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USM Board of Visitors Meeting Notes (for the MUSG) June 13th, 2014

University of Southern Maine

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BOV Updates

- The way that its BOV interacts varies by campus and even college
  a. The UMS Board of Trustees is interested in more integration and is looking for more input from the USM BOV.
  b. In October there will be a BOV/BOT summit
- There needs to be more interaction between USM, BOV and the legislature
  a. Cecile will be organizing a group of BOV members to try and start the process of cultivating mutually beneficial relationships between legislators and USM

President/USM Update

- USM Enrollment
  a. Although reservations for residence halls are up 7%, undergraduate and graduate enrollments are down from projections (they were already down)
  b. Interestingly, 2nd year out of state enrollment is up 5% which indicates that the work UMS has done in that direction is paying off
  c. There is still a serious problem with enrollment in non-degree students

Systems Update

- The legislative dynamics and especially the gubernatorial race will affect Maine’s public universities at both the System and campus level
- Money is now being allocated more to the K-12 school systems
  a. Asking for more money is not as simple as having good ideas, it requires asking them to take money away from one place and give it to USM/UMaine system
- There is an 8 million dollar bond on the ballot for a new plant and animal diagnostic lab at Orono which will provide significant statewide impact and benefit
  a. It is necessary to adjust how this is campaigned so that those who will benefit the most from it (ex: Aroostook County) will support it
- Facilities & Administrative Review Committee
  a. They are looking at the size of the student population in contrast to the amount of buildings and administrators within the system – how do we staff the system given the demographics
  b. Emphasis being placed on finding ways to do preventative maintenance on older buildings
• Comments/Questions on The Work of the MUSG
  a. The goal is to reward those who are doing it, and support those who want to do it
  b. A cohort of students to pay attention to is those from the Community Colleges
  c. It’s essential to get the stories of what people are already doing out into the community
  d. The “Metropolitan University” is an old term – we really need to think about how we want to convey this idea in an exciting, modern way
  e. There is serious risk to only doing incremental changes – we must take risks and make big changes
  f. The market is going to respond to what it needs
  g. We should have a focus group of employers to really get a sense of what the communities needs are
     i. Ex: Maine Health is the 2nd largest employer in the state and has an internship program that is not connected to USM
  h. External factors and trends are moving faster than the UMaine System
     i. We must “Be Bold”
     ii. It is not just the marketing, we have to mobilize the stakeholders
  i. The University of Maine System needs to fix itself – it is a broken model and it’s time to make a change. It was noted that conversations about a new model are being held at the campus presidents’ level.