

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM  
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting  
October 24, 2022

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting**

**Present: Committee Members:** David MacMahon; Chair, Trish Riley, Emily Cain, Beth Dobson, Kelly Martin, Barbara Alexander, and Lisa Eames. **Other Trustees:** Roger Katz and Dhivya Singaram. **Presidents:** Jacqueline Edmondson, Joe McDonnell, Joe Szakas, Deb Hedeem, Ray Rice and Joan Ferrini-Mundy. **Faculty Representatives:** William Otto, Michael Scott, Matthew Bampton, Lisa Leduc, Patrick Cheek, and Clyde Mitchell. **Student Representatives:** Aidan Mulrooney, Rachael Smith, and Katie Ashley. **System Staff:** Robert Placido, Ellen Doughty, Rosa Redonnett, Carolyn Dorsey, Jeff St. John, Ryan Low, and Jamie Ballinger. **Others Present:** Adam Tuchinsky, John Volin, Heather Ball, and Kathy Yardley.

**Committee Members Absent:** Pender Makin.

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

**Faculty Representative Initiated Dialogue**

The Faculty Representatives to the Board of Trustees, working in conjunction with the Academic & Student Affairs (ASA) Committee Chair, selected student success as the topic focus for the October ASA Committee meeting dialogue.

UMPI Faculty Representative Dr. Lisa Leduc led a discussion with the other faculty representatives to the Board concerning student success and retention. Dr. Leduc stated that the following faculty representatives to the Board were also in the meeting: William Otto-UMM, Michael Scott-UM, Matthew Bampton-USM, Patrick Cheek-UMA, and Clyde Mitchell-UMF. She thanked the ASA Committee Chair and the Chair of the Board for allowing the faculty representatives to have a large amount of time at the beginning of the ASA Committee meeting for this type of engagement.

Dr. Leduc explained that she had a class a little bit later in the morning so she would not be able to attend the whole ASA Committee meeting and she wanted to provide a few comments concerning the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) discussion that would be happening later in the meeting. She stated that she attended two meetings with the NECHE team during their fall visit to UMS earlier this month, where she had discussions concerning the Faculty Governance Council (FGC) and the Competency Based Education (CBE) program at UMPI. She explained that based on the comments made about the FGC by NECHE in their exit report, she believes that the NECHE team did a good job of listening to and addressing concerns that were discussed in that session. She stated that although her personal experience with the NECHE team visit was great, she has had other System faculty members mention that they did not have similar experiences and that they stated that based on their experience the faculty voice was not able to be properly incorporated into the NECHE visit and discussions.

Dr. Leduc stated that she appreciated the meeting materials that were provided to the faculty for the discussion concerning student success and retention but thought that based on the years the data was pulled from, that it did not accurately reflect the current environment post the height of the pandemic. She explained that she did find that the best practices from external sources were really useful,

especially the data focused on student experience and connection to their campus. She explained that her interpretation of comments stated in the NECHE exit report indicated that there was a lot of good work going on at the campus level but not enough System level organization and support for that work.

Dr. William Otto from UMM stated that the UMS aggregate IPEDs data is useful; however, if you look at the individual campus level data, the retention rate for rural campuses is about 67% which is quite different for campuses located in more urban areas. He explained this is a national trend and that other factors such as which degree programs are offered at the institution also effect the student success and retention rate.

Dr. Clyde Mitchell from UMF explained that he feels that the pandemic has had a large impact on the student success and retention rates here in Maine as well as nationally. He stated that Tinto Model for Student Retention explains that one of the biggest determining factors to retention is the student's social connection to the campus. Dr. Mitchell explained that during the pandemic students became very isolated due to smaller classes, quarantining protocols, and lack of traditional campus social events. He noticed that during 2020, nearly 10% of his students did not return. He attributes most of that loss to lack of social engagement at the campus. He explained that smaller campuses in rural areas, typically do not offer a lot of opportunity for things to do in town, so if those campuses do not offer enriching opportunities on campus to keep the students entertained and engaged, the students will most likely eventually leave that campus. He mentioned that often student athletes do well on rural campuses because they come in to a ready-made team with support and social interaction. He explained that rural smaller campuses are most likely not able to offer the same community level benefits as campuses in a more urban area. However, smaller campuses do have advantages when it comes to being able to offer smaller class sizes with more personalized and closer engagement with the students, but there is a lot of work to do to build on those advantages. Dr. Leduc stated that she agreed with Dr. Mitchell's thoughts on smaller campus advantages and disadvantages. She explained that having smaller classes allows her to know each of her students by name and notice if they are not attending class. This gives her the opportunity to start an academic outreach through EAB and work with the student to get them back on track quickly.

