

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting
May 2, 2022

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Present: Committee Members: Lisa Eames; Chair, Trish Riley; Chair Pro tem, Roger Katz, Beth Dobson, Michael Michaud, Emily Cain, Mark Gardner, and David MacMahon. **Presidents & Law School Dean:** Glenn Cummings, Deborah Hedeon, Joe Szakas, Leigh Saufley, and Joan Ferrini-Mundy. **Faculty Representatives:** William Otto, Michael Scott, Lisa Leduc, Clyde Michell and Kennedy Rubert-Nason. **Student Representatives:** Aidan Mulrooney and Lisa Prosienski. **System Staff:** Robert Placido, Ellen Doughty, Rosa Redonnett, Carolyn Dorsey, James Thelen, Pat Peard, Ryan Low, Jamie Ballinger and Jeff St. John. **Others Present:** Jeannine Uzzi, John Volin, Jeanne Paquette, Rebecca Conrad, Donna Seppy, Amon Purinton, Nina Lavoie, Erika Lamarre, and David Fiacco.

Committee Members Absent: Pender Makin and Jim Donnelly.

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

Faculty Representatives Discussion

UMPI Faculty Representative to the Board Lisa Leduc stated that as this committee meeting was occurring, 9 faculty members from UMF were being terminated from employment. She stated that this was a very sad day for UMS and that she believes that better oversight on all levels, up to and including the Board of Trustees might have prevented this incidence from happening. She encouraged all of the Presidents and Provosts who were attending the committee meeting to seriously consider finding a place in their university for the faculty members who were dismissed from UMF. She stated that since the faculty retirement incentive was initiated, over 120 faculty members have submitted a request for retirement, which should leave many openings to provide an opportunity for these UMF faculty members to move to. She explained that while retrenched faculty members have the right to be added to a recall list, actively recruiting these faculty members to other UMS universities would go a long way to repairing the harm that people are feeling. Dr. Leduc stated that with the retrenchments and large amount of faculty choosing to accept the retirement incentive, there is great potential to decimate the UMS faculty ranks, which could potentially negatively affect UMS students. She explained that she believes that faculty morale on all UMS campuses are low and that there are many concerns surrounding the Huron Consulting group that was hired to help develop the UMS strategic plan.

She stated that there is much concern that the Board does not take the time to properly engage with the faculty members and expressed great disappointment that the Board opposed the LD 1820 to add faculty members to the Board as non-voting members. Dr. Leduc stated that she has noticed an increased engagement with the Faculty Representatives to the Board and is appreciative of that effort; however, it is not nearly enough and she is suspicious of the timing of this increased engagement in conjunction with the vote on LD 1820. She also explained that she feels that the minutes of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee meetings have not always captured the discussion of the Faculty Representatives and therefore, have not been provided to the full Board. Dr. Leduc stated that she looks forward to the Board increasing engagement with the Faculty Representatives and having an

opportunity to provide direct real and meaningful discussion and input to the Trustees at Board meetings, and not just through the filter of the System. She stated that she believes the only path forward for the System is through true shared governance, not shared implementation, which she believes is the current UMS structure. Trustee Riley thanked Dr. Leduc for her comments and stated that these issues are important to the Board.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Robert Placido thanked Dr. Leduc for her comments and for articulating her concerns so succinctly. He stated that he believes the Board does take these matters very seriously and would like to make some positive change. He explained that the program and faculty retrenchment decisions were extremely difficult for UMF to make and that he has personally reached out to other UMS universities to see if there were positions that could employ the 9 UMF faculty members.

UMF Faculty Representative to the Board Clyde Mitchell stated that he shares many of Dr. Leduc's concerns including but not limited to the dismissal of the nine UMF faculty members and the veto of LD 1820. He thanked Dr. Leduc for sharing her concerns and for showing support for the retrenched UMF faculty members. He also expressed thanks to the System for helping to decrease the impact of the UMF financial issues through offering the faculty retirement incentive and providing budget stabilization funds, which without this help could have meant having even more retrenchment and program suspensions.

