

9-26-2014

Metropolitan University Steering Group - 5th Meeting, September 26, 2014

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Recommended Citation

Gelsinger, Emma, "Metropolitan University Steering Group - 5th Meeting, September 26, 2014" (2014).
Maine's Metropolitan University. 37.
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Metropolitan University Steering Group

University of Southern Maine

5th Meeting, September 26, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Room 133 Wishcamper

Proposed AGENDA

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

10:10 a.m. Information Items

1. USM Libraries Meeting (Liz & Emma)
2. Athletics Department Meeting (Dahlia & Meredith)
3. UMass Boston Visit (Joy)
4. Environmental Scan Meeting (Lynn, Libby, Joy, Cathy, Rob, Liz)

11:00 a.m. Discussion Items

1. Interim Report & Updated Recommendations (Jack & Drafting Committee)
2. Convocation Planning Group (M. Shaughnessy *et al.*)
3. CUMU Conference at Syracuse U. (Dick)

11:30 LUNCH

11:45 Discussion Items (continued)

12:45 p.m. Next Steps

1:00 p.m. Adjourn

Metropolitan University Steering Group

University of Southern Maine

Meeting Notes

5th Meeting – September 26th, 2014

Room 133 Wishcamper

Next Meetings:

- **Drafting Group: Wednesday, October 15th, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., 327 Wishcamper**
- **Full MUSG: Friday, October 31st, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 133 Wishcamper**

Assignments:

- **The Drafting Committee will continue to work on vision and recommendations, keeping in mind the ideas and concerns of the full MUSG, as well as the NERSCHE report that Dick referenced in the meeting and paying attention to not loading up the document with too much in its front end in light of the fact that its primary audience consists of the executive decision makers at USM and UMS/BOT.**
 - **Liz Turesky will flesh out a brief draft “vision” statement to put in the introductory paragraph(s) of Section 3 “Recommendations.”**
- **The Convocation Planning Committee will continue to develop and plan the ideas presented at this meeting with the understanding that the first specific event will be Barbara Holland’s visit Dec. 4-5. Rolling Convocation events will be planned as the situation becomes clearer over the next 1-2 months.**
- **The CUMU Delegation will attend the conference and report back to the MUSG at the next meeting (a written report would also be greatly appreciated).**
 - **Michelle will coordinate the meeting of delegation members during the conference to ensure that efforts are not duplicated and that members have a chance to debrief and brainstorm.**
- **Dick Barringer will arrange a meeting between a few MUSG members including David Swardlick and the key messaging leaders at USM, to include at least Tracy St. Pierre and Cecile Atchison (already MUSG Resource Members) and Chris Quint.**

Present: Richard Barringer (Chair), Jack Kartez (Facilitator), Emma Gelsinger (Recorder), Libby Bischof, Dennis Gilbert, Cathy Fallona, Chris Hall, David Swardlick, Joy Pufhal, Michelle Jacobus, Liz Turesky, Barbara Holland, Martha Scott, Meredith Bickford, Susan King, Kim Dominicus, Kristi Hertlein, Lynn Kuzma, Paula Gerstenblatt, Michael Shaughnessy, Rob Sanford

Guests: Rachel Cormier

Part I: Information Items

1. USM Libraries Meeting (see Attachment)
 - There was a lot of enthusiasm at the USM Libraries Meeting where Liz Turesky presented, and people genuinely appreciated being involved in what the MUSG is doing. Emma and Liz collected completed MU Indicator sheets from everyone at the meeting. David Nutty and others are currently looking through them and perhaps beginning working on ideas. Dick will follow up with David.
2. Athletics Department Meeting
 - Dahlia Lynn presented at the Athletics Department, it was a brief meeting but people were excited and interested. It's important to remember that coaches, etc., really need to understand the MU brand and what it means so that they can communicate that while out in the community.
3. UMass Boston (see Appendix I for notes & Attachment)
 - Joy Pufhal reported on an inspiring visit to UMass Boston, "I didn't want to leave," she said. They are very dedicated and focused on their MU mission and expressed a commitment to understanding what was going on at USM. They were also willing to come to USM and spend some time here to help. Michelle Jacobus also traveled to UMass Boston and was very impressed with their Office of Community Partnerships and the energy of the Director of Community Partnerships. She also noted that bringing people in who have experience at other institutions could bring a vision and ear that we may not be able to do ourselves.
4. Environmental Scan Meeting
 - A few MUSG members attended the Presidential Search Environmental Scan meeting with Dr. Terry MacTaggart and reported that it was a very good conversation, and that it appears to be the first of many conversations. In the face of the upcoming transition, Terry explained that it may be necessary to hold off on posting the position until people have had some time to heal. MUSG members were impressed with his competence and believe we are in good hands. Terry understands that we cannot just sit and wait for the right person to come to USM, we need to go out and find the right person for the job.

Part II: Discussion Items

1. Interim Report & Updated Recommendations
 - o The group had a long and productive meeting about the Updated Recommendations and the Interim Report. There seemed to be a consensus that we still need a solid, clear, vision statement that is upfront and center in the

interim report. It was noted that the beginning of section 3 in the report has this quality to it, but it can't be something that people may skip over to get to the recommendations. It was also proposed at the end of the Drafting Committee meeting and during this full MUSG meeting that the organization of the recommendations might need to be different – perhaps organized by function, or the 6 “what we’ve learned” bullets right before the Recommendations section of the report. The Drafting Committee will meet again and continue to clarify and structure the recommendations.