Dr. Michael Scott from UM stated that there are many issues that cause a student to walk away from their post-secondary education such as mental and/or physical health issues, financial issues, and loss of interest in continuing their education. He explained that the difficulty that he and other UM faculty members on the front line working with the students is that there is not any focal point to raise their concerns about a student to. He stated that there are some different services and tools that faculty can direct the student to and tools they can use such as EAB, but it is not the most efficient way to handle the situation. He stated that the faculty members already have a lot on their plate with managing their coursework and classes and it would be beneficial if there were one resource they could turn to when they see a student struggling, that could then assess the needs of the student and determine what services would be the most beneficial to get the student back on track. He stated that student success and retention needs to be more of a collaborative effort across the entire campus.

Dr. Matthew Bampton from USM stated that post-covid there has been a major uptick in the mental health crisis in students. He explained that in this semester alone he has walked seven students over to the counseling center to seek support, which is more than he has total in his previous 30 years of teaching. He stated on top of the rolling mental health crisis, he has also seen higher levels of undiagnosed learning disabilities and higher incidences of housing insecurity among students post-pandemic, which is substantially affecting student success and retention. He explained that these are some of the bigger issues that he has noticed that are beyond his qualifications and powers to solve and

are in greater numbers than he has seen previously. He is hopeful that with more time passing since the pandemic and with the housing options being added to the USM campus, that some of these problems will improve. Dr. Leduc echoed Dr. Bampton's thoughts and stated that faculty members are doing some front-line work that they most likely are not prepared or trained to do. Dr. Otto stated that he has noticed an uptick over the last decade in the student mental health crisis. He explained that can be difficult because students are suffering with mental health issues for a variety of reasons and it is important to spend time getting to know the students to tease out what the need to help them succeed.

Dr. Patrick Cheek from UMA stated that many faculty and administrators believe that as we get further away from the height of the pandemic, the mental health and other issues talked about previously will become less evident; however, he believes this is just the start of the increase in these types of issues and will continue to increase. He explained that not only are faculty members untrained to handle these student mental health and learning disability issues; they are also uncompensated for this work. Additionally, when they are dedicating their time to working with students on this front, they are unable to dedicate the time they need to on developing and administering their coursework. Dr. Leduc explained that she agreed with Dr. Cheek in that students have been severely impacted by covid, whether they were in college or high school and she anticipates that this will have an affect the student's learning abilities as well as their social skills.

Dr. Mitchell stated that he agreed with Dr. Cheeks point that the mental health crisis has actually been going on for about 10 years and has only been exacerbated by the pandemic. He explained that living through the pandemic and dealing with the challenges of attending high school and college during that time, when the students should be at the peak of their academic career, has created challenges for the students that can severely affect their probability of success. He stated that another challenge students face is that since the boom of social media over a decade ago, people have become more frequently interacting with others through technology only and have lost many of those social skills that are developed by interacting in person. He explained that in his experience many students these days do not want to attend class in person because they are actually uncomfortable with in person interaction. He stated that increasing the mental health services across the System would help to combat some of these issues and take some of the burden off of the faculty, who are untrained to handle these situations.

