

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting
March 7, 2022

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Present: Committee Members: Lisa Eames; Chair, Timothy Doak, Roger Katz, Beth Dobson, Michael Michaud, Emily Cain, Jim Donnelly, Trish Riley, Mark Gardner, and David MacMahon. **Presidents & Law School Dean:** Glenn Cummings, Deborah Hedeon, Joe Szakas, Ray Rice, Leigh Saufley, and Joan Ferrini-Mundy. **Faculty Representatives:** William Otto, Michael Scott, Lisa Leduc, Matthew Bampton, Dmitry Bam, Clyde Michell and Kennedy Rubert-Nason. **System Staff:** Robert Placido, Ellen Doughty, Rosa Redonnett, Carolyn Dorsey, James Thelen, Pat Peard, Ryan Low, Loretta Shields and Jeff St. John. **Others Present:** Jeannine Uzzi, Eric Brown, John Volin, Daniel Qualls and Brian Olsen.

Committee Members Absent: Pender Makin.

Trustee Eames, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The Clerk performed a roll call of the Committee members present.

Faculty Representatives Discussion

USM Professor Matthew Bampton raised concerns from his faculty senate and union representatives regarding the process to move forward the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Maine College of Engineering, Computing and Information Science (MCECIS). Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Robert Placido and Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Legal Officer James Thelen responded that there was communication at a recent meeting that misrepresented the process of this MOU. This MOU is not being presented today because additional details are still being worked out. The faculty will not lose control of curriculum and faculty will still have a home location and local leadership. Hopefully the faculty at USM will see the advantage and great opportunity this MOU will provide for collaboration with colleagues. When the MOU comes back to this Committee, it will expressly reserve all curricular decisions to faculty. There will be committees that include faculty from UM and USM to talk about how engineering curriculum will be coordinated. The MOU will be brought to the Board at the March Board meeting as an information item and on the agenda for the May meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

Student Representatives Discussion

No student representatives were present at the meeting.

Research Learning Experience – University of Maine

UM Provost John Volin and UM Associate Provost for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives Brian Olson provided an update on the Research Learning Experience (RLE). Research Learning Experiences are formal courses that:

- are taken predominantly by first or second year students;
- require students to engage in research or scholarship that is open-ended, inquiry-based, iteratively designed, and driven by students using discovery that occurs along the way;
- incorporate aspects of cohort-building, teamwork, the development of communication skills, and participatory, experiential learning.

RLEs train students during their transition from passive knowledge *consumers* to active knowledge or scholarship *producers*. Over the next ten years the Harold Alfond Foundation will provide \$10 million with a \$15 million match from UMS for the Research Learning Experiences. RLEs offer engagement early and widely to deepen student participation in their own educational path. This results in increased retention and student success, allows students to have even richer scholarly experiences, and helps students develop mindsets that will benefit them long after graduation.

As the RLEs roll out across the System, assessment will be done to test how UMS delivered on the shared vision and comparable data will be collected. The RLEs will be adjusted where needed after the pilot phase. UM and UMF participated in the FY2021 pilot with 250 students. RLE pilots are now in the early planning stages at all seven campuses.

University of Maine/University of Maine at Machias Integrated Organizational Chart

University of Maine President Ferrini-Mundy and Provost Volin provided an overview of the integrated University of Maine/University of Maine at Machias organization chart. The Regional Campus Task Force approved this integrated organizational chart last year. The most significant change is the Head of Campus title change to UMM Dean and Campus Director which will report directly to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost with a dotted line reporting to the President because the Campus Dean and Direction position will sit on the President's Cabinet. This reporting structure is like to other regional campuses of similar size. UMM Head of Campus Dan Qualls is in favor of this proposed organizational chart.

Trustee Gardner asked for clarification on the reporting direction of the dotted lines. Provost Volin clarified that the dotted lines signify a collaborative structure with key support areas. The UMM Student Life, Facilities and Marketing Coordinator will have a dotted line reporting to the Campus Dean and Director, who will have input of the employee evaluations for these staff members. The Campus Dean and Director will be the chief academic officer for UMM and will participate in the System Chief Academic Officer Council.

Professor William Otto raised a concern about the dotted line reporting from the UMM Associate Dean for Academics and the UMM Distance for Early College position. He stated that UMM is a small campus and any staff members have multiple responsibilities; therefore, how will be dual reporting be impacted by this supervisory role. Currently the individual who is the UMM Distance for Early College is also in the role of Academic Student Support Services. Provost Volin responded by stating those details will need to be worked out over time. UMM has only 18 full-time faculty so many individuals have dual roles.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the following resolution to the Consent Agenda for Board of Trustee approval at the March 27-28, 2022 Board Meeting.

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves and ratifies the integrated University of Maine/University of Maine at Machias organization chart to go into effect on July 1, 2022.

Academic Program Elimination: Undergraduate Art Program, UMPI

University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI) President Ray Rice presented the request to eliminate the Bachelor of Art (BA) in Art program. The headcount for this program has been in the single digits for

at least the last five years, with no students enrolled since 2020. There are no full-time faculty equivalents or budgets associated with the program. UMPI offers a Bachelor of Fine Art degree that is more appealing to students and can serve as the primary program when the BA in Art is eliminated.

The proposal for elimination was reviewed at all appropriate faculty and administrative levels at UMPI and was reviewed and subsequently recommended by the Chief Academic Officers Council. Dr. Robert Placido, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, recommended the program elimination to the Chancellor. Chancellor Malloy signed his approval of the BA in Art elimination on February 2, 2022.

On a motion by Trustee Gardner, which was seconded by Trustee Katz and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the following resolution to the Consent Agenda for Board of Trustee approval at the March 27-28, 2022 Board Meeting.

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the elimination of the Bachelor of Art in Art program at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

Executive Session

On a motion by Trustee Riley, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic & Student Affairs Committee went into Executive Session under the following provisions:

- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-A to discuss the evaluation of personnel and the consideration and discussion of appointments, employment and duties.

On a motion by Trustee Riley, which was seconded by Trustee Gardner, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Committee concluded the Executive Session.

Following the Executive Session, the Committee reconvened the public meeting to discuss the following items:

UMS 2022 Tenure Nominations

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Riley and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the following resolution for Board of Trustee approval at the March 27-28, 2022 Board Meeting.

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the recommendations for tenure submitted by the Universities of the University of Maine System. Approvals will take effect September 1, 2022 for faculty with academic year appointments and on July 1, 2022 for faculty with fiscal year appointments.

Tenure at Time of Hire, Professor in the School of Engineering, UM

The University of Maine requested that Dr. Yonghao Ni be awarded tenure at the rank of Professor in the College of Engineering, effective August 1, 2022 in accordance with Board of Trustee Policy 310. This coincides with his appointment as professor in the University of Maine Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering and as the J. Ober Chair in Chemical Engineering. Dr. Ni was selected after an extensive search and rigorous evaluation process. Dr. Ni holds a Ph.D. in Chemical

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Engineering from McGill University, has expertise in pulp and paper, and a stellar record of teaching, mentoring graduate students, and research. This recommendation has the full support of the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering peer committee.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Riley and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the following resolution for Board of Trustee approval at the March 27-28, 2022 Board Meeting.

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approves tenure at the rank of Professor in the College of Engineering, to Dr. Yonghao Ni with tenure to be effective August 1, 2022.

Additional information about the meeting can be found on the Board of Trustees website:
<https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/meeting-agendas-materials/academic-and-student-affairs-committee/>

Adjournment,

Heather A. Massey for
Ellen N. Doughty, Clerk