

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting
June 12, 2023

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Present: Committee Members: David MacMahon; Chair, Emily Cain, Barbara Alexander, Trish Riley **Other Trustees:** Roger Katz. **Presidents:** Joseph McDonnell, Ray Rice, Joseph Szakas, Jacqueline Edmondson, and Leigh Saufley **Faculty Representatives:** Michael Scott, Patrick Cheek, William Otto, Lisa Leduc, Mathew Bampton, Ned Rubert-Nason, Dmitry Bam **Student Representatives:** Katie Ashley, Aidan Mulrooney, Ben Doherty, and Adam Seile **System Staff:** Chancellor Malloy, Jeffrey St. John, Rosa Redonnett, Paul Chan, Carolyn Dorsey, Ryan Low, Jamie Ballinger, Paul Chan and Kayla Flewelling. **Others Present:** Georita Frierson, John Volin, Kathy Yardley, Adam Tuchinsky, Shannon Gauvin, Brenda Peterson, Erin Soucy, Andrea Stairs-Davenport.

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

Executive Session

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

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

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 & Student Affairs Committee concluded the Executive Session.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the following agenda items were discussed.

University of Southern Maine B.S. in Special Education

The University of Southern Maine (USM) is seeking permission to offer a Bachelor of Science in Special Education. There is currently a crisis in Maine special educator staffing. There are too few applicants for available positions, and the numerous open positions have resulted in significant safety concerns for students and a failure to provide adequate educational programming. The proposed online degree will be notable and distinct from other special educator pathways within the University of Maine System (UMS) through its (a) collaboration with school district partners, other UMS programs, Maine community colleges, and with the Maine Department of Labor, (b) net new enrollments in a degree program, (c) embedded paid apprenticeships, and (d) degree completion support for working adults.

This proposed degree will also incorporate a unique level of collaboration among UMS campuses, Maine's community colleges, and the Maine Department of Labor. The USM special education faculty have worked system-wide with their special education colleagues over two years to develop ideas for meeting the state-wide special education staffing crisis. Plans include a

new website where all special education certification programs in the UMS will be listed, a clearinghouse for information about all the UMS special education courses, and an in-person meeting to create an action plan for long-term solutions.

Collaboration with Maine school districts will also be critical for this unique degree program. The degree students will work full-time as Educational Technicians (Ed. Tech) in the collaborating districts while they complete the degree. The districts will assign certified special education teachers as mentors to the candidates. These mentors will provide the candidates with daily observation, coaching, and support. This is a crucial feature of the degree proposal that connects with the unique apprenticeship built into it. Notably, the collaborating school districts approached the USM Special Education Department faculty to propose the idea for the embedded apprenticeships. In particular, the Gorham School Department has a long history of collaboration with USM for teacher preparation. Gorham contacted the USM Special Education Department to seek assistance because they know and trust USM's record of prior partnerships. Additionally, faculty are meeting with the Lewiston school department and Central Maine Community College regarding our programs that can serve their staffing needs and provide a pathway to teacher certification. In essence, undergraduate students interested in a career in special education are a potential source of labor for Maine's schools, and this proposal offers a pathway for those interested in completing a bachelor's degree and earning special education teacher certification to do so while learning on the job. Superintendents and education associations have also offered letters of support.

The proposed degree will also include an ongoing collaboration with the Maine Department of Labor (MDOL), which has approved an apprenticeship for bachelor's degree students. This collaboration brings financial resources to support school-based mentors and coordinate transitions between associate degree completion and bachelor's degree enrollment. The MDOL has tentatively approved the apprenticeship, pending degree authorization by the UMS.

The proposal was reviewed at all appropriate faculty and administrative levels at USM and was reviewed and subsequently recommended by the Chief Academic Officers Council. Dr. Jeffrey St. John, Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, recommended the program to the Chancellor. Chancellor Malloy signed his approval of the Bachelor of Science in Special Education on June 1, 2023.

On a motion by Trustee Riley, and seconded by Trustee Cain, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee forwarded this item to the Consent Agenda at the July 10, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Bachelor of Science in Special Education at the University of Southern Maine.

University of Southern Maine B.S.B.A. in Operations and Supply Chain Management

The University of Southern Maine (USM) is seeking permission to offer a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Operations and Supply Chain Management. Operations and Supply Chain Management are concerned with the flow of materials, information, and money between suppliers, producers and service organizations, and customers. The proposed Operations and Supply Chain Management (OSCM) major provides a solid foundation and skills to those students who are interested in a systematic approach to business decision-making in a globalized economy. The key theme for this major would be the study and analysis of data to improve

business processes within and across companies. The program will be 100% asynchronous online. Employment for graduates of this field is projected to increase in Maine and nationally, with expected employment growth above 15% over the next 10 years.

The proposal was reviewed at all appropriate faculty and administrative levels at USM and was reviewed and subsequently recommended by the Chief Academic Officers Council. Dr. Jeffrey St. John, Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, recommended the program to the Chancellor. Chancellor Malloy signed his approval of the Bachelor of Science in Operations and Supply Chain Management on June 1, 2023.

On a motion by Trustee Riley, and seconded by Trustee Alexander, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee forwarded this item to the Consent Agenda at the July 10, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Operations and Supply Chain Management at the University of Southern Maine.

University of Southern Maine B.S. in Occupational Therapy Assistant

The University of Southern Maine (USM) is seeking permission to offer a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant program. The profession of occupational therapy utilizes occupational therapy assistant (OTA) practitioners in the delivery of OT services across a variety of settings. The OTA practitioner is licensed to provide therapeutic interventions and works collaboratively with, and under the supervision of, an occupational therapist. Employment for graduates of this field is projected to increase in Maine and nationally, with expected employment growth above 25% over the next 10 years.

The proposal was reviewed at all appropriate faculty and administrative levels at USM and was reviewed and subsequently recommended by the Chief Academic Officers Council. Dr. Jeffrey St. John, Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, recommended the program to the Chancellor. Chancellor Malloy signed his approval of the Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant on June 1, 2023.

On a motion by Trustee Alexander, and seconded by Trustee Cain, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee forwarded this item to the Consent Agenda at the July 10, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant at the University of Southern Maine.

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,
Kayla Flewelling, Interim Clerk