

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting
October 16, 2023

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting

Present: Committee Members: David MacMahon; Chair, Emily Cain, Barbara Alexander, Trish Riley, Kelly Martin **Other Trustees:** Roger Katz. **Presidents:** Joseph McDonnell, Ray Rice, Joseph Szakas, Jacqueline Edmondson, and Leigh Saufley **Faculty Representatives:** Dmitry Bam, Lisa Leduc, Patrick Cheek, Clyde Mitchell, William Otto **Student Representatives:** Katie Ashley, Aidan Mulrooney, Ben Doherty, and Andrew Seile **System Staff:** Chancellor Malloy, Jeffrey St. John, Paul Chan, Carolyn Dorsey, Ryan Low, Jamie Ballinger, Paul Chan, Amy Hubbard and Kayla Flewelling. **Others Present:**

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

Student Representative Discussion

The Board of Trustees Student Representatives brought forward discussion items relevant to their university communities and the University of Maine System with particular focus on the Status of Student Government on the campuses across the System.

Early College Update

Dr. Amy Hubbard, the Executive Director of Early College provided a presentation that reflected the advancement of Unified Accreditation through the Direct Admission initiative and related enrollment efforts. This presentation was grounded in the UMS Strategic Plan Commitment 1, Action 5 (UMS will strengthen Maine Community College System and Early College pathways to system universities by March 2024).

Early College encompasses several different programs, to include online and campus taught college courses by faculty, concurrent enrollment where students are enrolled in college-approved high school teachers on high school campuses (formally dual enrollment) and Bridge Academy, which provides college courses for students in CTE programs, combining rigor, skills, career exploration and mentoring. The presentation included a briefing around the enrollment status of each of these programs.

Dr, Hubbard included information about student support to improve student matriculation that included partnerships between high school and the community college system.

Faculty Initiated Discussion Topic: Early College

Upon the conclusion of Dr. Hubbard's presentation Chair MacMahon invited the Faculty Representatives of the Board of Trustees to continue the discussions of Early College initiatives and collaborations on their campuses and their viewpoints on how the current system and curriculum is being developed and executed.

University of Maine School of Law Mission Statement

In accordance with the University of Maine System Strategic Plan Commitment 5, Action 3, Goal 3.5, the University of Maine School of Law proposes to update its current mission statement:

“The University of Maine School of Law is the state’s public and only law school, a vital resource serving our local, regional, national, and global community. Maine Law is an institutional public servant committed to providing an accessible and affordable student-focused program of legal education and achieving the highest standards of ethical behavior.

Our rigorous doctrinal and experiential curriculum, influential scholarship, and signature programming prepare students to practice law, promote respect for the rule of law, and advance justice for all members of society.”

The proposed new mission statement is:

MISSION STATEMENT

Maine Law’s mission is to advance justice and leadership in a changing world. We provide an exceptional, inclusive, and student-centered legal education and serve our local and global communities through teaching, scholarship, and public service.

VALUES

We pursue our mission through the implementation of our values by an engaged faculty and staff who encourage the advancement of justice for all members of society, promote a system of just laws, and provide students with the knowledge, ethical framework, and skills needed for a career in the law.

- 1. Inclusion and community:** Creating a collaborative culture for the study of law that supports diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- 2. Academic excellence:** Providing students with an exceptional legal education through a comprehensive and diverse course of study.
- 3. Experiential learning:** Preparing the next generation of lawyers and legal professionals for the modern practice of law through practical opportunities inside and outside the classroom.
- 4. Professionalism:** Instilling the highest ethical standards and a strong sense of professional identity.
- 5. Public service:** Promoting service to our community and the legislative, judicial, and executive branches.
- 6. Leadership:** Training the next generation of leaders in Maine and beyond.
- 7. Collaboration:** Fostering an interdisciplinary approach to teaching, research, and service.

The proposal was reviewed at all appropriate faculty and administrative levels at University of Maine School of Law. Chancellor Malloy signed his approval of the proposed University of Maine School of Law mission on October 3, 2023. Upon approval of the committee, this item will be forwarded to the November 2023 Board of Trustees meeting for approval.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, and seconded by Trustee Riley, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee forwarded this item to the November 6, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approves the updated Maine School of Law Mission and forwards this item to the November 6, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting for approval.

Proposed Changes to Board of Trustee Policy 301.9 – Maine School of Law Mission

The Board of Trustees, as the legal governance body for the University of Maine System, establishes the policies that enable the System institutions to provide higher education of excellent quality to Maine and its citizens. One of the most important Board responsibilities is the approval of mission statements and strategic plans for the System and for the universities.

The current Board Policy Section 301 addresses the mission statements of all universities within the System. However, the Maine School of Law does not have a sub-section with a Board-approved mission statement represented. Therefore, a resolution was presented to add sub-section 301.9 to Policy 301 to appropriately document the Maine School of Law mission statement.

On a motion by Trustee Riley, and seconded by Trustee Cain, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee forwarded this item to the November 6, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approves this change to Board Policy 301.9 – Maine School of Law Mission and forwards this item to the November 6, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting for approval.

Review and discussion of the AY 23/24

Each year, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees develops a work plan. The work plan is intended to cover both action items required for governance of the University of Maine System and those topics of import and interest to the Board. Trustee MacMahon will review the draft FY 2023-2024 Work Plan with the Committee in preparation for its adoption at the next available Board of Trustees meeting.

Executive Session

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Riley, 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 Riley, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic & Student Affairs 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,
Kayla Flewelling, Interim Clerk