UMFK Faculty Representative Kennedy Rubert-Nason expressed his agreement with Dr. Leduc's concerns and thanked her for sharing these faculty concerns with the committee.

Student Representatives Discussion

The Student Representatives to the Board did not have any items to discuss.

New Academic Program Proposal: MS in Trauma Informed Emergency Management, UMA

President Joseph Szakas provided information on the UMA request to launch an online Master of Science in Trauma-Informed Emergency Management (TEM) degree with the following concentrations: Community Resilience, Data Analytics, Emergency Management, and Preparedness, and Mental Health. UMA currently offers a Graduate Certificate in TEM, launched in Fall 2021. The Master's degree curriculum is designed such that the graduate certificate is achieved as part of the degree pathway. This online UMA program is built from online courses taught by faculty from several UMS universities. This is a unique program offering within UMS, and the skills taught within the proposed curriculum are in demand by emergency preparedness employers.

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 May 22-23, 2022 Board meeting:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, and approves the Master of Science in Trauma-Informed Emergency Management at the University of Maine at Augusta.

Academic Program Suspension Proposal: B.S. in Cybersecurity, B.S. in Cybersecurity - Online, B.A. in English, A.S. in Information Security – UMFK

President Deborah Hedeem provided an overview of the UMFK request to suspend the following programs: Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity, Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity – Online, Bachelor of Arts in English, and Associate of Science in Information Security. The suspension proposal from UMFK indicates that each of these programs has experienced low enrollments (fewer than 10) for the last several years, has insufficient faculty resources available and is duplicated on other UMS campuses. Teach-out plans have been developed for affected students. The proposal for suspension was reviewed at all appropriate faculty and administrative levels at UMFK and was reviewed and subsequently recommended by the Chief Academic Officers Council. Vice Chancellor Placido recommended the program elimination to Chancellor Malloy, who signed his approval of the program suspensions on April 19, 2022.

Vice Chancellor Placido thanked President Hedeem on her great work to collaborate with the UMFK faculty and the Vice Chancellor to make the difficult but needed decision to bring forward the proposal to suspend these three programs. He stated there was a fourth program that was up for debate; however President Hedeem and the UMFK faculty and leadership team decided to add additional support to the program and remove it from the suspension list.

On a motion by Trustee Gardner, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, 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 May 23, 2022 Board meeting:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the suspension of the following programs at UMFK: Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity, Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity - Online, Bachelor of Arts in English, and Associate of Science in Information Security.

Proposed Changes to Board of Trustee Policy 501: Student Conduct Policy

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Credential Attainment Rosa Redonnett, Interim General Counsel Pat Peard, and Assistant General Counsel Amon Purinton provided an overview of the proposed changes to Board Policy 501 – Student Conduct Code.

Associate Vice Chancellor Redonnett explained that the Student Conduct Code is typically reviewed and updated every three years and is ultimately approved by the Board of Trustees. In their governance role, the Board of Trustees is responsible for reviewing and approving the Student Conduct Code with a focus on the policy portion; the implementation of the procedures and process is the responsibility of the Universities under the oversight of the UMS Chancellor's Office. The UMS Student Conduct Code applies to the entire University of Maine System. In July 2021, the Board of Trustees asked for an off-cycle review of the Student Conduct Code. The 10 month review concluded that a change was needed to Board Policy 501 to both clarify the policy and the process for implementation; and to separate policy from process to create a more logical and agile approach to the review and approval of each, going forward. Before the Committee today, is the suggested changes to the Board Policy, including the proposal that the actual Student Conduct Code procedures be separated from the Board Policy.

