Board of Visitors Meeting June 15, 2015

Present:

BoV: Kate Foster, UMF President, Pete Addicott, Becky Davis-Allen, Wendy Ault, Jared Cash, VP for Enrollment, Jerry Cayer, Chair, Shelby Childs, Sharon Cullenberg, Ray Glass, Rachel Groenhout, Director of Institutional Research, Alison Hagerstrom, Valerie Huebner, Lisa Laflin, Betty-Jane Meader, Anne Richardson, Mark Shibles, Ray Therrien

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Cayer thanked everyone in attendance for their participation, acknowledging member Mark Shibles for his thoughtful work on the APRIP committee sub-team on education, members Alison Hagerstrom, Becky Davis-Allen, and Valerie Huebner for their attendance and support at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Central Heating Plant, and Valerie Huebner, Mark Shibles, and Betty-Jane Meader for joining the Chair and participating in the BoV dinner with Presidential reviewer Dr. Mary-Linda Armacost.

President’s Report – Kate Foster

Commencement and other updates:

The President provided an overview of the year, highlighting updates across multiple areas of the university, including academics, physical capital, and budget. Five different travel courses were held. A groundbreaking ceremony for the $11m biomass plant was held. 381 students graduated at May’s commencement ceremony, with Joan Benoit Samuelson receiving an honorary degree and serving as commencement speaker. UMF hosted the 50th reunion class (1965) during commencement as well. We were able to end the fiscal year at zero; we will not have to borrow from reserves to close out the budget. Symposium in April was a success with many high quality research presentations on display. Three Co-Lab courses were piloted in the fall of 2014, with seven more planned for the fall of 2015. Each collaborative course has a community partner involved. Five faculty received promotions, with two more receiving tenure.

All-Campus Meeting Summary:
The All-Campus meeting held on April 24 went well. President Foster provided the Board with copies of her presentation and reviewed the One University, mission differentiation, and budget.

Enrollment Updates – Jared Cash

Admissions is working on selectivity processes that will help to positively shape the incoming classes. We have double the previous year’s attendance at Summer Experience, a week-long program that introduces confirmed first-year students to academics and life on campus. Admissions is also working on other events that aim to retain and protect the class numbers. Vice President Cash provided handouts on matriculates and the states they hail from, the academic profiles of the bottom and top quartiles of our student body, and Spartacus enrollment reports. Increased attention to transfer students has
produced great results. VP Cash has created a new position within Admissions that will focus on engaging alumni at UMF. The Alumni-in-Admissions Coordinator will work with alumni to bring them into the enrollment process, participating in recruitment events and helping with student interviews, among other activities.

**Strategic Plan Implementation Update – Rachel Groenhout**

Rachel provided an overview of the work that the Strategic Plan Implementation Team has achieved to date. With the four goals and twenty strategies that make up the UMF 2020: Experience Farmington Strategic Plan, the larger team, in its constituent parts, has successfully helped to launch the Alpine Operations certificate program, creative technology summer camps, a new graduate program in math coaching, the UMF Co-Labs, English Language Learners (ELL) certificate program, alumni and travel programs, the cooperative housing in Lockwood residence hall, and a hybrid graduate Educational Leadership program with the University of Maine at Presque Isle (30% in-person learning, 70% online learning).

There is still much work to be done around campus master planning and professional development for staff, but the team has achieved a great deal since the Strategic Plan was launched. UMF is already seeing positive results from the many new ideas and programs.

**Chair’s Report – Jerry Cayer**

Chair Cayer presented the idea of sub committees to the Board, which was well received. The committees would focus on 1. External funding sources, 2. External Communications, 3. Response to BoT re: Tuition Freeze

Discussion led by Chair Cayer about the possibility of sending a letter to the Board of Trustees regarding its decision not to increase tuition. Chair Cayer feels tuition can be raised as one way of alleviating some of the budget difficulties faced by the System. Members pointed out that there is an entire academic generation (4 years) that has not seen an increase in tuition. There are models in place to raise tuition without doing it every year, or at a level that would price it out of the reach of most students/families. A modest increase could be helpful. After discussion, it was decided that a sub-committee of the Board would be formed to develop a thoughtful and articulate response to freezing tuition for a fourth year.

The Board requested from President Foster a financial analysis/review of the financial impact to UMF as a result of freezing tuition over the last four years.

Special thanks were given to Alison Hagerstrom for her terms of service to the Board and to the University as both member and past Chair. A gift from the University on behalf of the Board was presented.