summit, hosted by Theo Kalikow; a variety of arts shows at Emery and the UMF Art Gallery; Farmington Soup Co-Lab; faculty member Nancy Prentiss has discovered a new genus and
species of marine creature; faculty member Pat O’Donnell is the new Trustee Professor; faculty member Sheena Bunnell has been appointed by the Governor to the five-member Maine Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission; Professor of Creative Writing and Maine Poet Laureate Wes McNair hosting Maine State Poetry Day; and five faculty were awarded promotion and tenure.

Kate has worked with Marketing to create a succinct visual representation of the Strategic Plan (see handout). This can be used with a variety of audiences, both internal and external.

The FY16 budget (see handout) will act as a bridge year and will allow us to creatively and strategically invest in enrollment, differentiation, and competitive advantage.

Vice President for Enrollment Jared Cash spoke to the Fall 2015 enrollment status. He is using the Spartacus reports to help guide his Admissions team. The reports include information about transfers, in-state, and out-of-state students, where we were at this time last year for applicants, admits, and enrollees.

The UMF dashboard indicators handout was well received. It documents five years of performance in enrollment, financial aid, budget, new academic programs, accolades, degrees granted, and other areas of interest.

Chair’s Report – Jerry Cayer

The President’s 360 Review by the System, as is done for all presidents in their third year, will take place during the week of 4/13. The BoV is invited to meet with reviewer Dr. Mary-Linda Armacost for dinner on Monday, April 13 at 5:30.

Annual giving by the Board sends a strong message of commitment. When UMF applies for grants, it helps greatly to be able to say that we have 100% participation. Chair Cayer thanked those who gave this fiscal year, and encouraged those who are considering making gifts.

The Board of Trustees and Board of Visitors group has been teleconferencing and will soon hold another in-person meeting in November. The connection between them has been much stronger and the communication more frequent.