Ms. Peard explained that she and the rest of the review group acknowledge that asking the Committee and Board to separate Board Policy 501 from the procedures of the Student Conduct Code (Code) is a big change; however, it is a needed change to ensure that the System is able to remain more flexible and nimble in changing the student conduct code procedures. Ms. Peard stated that to ensure that the

voice of the Board is still included in the Code, the Board Chair will be asked to appoint Trustee representation to be included in the review team when the Code review is conducted every two years. Mr. Purinton, explained that the proposed changes to Board Policy 501 reflect the overall mission and vision of the System concerning student conduct, while separating out the actual implementation and extreme detail that the full Code procedures outline. In addition, the proposed changes provide information concerning governing law, freedom of expression, and a statement of non-discrimination. The proposed change to the policy also outlines that all persons responsible for the oversight or administration of the Code will receive required training relevant to their role and responsibility, as described in the Code. The updated policy states that Board Policy 501 will be reviewed as needed and that the Code will be reviewed a minimum of every two years, under the direction of the UMS Coordinator of Student Conduct, and in consultation with the University Conduct Officers, Office of the General Counsel, and including representation from the student body, Board of Trustees and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

Trustee Katz asked if there were changes to federal law regarding Title IV or something along those lines in between the 2 year review cycle, what process is used to make the needed changes. Mr. Purinton explained that this is one of the very reasons the Code has been separated from the policy, to make more nimble changes to the Code and its procedures when federal laws are updated. He explained that the same group of stakeholders that are set to complete the 2 year review, would be convened to review and make the federally mandated changes. Ms. Peard added that it is more than likely that any federally mandated changes would be to the Code and not the Board policy, now that it has been separated from the Code. If a law passed that did affect the Board policy, those changes will be brought to the Board for approval, using the two-cycle Board policy change process. Associate Vice Chancellor Redonnett further clarified, that any Title IV changes would actually fall under Board Policy 402 and that she does expect Title IV law updates and changes to Board Policy 402 in the near future.

Committee Chair Pro-tem Trustee Riley announced that Committee Chair Lisa Eames had joined the meeting and turned the meeting over to her.

Trustee Erwin asked with this change in Board policy, who would make the final decision on any changes needed to the Code. Ms. Peard stated that as changes are suggested by conduct code officers or mandated by law, the changes would be reviewed and decided upon by the review group that is outlined in proposed updated Board Policy 501. Trustee Erwin asked for further clarification about who would have final say over changes to the Code if there was a disagreement between Board members and the rest of the review group. Trustee Katz stated that he has the same concern as Trustee Erwin, and stated that there was nothing in the proposed update to the Board policy that outlined ultimate authority of decisions on the Code, if consensus is not reached. Ms. Peard stated that the belief is that the review group would be able to come to a consensus and make a final decision; however, in the event that consensus was not able to be reached, the majority vote would make the final decision.

Trustee Cain asked for clarification about the communication to students about changes to the Code. Nina Lavoie, Senior Associate General Counsel and Clery Compliance Coordinator stated that constitutionally, notice is the first step in due process and notifying the students of the procedures is a top priority for the System. The Code is posted online and printed versions are available as well. Students who enter the process are provided with the procedures and both the complainants and the respondents are provided specific elements of notice and outreach as required by law.

Trustee Riley asked how students are involved in the development and implementation of the Code.

Donna Seppy, Director of Student Success Initiatives and chair of the UMS Student Conduct Review Committee stated that there is specific language in the proposed Board Policy as well as the Code that ensures student engagement in the review process.

Chair Eames stated that she believes there is still some concern amongst Trustees that it is not listed in Board Policy, about how a final decision would be made if consensus is not reached by the review group when changes to the Code are necessary. Dr. Seppy stated that if a consensus or a majority vote could not be reached, then UMS legal counsel would be consulted to make the ultimate decision guided by laws pertaining to the change at hand. Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives and Chief Legal Counsel Jim Thelen stated that he agreed that UMS legal counsel would make ultimate decisions on the legality of certain changes but that the Board should retain authority over governance level matters. Trustee Katz stated that he agrees with Vice Chancellor Thelen that when the question has to do with legality it should be decided by UMS legal counsel; however, opposing views can both be legal, and in that case a decision will need to be made, which is not clearly outlined in the proposed Board policy update. Ms. Peard stated that she believes the proposed policy provides a very clear framework for implementation and decision making.