Dr. Leduc stated that she took a nationally certified mental health first aid class through Cigna a while back and that she found it beneficial for helping to handle some of these issues as a front-line contact for students. While it does not train the faculty to fully help the student like a counselor can, it provided a bit more of a foundation to be able to figure out how to triage this type of issue and get the students directed to the right services. She stated that it might be beneficial for other faculty members to attend a similar class, so that they feel a bit more prepared to handle these situations, since they are having to deal with them so frequently. Dr. Leduc also stated that she fully agrees with a statement made earlier by Dr. Mitchell that student athletes have a great support system built in and that UMPI coaches go above and beyond to make sure students are supported and engaged not only in their athletic programs but their academic programs as well.

Dr. Scott stated that getting students involved in academic activities such as research and internships are another way to increase student success and retention because as they participate in these activities they can see how the coursework is in important part of their future careers. He stated that it will be important to increase student engagement in academic activities across the System if we are to improve student retention. Dr. Leduc stated that she agrees that getting students involved in all kinds of athletic, academic, and social activities is an important factor in increasing their retention and success

and that perhaps there should be an increase in social emotional learning for college age students. She explained that it is also important to meet student where they are socially and work with them to overcome some of their concerns such as presenting in front of a class or going to an internship where they do not know anyone.

Trustee Alexander stated that she has found that the K-12 system is facing many of the same problems that the System is when it comes to student mental health and social issues and the lack of support services for their students, which further indicates that these issues will continue in higher education for years to come. She asked what the Trustees could do with respect to helping with these types of issues. Dr. Leduc stated that there is a lack of System level support, organization, and implementation of student support services, as stated in the NECHE exit report and it will be important that this issue is addressed. She stated that it will also be important for Trustees to take a more holistic approach when it comes to decision making by looking at more than the statistical data of a situation but also the story that goes along with those numbers. Dr. Cheek stated that what the System needs is more financial resources to mitigate these issues and the Trustees can help by petitioning the legislature for increased financial support and resources.

Trustee Cain stated that based on the conversation today, what she would like to learn more about from the faculty, is how does UMS increase enrollment, in specific enrollment of students who will be able to thrive even though they have higher barriers to learn after the pandemic. Dr. Leduc stated that it is important to make sure the right student is matched to the right campus and that it is imperative that campuses are realistic about their offerings and environment during college visits so that students can make an informed decision and choose an institution where they will thrive. Dr. Otto agreed that matching the student to the right campus to suit academic and environmental needs is imperative. Dr. Scott stated that it is critical for campuses to take time to assess whether a student is academically and social prepared to attend college at their campus and not just enrolling them for the sake of numbers. Dr. Leduc stated that on that point, it is important to make sure that students who are obtaining Early College credits are receiving a high-level education and are properly prepared to attend any academic program at any of the UMS campuses.

Trustee Riley stated that the discussion today surrounding the many barriers that the students and faculty are facing when it comes to student success and retention has been informative. She explained that she knows that more funding and resources are needed for the students, but wanted to know what the faculty needs to help mitigate these issues. Dr. Leduc stated that having more opportunities for workshops and professional development for the faculty is imperative to providing the support that they need.

### **Student Representatives Discussion**

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

### **Chief Academic Officers Update.**

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Robert Placido asked the Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) of the UMS universities to provide brief updates on current and forthcoming unified programs and collaborations.

USM Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Adam Tuchinsky provided information on the emerging and continuing collaborative academic programs for USM. He stated some of the major collaborative programs include the master's program in Education & Instructional Technology and the Geospatial Institute. He explained that USM has several collaborations with UMA that have

been going on for some time and that there are less widely known collaborations in Risk Management and Insurance between USM and UMPI. He stated that the USM Muskie School has been working collaboratively with the graduate center for some time as well on interdisciplinary academic programs. He explained that the faculty work collaboratively across the System on grant proposals and there are several that USM and UM are collaborating on currently. USM is also working with UM on course sharing to support both of the campuses' Computer Science departments. Another emerging collaboration is between USM and UMF, which are working together to create a shared program on game design and immersive reality.