2. Convocation Planning

- The Convocation Planning report/proposal led into a very energetic discussion about the rolling convocation. There were some concerns about whether or not it was too soon to begin something like this in light of the upcoming cuts. Since Barbara Holland is coming on December 4th and 5th, this may be a good time to begin the rolling convocation events. As long as people have positive take-aways from these events they are important. Either way, USM needs to move forward and bring good energy to its campuses. The Convocation Planning Committee will continue to develop

3. CUMU

- The CUMU Delegation was asked to take the draft recommendations with them to the CUMU Conference and to keep them in mind while attending events. For the report back to the committee, Dick asked them to provide information on:
 - What you have learned that is of value to us?
 - Refinements or alternatives to what we’ve been doing - is there anything you learned that will really inform what we are doing here?

4. Misc. Discussion Items

- Chris Hall told the group that the Portland Regional Chamber has 2 priorities this year, and USM is one of them. President Flanagan spoke with the regional chamber, and came to not just ask for sympathy and support, but to say that the business community really needs to reconnect with USM at a very deep, basic level. He is speaking again on the 1st to another 300-400 people.
- Paula Gerstenblatt proposed that we need a PR initiative, an “I am USM” everywhere. She said that something like this needs to be taken on and to reach beyond the business community to increase broad-based support for USM.
- Rachel Cormier, the newest student representative (“in training”) on the MUSG was asked directly by Jack and Dick for her perspective on the student point of view. She said that there is a lot of frustration from students who have been involved over the last year or two because they feel like their work has not been

recognized. She said she met with the President and the Provost and asked them how they are going to make it clear what they are responsible for and what they are not responsible for, since there seems to be confusion about where the decisions are coming from. She said there is a state of fear out there as well for everyone - students, faculty and staff - they are wondering what is coming next.

Appendix I: UMass Boston Report Notes (reported provided by Joy Pufhal)

- It was an inspiring visit – UMass is going through a period of growth right now.
- They were emotionally committed to understanding what was going on at USM, and willing to come to USM and spend some time with us.
- UMass Boston was FOUNDED with this mission, an urban mission of access to all.
- Access is linked to the metropolitan mission – “of the community” –
- They use Engaged Scholarship and are utilizing their resources to attend to community needs.
- They have partnerships with the K-12 schools.
- They focus on specific demographic groups in the community.
- Their President has an external view and believes in building relationships with the other Presidents in their area.
- There is a wide range of student needs in the classroom, and they see this as a good thing, not an obstacle.
- Their campus is a place for those in the city to gather
- Strategic plan in 2007,
 - i. Office of Faculty Development
 - ii. Stipend faculty to develop civic engagement courses
 - iii. Mini grant funding for faculty
- For our Recommendations:
 - i. What would it mean if USM disappeared?
 - ii. Do people know that’s a possibility? You’re not going to get the support you need until you do.
 - i. Take on community challenges **where there are external resources**
 - 1. Ex. New Mainers, healthcare, access
 - ii. For the presidential search, you need someone who values higher ed and that excellence is not inconsistent with access.
 - iii. It’s important to connect kids to the institutions. This is not only low cost, but is impactful and creates goodwill
 - iv. Director of community partnerships and the office of community partnerships
 - v. Director is very articulate
 - vi. Community engagement scholars is very important, helps development of a peer group
 - vii. Community engagement designator – designed to assist and encourage faculty to work through the bureaucracy of community engagement

Appendix II: Updated Recommendations

- o We need a vision statement
 - What is this about? Who is responsible for it?
 - New vision for USM deserves to be a stand-alone clear passage that does what the beginning of section 3 does – we have not really crystallized the vision “thing”

- Revisit the vision document that David Swardlick wrote with the recommendations document
 - Put vision statement up front in this document, needs to be simple and direct, for the President and the Chancellor
- Structure
 - Perhaps this should be organized by function instead of positions
 - Needs to reflect integration and oversight
 - Is there too much here? Less is more. I want to be part of a committee that submits recommendations that get approved – that means we have to be specific, concrete and clear in our recommendations
 - Build on the bullets of “what we’ve learned” and structure recommendations around them?
- How is the faculty senate going to respond to this?
 - It’s important to present the paper and indicate that you are there to listen to their concerns and recommendations
- Maybe solidifying these recommendations is the job of the person who we hire to manage this initiative
 - 3 components that address concerns – the position, the organizational structure, and the resources
- We need to break it down so that the administration can grasp it and know what it’s going to cost
 - They need to know where will the funding come from, and how we expect an increase in revenue
- We need to Include the Academic Assessment Office in this proposal if we are going to focus on assessing and evaluating our progress

Appendix III: Convocation Planning

- The proposed rolling convocation plan includes:
 - Discussions with faculty, staff, etc about what the MU is so everyone are more aware of what it is
 - A series of speakers
 - A place for people to get up and tell their story – gives a dynamic of awareness and interest in what people are doing
 - “Community conversations” – set up expectations within the community
 - A combination of splash events with the essential community (both internal and external) discussions
- Is it adaptable to the post-budget environment?

- Yes, either way, we have to do these things. It's important that there's positive take-aways from each event.
- Is it too soon?
 - Barbara will be here on December 4th and 5th
 - Maybe this should be the first event in the rolling convocation
- Perhaps we could bring in faculty and students from other universities
- Community Conversations
 - We need to go out into the community to meet with people instead of having them come to USM
 - Lets not be afraid to identify and promote the positive things
 - It's important to identify and acknowledge the problems associated with working with USM in the past. Just because we want to do something better now doesn't make those go away.
 - What's inventoried in the Interim Report in terms of focus areas, and is there anything missing?
 - Who is going to do this? Which community members are going to be invited?
 - More of an "open-house" for USM and the community
 - How do we target community conversations? – "take on community challenges *where there are resources*"
 - The LAC community discussions could be used as a model for USM's "community conversations"

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Gelsinger

October 1, 2014