UMS Student Conduct Code: Review

Associate Vice Chancellor Redonnett stated that because of time constraints in the agenda, they did not have a chance to present a review of the changes to the Student Conduct Code procedures. Trustee Eames agreed that due to time constraints, it made sense to hold off on review of the Code at this meeting and present it at the May Board of Trustees meeting as planned. Trustee Eames asked Associate Vice Chancellor and the rest of the Student Conduct team present to work with the Trustees before the Board meeting to address some of the questions and concerns raised in the meeting.

Maine College of Engineering, Computing, and Information Science (MCECIS)

Vice Chancellor Thelen and Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation and UM President Joan Ferrini-Mundy, who are the co-Principal Investigators for the UMS TRANSFORMS Harold Alfond Foundation grant initiatives provided an overview of the Maine College of Engineering, Computing, and Information Science (MCECIS) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The October 2020 grant commitment agreement between UMS and the Harold Alfond Foundation provides \$75 million to UMS over 12 years (2022-2033), \$50 million of which is intended to renovate existing engineering infrastructure and \$25 million of which is intended to support scholarships (\$5 million); new faculty, faculty development, and curricular innovation (up to \$16 million); planning, development, and administration of the MCECIS entity (up to \$3.5 million); and assessment and marketing (up to \$500,000). UMS is required to match an additional \$75 million that advances the MCECIS initiative through privately raised funds and corporate philanthropy, state support, and federal grants and congressionally directed spending.

MCECIS will provide a statewide, integrated solution to providing the technical workforce and innovations that are critical to moving Maine's economy forward. Thousands of new engineering graduates are needed to fill new jobs and replace members of Maine's existing workforce. The demand for engineering and computing professionals in Maine exceeds the supply of these individuals. The MCECIS opportunity will provide additional undergraduate engineering, computing, and information science programs at UM and USM; UM graduate engineering programs based in Portland, expanded pathways into the statewide college from all UMS universities, community colleges, and K-12 schools; and new opportunities for shared programs, interdisciplinary structures and partnerships. USM engineering faculty and administration requested in November 2021 that UMS commit in writing to an arrangement that allowed USM to continue granting engineering degrees in its own programs

even as they partner with University of Maine engineering programs in MCECIS. Further, USM requested to retain administrative control over the USM Department of Engineering and continue to be the “home” of USM engineering faculty. The MCECIS MOU discussed with the Board at its March 2022 meeting accomplishes these ends. It has been reviewed by the USM and UM faculty senates, the MCECIS Steering Committee, and AFUM, and was provided to the UMS Faculty Governance Council with a request for review and comment. To date, all but the UMS Faculty Governance Council have provided written responses, which were provided to the Board as informational items in March. The USM Faculty Senate’s response and the AFUM response each expressed opposition to the MCECIS MOU.

Trustee Gardner asked for clarification about if and how the Computing and Information Science programs across the System will become a part of MCECIS. President Ferrini-Mundy explained that while they are working out the internal and cross-campus details, yes the plan is for those programs to be included as part of MCECIS.

Trustee MacMahon stated that the data states that 57% of UMS engineering graduates take a job in Maine and that over the next 10 years Maine will need 3500 engineers. He asked if the 57% is expected to increase with the start of MCECIS. Dean of Engineering Dana Humphrey explained that a couple of reasons for nearly half of UM engineering students leaving Maine for post-graduate employment are that roughly 40% of students attending the college of engineering are out-of-state students to begin with and they return to their home states for jobs and secondly, because out-of-state employers are very competitive when trying to attract highly sought after UM engineering students.

USM President Glenn Cummings stated that USM has a strong engineering program and contribute greatly to the Alfond initiative and MCECIS. USM have multiple pools of excellent engineering students, including veterans with field experience and New Americans with engineering degrees from other countries. This provides a different opportunity for MCECIS then UM, which has more traditional students in their engineering programs. President Cummings explained that the USM engineering faculty have valid concerns about MCECIS. He explained that the MCECIS MOU does appear to contain some guarantees about maintaining program authority and autonomy as requested by USM. He also explained that there is a belief at USM that an MOU to protect one program against another in the System is unnecessary and should not have happened in the first place. It is his belief that the System should work more closely with faculty governance in collaboration and program building. Still, the USM faculty senate does think having the MOU is better than not having one.