UMPI President and Provost Ray Rice stated that UMPI also has long standing collaborations with UMA, in particular the Medical Laboratory Technology program, which is one of the longest standing collaborations across the System. UMPI collaborates with UMFK on Nursing and Education programs and with UMF on Physical Education. He explained that the cooperative extension collaboration across the System is extremely important and includes a faculty member who is both a member of the cooperative extension and teaches Agricultural Science at UMPI. He stated that there are several new collaborations being developed across the System that are intersecting with the UMPI Competency Based Education (CBE) programs.

UMM Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Heather Ball stated that all nine of the UMM bachelor degree programs include significant engagement with the community as well as with the other System universities. She provided the example of the Special Education and Inclusive Early Childhood Education programs where the UMM faculty are engaged in crosslinking courses with UM, UMA, and UMPI. The UMM Environmental Geographic Information Science Program is part of the Maine Geographic Geospatial Institute and also engages in crosslinking courses. The Mental Health and Business programs also engage in crosslinking courses. The UMM Education program is engaged with the local rural schools in Washington County to fill critical roles and needs in Education through pre-service clinical opportunities and UMM is looking for other areas that they can collaborate with the community in a similar way to fill critical needs.

UMFK President and Provost Deborah Hedeon explained that this Wednesday UMFK will host a reunification drill coordinated event between several academic departments including Nursing, Behavioral Health, and Public Safety to prepare students for an emergency situation by means of a mock post active shooter scenario, which is a good example of how the UMFK faculty collaborate together to provide unique hands on experiential learning opportunities for the students. UMFK is currently collaborating with the Maine Law School to establish a rural practice clinic, which is scheduled to open in January at UMFK.

UMF Associate Provost and Dean of Education, Health and Rehabilitation Katherine Yardley explained that the four to three credit conversion is well under way at UMF and that all proposals are due to the Associate Provost office by October 31<sup>st</sup>. The curriculum committee has been reviewing the proposals and everything is well on schedule. UMF has been working to address critical workforce shortages in Education and has been working with local schools to find out what their needs are and to mentor teachers in the first years of teaching. UMF recently held an event where over 144 prospective teachers from many high schools across the State worked with UMF Faculty and students to learn what it would be like to receive their post-secondary education at UMF. This workshop helped the high school students to start a relationship with UMF faculty and students and get an idea of the coursework and experiential learning opportunities that they could expect from UMF.

UMA Provost and Interim President Joseph Szakas stated that the graduate program in Trauma

Informed Emergency Management is doing well and is being taught with courses across the System. UMA collaborates with nearly every campus across the System. They are collaborating with the Nursing program at UMF and two of the UMA biology faculty members are collaborating with UMM on some coursework. He stated that UMA sees many alignments between the UMPI CBE program and the work that UMA does with non-traditional students. They have some collaborations currently with the UMPI CBE program and are looking into other possibilities as well. He stated that USM has been a great partner in the UMA Cyber Security program. He explained that world languages is an area across the System that needs work and the provosts have been working hard to find collaboration initiatives to keep this important program active. Additionally, a subset of the UMA Aviation program, the Remote Pilot Program went on tour to all UMA centers and provided an intro to the course and demonstrated the drones. This program is in its second year and it has over 20 students across eight different campuses, including online.

UM Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost John Volin explained that UM is collaborating with the other UMS universities, in specific through the UMS TRANSFORMS Student Success and Retention initiatives, which includes Research Learning Experiences (RLE), Gateways to Success, and Pathways to Career projects. There are over 100 faculty and staff members across all UMS universities that are involved in the UMS TRANSFORMS Student Success and Retention initiative. The RLE program was piloted at UM and UMM last year and is now in 6 of the UMS universities, with over 500 of the System's first year students participating. The Pathways to Career will get underway this year and recently received some funding from the legislature through the Maine Jobs and Recovery Program and will provide internship opportunities to students at all UMS universities. The Gateway to Success project has sent request for proposals to all UMS campuses and the proposals are due in the next few weeks. Additionally, the work to develop the Maine College of Engineering and Computer Information Science (MCECIS) is underway, which will be co-led by UM and USM and is intended to provide pathways for all UMS universities, the community college system and even eventually the K-12 program.

