Overview:
In 2009-2010, Michael E. Dubyak represented the University of Southern Maine’s Board of Visitors (BOV) as chair with Laura Foye ’87 as the vice-chair. The BOV focused its attention on five main areas:

1) collaboration working to increase collaboration among USM boards and among system-wide Boards of Visitors
2) advocacy efforts on behalf of USM, influence the legislators, Board of Trustees, and community leadership; including commenting on southern Maine perspectives relating to the New Challenges, New Directions Plan
3) reorganization of USM, supporting the goal of increasing areas of distinction and identifying community needs for curricular changes;
4) advice to USM as to the corporate and community needs anticipated in the post-recession economy, helping to identify programmatic gaps and opportunities.
5) support for USM Creating Maine’s Future Campaign for Scholarships.

There are five focus areas for the upcoming 2010-2011 year that the USM BOV plans to focus its work: 1) internship opportunities for USM students, including increasing the number of internships offered and engaging additional businesses in the internship program with the goal of enhancing student learning and building stronger relationships between the University and the industry; 2) increased collaboration with the other USM Boards; 3) continued advocacy efforts on behalf of USM, including influencing legislators, the Board of Trustees and community leadership; 4) continued advice to the USM president in regards to the needs of the community and its corporations, 5) financial support to fund USM priorities focused on gaining community, state and system support for USM financial needs.
The USM Board of Visitors meets five times annually. The Annual meeting is scheduled in June of each year.

Friday, November 13, 2009 (13 voting members attended, 4 Ex-Officio, 2 guests, and 4 staff)

This was the first meeting of new Chair, Mike Dubyak during which he articulated his plans for the year highlighting his interest in increasing collaboration with the Board of Visitors from the other universities within the System. He also announced that the BOV would focus on two main goals for the year: increasing funding and advocating for USM.

President Botman focused her attention on implementing goal #1 of the Strategic Plan (embracing community), student success, creating a sustainable business model, fostering more internships, and the Board having a voice in the community.

Friday, February 12, 2010

Meeting Cancelled

Friday, March 19, 2010 (9 voting members attended, 2 Ex-Officio, 1 guest, and 3 staff)

President Botman reported on the importance of the primary goals of USM’s strategic plan Preparing USM for the Future, 2009-2014 and underscored that USM will play a critical role in preparing the region and state for the challenges of an increasingly globalized marketplace, the state’s growing economy, and the necessity of a well-educated citizenry. She stated that USM will need to invest in programs of potential distinction, building on USM’s strengths in areas like music, nursing, science, and technology. The president also announced her hope that USM would solidify its reputation in STEM and R&D programs, and would continue to serve the business community and cultural interests of Southern Maine.
Chair Mike Dubyak talked about USM’s reorganization, discussed the importance of supporting the final reorganization proposal, and updated the Board about the letter that was sent to the BOT in regards to the reorganization. He then provided a reminder about the breakfast on April 1 that would include members from all 13 USM boards and the importance of these boards working together for USM.

**Friday, April 9, 2010** (10 voting members attended, 4 Ex-Officio, 2 guests, and 3 staff)

President Botman expressed the importance of the work that all the USM Boards do and how significant the April 1st All Boards breakfast was because for the first time it brought together representatives from 13 areas of the university. The President then gave an update on the draft reorganization plan that was submitted to the faculty senate and discussed the beginning of the reorganization efforts. She then let the Board know that Meg Weston will be managing marketing and brand management for USM and working on a new brand to go along with the reorganization.

Chair Mike Dubyak discussed the role higher education must play to meet the state’s future needs. He also suggested that the USM BOV co-sign a letter of support for the reorganization plan that would be sent to the BOT.

David Hughes from University Advancement spoke about the scholarship campaign that was taking place at USM and emphasized the importance of raising funds for the scholarships.

**Friday, June 11, 2010** (19 voting members attended, 10 Ex-Officio, 0 guests, and 4 staff)

Chair Mike Dubyak welcomed the new members and recognized the outgoing members.

He then spoke about the June 17th System Summit meeting that would take place. Mike announced that the BOV would focus its efforts on increasing USM internships during the 2010-2011 year. He talked about what industry is looking for, where our employees are coming from, and where the market has growth potential.
The President gave a BOT meeting update and expressed hope that the BOV would support the reorganization plan. She also reported that Kate Forhan stepped down and John Wright had accepted the position as interim provost. The President then gave an update on the reorganization plan and articulated the work that was already being done with faculty and staff.

The USM Board of Visitors then held a panel discussion on the role of higher education in shaping our state’s workforce. Participants included members of all 13 USM Boards and members of Maine’s government. The assembled group of speakers engaged and challenged the audience to think about USM’s role in Maine’s future. Speakers included:

1. Ron Bancroft: National and international developments impacting Maine
3. Chuck Lawton: Trends shaping the future risks and opportunities for Maine
4. Bill Caron: Future of Maine’s health care landscape
5. Jean Maginnis: Future of Maine’s creative economy
6. Former Maine Governor Angus King: Game changers for Maine’s future.