UMPI Faculty Representative to the Board Lisa Leduc explained that since USM Faculty Representative Matthew Bampton was unable to attend the meeting today, she wanted to bring forward the concerns he expressed about MCECIS at a previous meeting. She explained that at the last Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting, Dr. Bampton explained that the USM Faculty still had grave concerns about USM engineering program authority and autonomy. Dr. Leduc stated that from the presentation and comments today, it appears those concerns may have been addressed; however, she wanted to make sure that if they had not been fully addressed, she wanted to bring them forward again on behalf of Dr. Bampton. Vice Chancellor Placido stated that he believes the MCECIS MOU did address Dr. Bampton’s concerns from the last meeting.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, 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 May 22-23, 2022 Board meeting:

That the Board of Trustees:

- Approves the renaming of the University of Maine College of Engineering to be the Maine College of Engineering, Computing and Information Science (MCECIS), to be effective July 1, 2022;
- Approves, under Policy 309, the conceptual framework for collaboration and participation by USM engineering programs in MCECIS as described in the January 2022 MCECIS MOU;
- Encourages and confirms the faculty's shared governance responsibility for curriculum and academic policy development, program and university collaboration, and a focus and strong emphasis on DEI within MCECIS and UMS TRANSFORMS; and
- Directs UMS, UMaine, and USM administration, during the MCECIS implementation, to carefully consider and incorporate appropriate aspects of MCECIS steering committee faculty input from its "strengths and weaknesses" analysis of the MCECIS MOU that do not materially conflict with the MOU's framework for USM engineering participation.

Lewiston-Auburn Campus (LAC) Update

USM and UMS leadership have been analyzing the current state, and potential future use, of the Lewiston-Auburn Campus (LAC). A community needs assessment was completed as a component of the data collection required for this analysis. USM President Glenn Cummings, Vice President of Corporate/Workforce Engagement & LAC Administrator Jeanne Pacquette, and Rebecca Conrad presented findings of the needs assessment and discussed ongoing efforts to develop sustainable programming at the campus; including consideration of multi-university collaborations. The Lewiston Auburn community is of sufficient population to support a university campus but has historically low bachelor's degree attainment. Several opportunities exist to increase enrollment, reach LAC's underserved and immigrant communities, and meet current and future employment demand. There were three key findings in the needs assessment:

Key Finding One – Insufficient Local Investment

Recommendations

- Engage with businesses to advance degree completion pathways
- Contribute to local initiatives such as strengthen LAC and Working Communities Challenge
- Strengthen K-12 presence, Early College and dual enrollment

Key Finding Two – Underdeveloped Recruitment Partnerships

Recommendations

- Utilize Central Maine Community College to develop associate's to bachelor's career ladders, beginning with early childhood education and healthcare
- Capitalize on unmet and future demand in the healthcare sector and model more programs on the success of Occupational Therapy
- Address longstanding desire for business, management and entrepreneurial programs for workforce development

Key Finding Three – Real and Perceived Barriers for Degree Attainment

Barriers and Recommendations

- A four-year degree is perceived as financially inaccessible
 - Use the rebuilding process with community partners to address local barriers
- Access to transportation, childcare and broadband compound financial barriers
 - Design an Early Childhood degree/lab program that serves children and parents and increases aspirations

- The Westminster Street location is perceived as remote
 - Ensure that the campus is accessible and visible to the community and provides entry level courses on site with wraparound services

In order to propel LAC to its desired state we should take full advantage of unified accreditation and use LAC as a launch pad for entry into the University of Maine System; fully integrate LAC with the System and the community by activating Lewiston Auburn assets for experiential learning; drive the region's economic future and Maine's future through healthcare innovation at LAC; and leverage the community colleges to elevate access and affordability for underserved communities.

Chair Eames thanked the presenters and stated that she is excited to see that there is great opportunity to grow the Lewiston Auburn College and its surrounding community engagement.

Executive Session

On a motion by Trustee Katz, which was seconded by Trustee Gardner, 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-C to discuss the condition, acquisition or disposition of real property or economic development if premature disclosure of the information would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the UMS.

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

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