**New Academic Program Proposal: BS Business Administration – Business Information Systems and Security Management, UM**

University of Maine (UM) Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost John Volin provided information on the UM request to offer a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration - Business Information Systems and Security Management. This undergraduate program in the Maine Business School will focus on fulfilling a growing need among Maine employers, according to Burning Glass. This data shows over 2,500 job openings in the state while higher education institutions within the state produce about 200 students in this area each year. Faculty at the Maine Business School have worked with the University of Maine at Augusta to determine course equivalencies, giving students in the UM BSBA-BISSM and the UMA BS in Cybersecurity additional coursework options at both Universities. The program is a collaboration with the Maine School of Information and Computing Science and focuses on information security from an organization perspective.

Trustee Alexander stated that while the program proposal provides information on the benefits it will provide for UM and USM there is not enough information in the proposal to explain what benefit it will provide for all UMS campuses. She asked for more details to be provided in the program proposals that outline the details of how each campus will or will not be able to benefit from the academic program, as well as the overall System-wide implications if the academic program is approved. She explained that while some of these details were provided in the verbal presentation today, she would like to see those details in the written program proposal going forward.

Provost Volin provided some details about the discussions amongst the CAO's concerning this program proposal and the ideas for current and future collaborations around the program. Provost Szakas confirmed that there was plenty of discussion on collaboration and that the CAO's feel comfortable with the collaborative effort on this program. Vice Chancellor Placido stated that he would be happy to add the requested more detailed information to the written program proposals going forward.

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Eames, 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 November 13-14, 2022 Board meeting:

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 Business Information Systems and Security Management at the University of Maine at Orono.

**New Academic Program Proposal: B.S. Industrial Engineering, USM**

USM Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Adam Tuchinsky provided information on the USM request to offer a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering. This undergraduate program is designed to address demand for industrial engineering professionals within the State of Maine. USM will accomplish this goal by providing an accredited educational program that will graduate future leaders in engineering, business and systems optimization that can sustain Maine's growing industrial sectors. Graduates will be able to solve complex problems in current and emerging industries of importance to Maine's economy including healthcare, manufacturing, business logics, transportation and tourism. The program will seek ABET accreditation within six years of program inception.

Trustee Alexander explained that information in the program proposal about the possibility for four of the UMS universities to offer a one year entry level program to prepare for this program was very helpful information in her decision making process. She stated that it would be helpful to have similar information provided in all program proposals going forward. Additionally, she stated that the program proposal indicated that the program would fall under the larger umbrella of the MCECIS program; however, it was her understanding that MCECIS was not fully fleshed out, so would that effect the viability of the program.

USM President Jacqueline Edmondson stated that the collaboration between USM and UM outlined in this program proposal is a great indication of the kind of collaboration that will be needed for MCECIS and that the MCECIS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is currently being developed with great indication that it will be successful. UM President Joan Ferrini-Mundy stated that moving forward with the MOU and launching MCECIS is a very high priority for UM and USM and that they hope to bring an approval back to the Committee and the full Board in the next semester.

On a motion by Trustee Eames, which was seconded by Trustee Dobson, 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 November 13-14, 2022 Board meeting:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, and approves the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering at

the University of Southern Maine at Portland.

**Proposed New Board of Trustees Policy 315 Commemorative Naming and Renaming of Academic Units and Programs**

Clerk of the Board of Trustees Ellen Doughty provided information on proposed new Board Policy 315 – *Commemorative Naming and Renaming of Academic Units and Programs*. In August, the proposed Board Policy was reviewed by the Academic & Student Affairs (ASA) Committee and by the full Board at its September Board meeting. There have been no revisions to the proposed Policy based on review by the ASA Committee and the full Board. It is now being presented as an action item for the October ASA Committee and if approved will be presented for approval at the November Board meeting.

On a motion by Trustee Dobson, 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 to the November 13-14, 2022 Board meeting for Board approval:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approves the proposed new Board of Trustees Policy 315 *Naming and Renaming of Academic Units and Programs* as presented.

