Board of Visitors Meeting June 6, 2014

Present: Kate Foster, Pete Addicott, Jared Cash, Jerry Cayer, Shelby Childs, Sharon Cullenberg, Becky Davis-Allen, Al Feather, Ray Glass, Sandy Goodwin, Alison Hagerstrom, Valerie Huebner, Lisa Laflin, Betty-Jane Meader, Paul Mills, Anne Richardson, Vici Robinson, Mark Shibles, Ray Therrien, Mary Viruleg

Chair’s Report- Alison Hagerstrom

Alison Hagerstrom introduced the two new members present: Mark Shibles and Ray Therrien. She then gave her thanks for her time as Chair, remarking on how quickly the time has gone, and how important UMF is to her both personally and professionally.

President’s Report

Kate thanked Alison for her dedication to UMF as the Chair of the BoV, presenting her with a gift in honor of her service and guidance.

Kate then explained the contents of the packets given to each of the members, including the new marketing infographic, the Michael D. Wilson Symposium booklet, the Commencement program, and the photos from her recent trip to Beijing commemorating the 25th anniversary of UMF’s relationship with the Beijing University of Technology.

A brief overview of the FY15 budget was given, highlighting the work done to fund UMF’s depreciation with $515,000 from our own reserves. Although this means our bottom line is not zero, it does mean that necessary improvements to our campus are completed. UMF is one of three schools not borrowing from the System.

Copies of the Strategic Plan were distributed. Kate explained that the plan was approved by the Board of Trustees in May, and it will be re-presented to them in September when we have final numbers to include in it.

Board of Trustees/Board of Visitors Update – Jerry Cayer

Jerry reported on the May summit in Orono for the Board of Trustees and Board of Visitors. The meeting generated many ideas and had great energy. It was attended by Trustees, the Chancellor, Presidents, and members of the seven Boards of Visitors. Jared Cash, Lisa Laflin, Betty-Jane Meader, and Jerry attended on behalf of UMF.

Jerry reviewed the “At their worst/At their best” remarks of U. Maine’s BoV member, Miles Theeman. “As the stewards of Maine’s most important asset, it seems to me that an effective member of the BoV constantly struggles between his/her loyalty to a particular campus and taking positions that reflect the best interests of the UMS.” MT
The summit reinforced the idea that 140 collective BOV members and 20 Trustees give the System an expansive network of supporters and voices in Maine. Jerry believes that as a Board we must set the bar higher for ourselves and become more strategically engaged in advocating for and supporting UMF and UMS.

In addition, Jerry reviewed a number of slides from Vice-Chancellor Wyke’s financial briefing: State Appropriations, Aging Infrastructure, and the Revised Structural Gap FY15 – FY19.

Jerry will initiate a BoV working group during the summer term. The purpose is to bring forward suggestions for the UMF BoV to consider for possibly reshaping the purpose and structure of UMF’s BoV. The BoV’s across the UMS approach their work differently, e.g., UM, UMA and UMFK. There are opportunities for us to learn from our peers. If you are interested in being a part of the work group e-mail Jerry: gcayer@fchn.org.

**Update on the Partnership for Civic Advancement – F. Celeste Branham, Vice President for Student and Community Services**

Four years ago, Celeste began refining the concept of the Partnership. The core education that our students receive here is enriched through service learning, undergraduate research, leadership education and training, and internships, all of which the Partnership supports and provides. Experiential learning opportunities allow students to test their liberal arts education in real world settings. Students have higher GPAs, are better retained, and have better graduation rates. They gain critical thinking, verbal, and written skills, and more content knowledge. The Partnership provides site visits, mentoring, and placement assessments for both the students and the host organization.

Building on the financial support UMF received from Bangor Savings Bank and the Davis Family Foundation, the Partnership has, in the past year, retained 100% of its community relationships and has seen a 366% increase in internships and 300% increase in partnerships. It was recently recognized with a Presidential Leadership award by the Maine Campus Compact, and is preparing for a site visit from the Davis Education Foundation for a possible grant award.

The Board went on a short tour of the Education Center, the Frances Allen Black residence hall, joined by Brian Ufford, Director for Housing and Residence Life, and the Partnership for Civic Advancement, joined by Lorraine Pratt, Grants Writer.

Next meeting: Friday, September 5, 2014 – North Dining Hall, Olsen Student Center