**Proposed Changes to Board Policy 301.3 - USM Mission**

USM President Jacqueline Edmondson explained the proposed changes to Board Policy 301.3 – USM Mission. The proposed new USM mission statement is:

“Committed to equity and excellence, the University of Southern Maine advances a culture of inquiry and belonging in which research, creativity, and innovation accelerate transformational development in our students, on our campuses, and in our communities.”

As part of the protocol to change Board Policy, this item was presented as information at the August ASA Committee meeting and the September Board of Trustees meeting. Following ASA Committee approval today, this item will be forwarded to the November Board of Trustees meeting for approval.

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Eames, 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 November 13-14, 2022 Board meeting for Board approval:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approves the changes to Board Policy 301.3 - USM Mission, as presented.

**Awarding of Academic Degrees**

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Credential Attainment Rosa Redonnett asked the Board of Trustees to approve the awarding of academic degrees for 2023 commencement.

On a motion by Trustee Dobson, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved this item to be forwarded to the Consent Agenda at the November 13-14, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System authorize the awarding of degrees during Commencement ceremonies for the 2022-2023 academic year to those students fully recommended by the appropriate faculties and the presidents of the respective institutions of the University of Maine System.

#### **Update – Academic and Student Affairs Work Plan**

Associate Vice Chancellor Redonnett explained the ASA Committee Work Plan was presented at the August Committee meeting and based on feedback received by Trustees, there were a few changes to the work plan. The change made was to add regular committee updates concerning collaborative programs and unified accreditation.

#### **Update – NECHE**

Associate Vice Chancellor for Accreditation and Strategic Initiatives Jeffrey St. John provided an overview of the October 1-4, 2022 New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE) accreditation visit. He stated that the overall event went well and he thanked the Trustees for their participation in the visit. He explained that after the visit the Chair of the NECHE Visiting Team presented an exit report for UMS where he outlined fifteen areas of strengths addressing 8 of the 9 accreditation standards and eleven concerns addressing 5 of the 9 standards, as identified by the team. An overview of these strengths and concerns were provided in the meeting materials for this meeting. Over half of the strengths that the team identified affirmed that unified accreditation is a strong tool for UMS' continued work in serving students and in advancing the System. Of the areas of concern identified, over half of them were focused on two standards which did not come a surprise to UMS. The first being Standard 3 – Organization and Governance, and the second being Standard 5 – Students. The concerns on Standard 5 were mostly a caution to make sure that UMS is clearly identifying the different student populations and their specific needs and making sure to meet the students where they are to ensure their degree completion and success. Going forward next steps will be to receive the finalized report from NECHE following their visit and to review the report for accuracy and substance and submit any response. In early Spring, the Chancellor will meet with the Chair of the NECHE Visiting team and they will discuss the self study, the team report, UMS' response to the report, and questions and observations from Commission members. Following that in late Spring 2023, NECHE will send the Chancellor and the Chair of the Board a letter detailing its findings and providing guidance for future UMS action.

Trustee Alexander asked if the Board will be receiving a plan and timeline that outlines the steps to address the concerns that NECHE raised in their report. Associate Vice Chancellor St. John stated that the plan/timeline are in the process of development and that the Trustees will be provided with that information at an upcoming meeting, once it has been fully developed and vetted through the proper channels.

Committee Chair MacMahon thanked Associate Vice Chancellor St. John for all of his dedication and extensive work in completing this unified accreditation work.

#### **Academic Year (AY) Calendar 2027-2028 and 2028-2029**

Associate Vice Chancellor Redonnett explained the Academic Calendars are typically updated every three years. To enable campus Academic and Service departments to plan more effectively, the Registrars/Student Records Directors proposed that beginning with the AY 2021-2022 calendar forward, two years would be presented on an annual basis (as opposed to waiting three years). The AY

2027-2028 and AY 2028-2029 calendars were included in the meetings materials and are available at the [Academic Affairs website](#).

### **Enrollment Update**

Vice Chancellor Placido provided a brief update on the Fall 2022 UMS enrollments. Currently, UMS is down 4.8% in total headcount for the entire System. The System had projected about a 4% decrease in fall enrollment and the campuses implemented several initiatives to try to mitigate that decline, meaning there is a good chance that the numbers could be even lower, had the campuses not made that effort. The graduate headcount is down 2.7%, which was a bit of a surprise because it had been growing each year previously. The competitive job market and rising cost of living increases have greatly impacted the graduate enrollment. There has been a large increase in Canadian student enrollment with the border opening back up post-pandemic and UMS predicts that number will continue to grow. The other area that continues to grow are the condensed accelerated academic programs such as the UMPI CBE program. One of the reasons that UMS could be seeing a decline is because there has been a decline in students who enroll in college for the fall following their high school graduation since the pandemic started. Undergraduate fall-to-fall return rates are also seeing a decline, which has also had an effect on fall enrollment.

Trustee Alexander asked how UMS enrollment compares to the other private higher education and community colleges in the State. Vice Chancellor Placido explained that the Maine Community College System (MCCS) is up 12% from the previous year. They were down 20% previously, so they are still down more than UMS but they have made a great recovery. While UMS is happy for the MCCS, their increased enrollment has played a part in our decreased enrollment.

Trustee Riley stated that by looking at the simple fall enrollment numbers it would appear that other colleges and universities in the State are doing better than UMS; however if you go into the full details it would show that there is a probability that UMS is actually doing better than some of the other colleges and that data should be promoted better. She stated that she also recently read an article in the New York Times that explained that students are questioning the value proposition of a post-secondary education and that UMS should work to showcase why the System is the best value for Maine students. Vice Chancellor Placido explained that in the past most of that work was done on a campus level and that recently there has been some development at the System level to promote and advertise a more unified message of the value that the System has to offer.

### **Executive Session**

On a motion by Trustee Riley, which was seconded by Trustee Eames, 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, 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 Committee concluded the Executive Session.

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

**Tenure Request, College of Education and Human Development, UM**

UM Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Volin provided information on the UM request that Dr. Ezekiel Kimball be awarded tenure at the rank of Professor in the School of Educational Leadership, Higher Education, and Human Development, UM, effective July 1, 2022. This appointment coincides with Dr. Kimball's appointment as Associate Dean for Undergraduate and Teacher Education in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Maine. Dr. Kimball was selected after an extensive search and rigorous evaluation process. Dr. Kimball's credentials have been reviewed by the faculty and staff of the School of Educational Leadership, Higher Education, and Human Development and have received their full support.

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 to the Board of Trustees for approval at the November 13-14, 2022 Board meeting:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approves tenure at time of hire, Professor in the College of Education and Human Development at UM with tenure to be effective July 1, 2022.

**Tenure request, College of Engineering, UM**

UM Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Volin provided information on the UM request that Dr. Giovanni Guidoboni be awarded tenure at the rank of Professor in the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, effective January 16, 2023. Dr. Guidoboni was selected after an extensive search and rigorous evaluation process. Dr. Guidoboni's credentials have been reviewed by the faculty and staff of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and have received their full support.

On a motion by Trustee Alexander, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, 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 Board of Trustees for approval at the November 13-14, 2022 Board meeting;

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approves tenure at time of hire, Professor in the College of Engineering at UM with tenure to be effective January 16, 2023.

**Tenure Request, College of Management and Human Service, USM**

USM Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Tuchinsky provided information on the USM request that Dr. Daniel Wong be awarded tenure at the rank of Professor in the Department of Counselor Education, effective January 1, 2023. Dr. Wong was selected after an extensive search and rigorous evaluation process. Dr. Wong's credentials have been reviewed by the faculty and staff of the Department of Counselor Education and have received their full support.

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 and Student Affairs Committee agreed to forward the following resolution to the Board of Trustees for approval at the November 13-14, 2022 Board meeting:

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October 24, 2022

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approves tenure at time of hire, Professor in the College of Management and Human Service at USM with tenure to be effective January 1, 2023.

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