Overview
In 2017-2018, Clif Greim served as Chair of the University of Southern Maine’s Board of Visitors (BOV), with Luk Nya as the Vice-Chair. The BOV focused its attention on the following areas: supporting, collaborating and helping USM achieve its goals, especially in the areas of the GO Bonds, enrollment, retention and the employment of USM graduates; participation in system-wide joint BOT/BOV meetings; reaching out to Maine legislators in support of USM and the University of Maine System’s legislative agenda, including the GO Bonds; and providing testimonials on the importance of USM and UMS to Maine’s economy and businesses, among other issues.

2017-2018 Membership
The USM Board of Visitors began 2017-2018 with nineteen members (including the immediate past president) and one vacancy. There were twelve men and seven women. Twelve members reside in Portland or its surrounding southern Maine communities; four reside in Lewiston/Auburn/Lisbon; one resides in the mid-coast region and two reside in other areas.

Members’ professional backgrounds:
   Technology and Manufacturing (4)
   Government/State (3)
   Financial (3)
   Arts (3)
   Accounting (1)
   Real Estate (1)
   Insurance (1)
   Architecture (1)
   Education/Youth Services (2)

Officers
Chair: Clif Greim
Vice-Chair: Luk Nya

Schedule
The USM Board of Visitors met six times in 2017-2018, including one joint meeting with the BOV of the University of Maine. The BOV met 4 times in Portland, one time in Gorham and one time at LAC. The Annual Meeting is scheduled in June of each year.
Meetings and Agenda Items:

Thursday, August 31, 2017 (14 voting members attended, 5 Ex-Officio, 9 staff and 3 guests)

Students Muna Adan and Pdg Muhamiriza discussed ways for students and the BOV to engage with each other. Muna invited BOV members to attend Student Senate meetings and welcomed any ideas from the BOV to further engage with students. President Glenn Cummings shared that Eliot Cutler will be stepping down from his position at the Maine Graduate Center and George Campbell will be appointed by Chancellor Page as the Interim Director. President Cummings announced USM’s Service Promise “Student Focused Every Day” and Values “respect and care, integrity, equity and responsiveness”. Provost Jeannine Uzzi gave a presentation about the work her office has been doing over the last year. VPEMS Nancy Griffin gave a presentation about the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) Policy and how it is affecting enrollment at USM. President Cummings provided an overview of the various USM goals, including continuing to improve enrollment, moving forward with USM’s capital campaign, receiving the master plan report this spring, planning for the graduate center, and moving forward on community and corporate engagement strategies. Rebecca Nisetich provided an overview of USM’s Convocation. The meeting ended with a lively discussion about the need for more internships.

Friday, October 27, 2017 (8 voting members attended, 0 Ex-Officio, 9 staff and 2 guests)

The October BOV meeting took place at LAC. LAC Dean Joyce Gibson welcomed the BOV to a revitalized LAC and introduced Brian Toy, the new Associate Dean. LAC highlights include: an increase in enrollment; a new Occupational Therapy clinic; two community partners newly located at LAC; and the June 2018 transition of Dean Gibson from Dean to faculty. President Glenn Cummings reported good news on USM’s overall enrollment growth. Revenues are at 103% of budget projections. USM is growing partnerships in Iceland and developing collaborations that are mutually beneficial for students and researchers. The Promise Scholarship campaign has launched with a $15M goal and $4.1M raised. Ainsley Wallace, VP of USM Corporate Engagement, shared information on USM’s model of holistic employer engagement for workforce development, alumni involvement and to meet corporate education needs and create internship opportunities. The newly organized Career and Employment Hub is working closely with corporate partners and campus partners. Employer Relations Managers are being hired to work closely with a portfolio of corporate partners. A new Career Network will offer a variety of community-based resources for USM students such as mentoring, mock interviewing, and job shadowing. BOV members expressed interest in helping.

Friday, December 8, 2017 (9 voting members attended, 2 Ex-Officio, 9 staff and 1 guest)

BOV members lauded the excellent and well attended Corporate Partners event featuring alumnus Dr. Micky Collins. BOV members reported that the BOT/BOV Summit in November was excellent and USM was well represented. BOV members were encouraged to attend future Summits. BOV discussed the USM Legislative Breakfast in Portland and the meeting with Androscoggin County area legislators. Among issues raised was USM’s interest in legislative
support for the $75 million general obligation bond bill. President Cummings noted that enrollment is going very well and this fall semester is our 5th semester in a row of enrollment growth. USM is getting ready to submit its 2019 budget. USM has balanced its budget the last two years and has used $3 million of an anticipated $3.5 million of turnover savings to support additional investments including scholarships and learning assistance programs. Over the next three years, USM will work to eliminate the use of turnover savings for budgeting. Senior leadership team has been working on the Nine Goals. Efforts include: growing online offerings, assessing the schedule to be more student friendly, reviewing common core requirements, expanding and improving advising, and developing a facilities Master Plan. Information about the new Metro contract was shared. Professor Dana Kerr gave a presentation on Risk Management and Insurance studies at USM and the MEMIC John T. Leonard Endowed Chair in Risk Management & Insurance. The Foundation is seeking an additional $1.5 million in matching fundraising from other industry sources to fund the Chair. VP of Corporate Engagement Ainsley Wallace gave an update on Corporate Engagement efforts including: asking BOV members to sign up for the Community Career Network and Admissions Volunteer Network; encouraging BOV to attend the Corporate Partners series on innovation called "IMAGINE. CREATE. DISRUPT"; sharing information about the USM Works for Me alumni workplace gatherings; and upcoming professional development training series for students in the spring. John Henshaw gave the BOV an overview on the Maine Center Ventures. Jeannine Uzzi announced the successful hiring of an interim Dean of the Graduate School of Business, Jim Simpson.

Friday, February 12, 2018 (9 voting members attended, 2 Ex-Officio, 7 staff and 2 guests)

BOV met for a short meeting prior to the joint USM/UMO BOV meeting. The joint BOV meeting focused on supporting the region’s workforce needs. Chancellor James Page joined both the UMS BOV and the joint BOV meetings. Chancellor Page gave an update on the GO Bond campaign. President Cummings informed the BOV that USM submitted its budget to the System and received positive feedback from Ryan Low and his team. Our reserves are growing and, overall, we are moving in a positive direction. The Law School has a structural budget deficit and the System is supporting an independent audit of the law school to assess the best path toward future stability. VPEMS Nancy Griffin gave a very encouraging update on enrollment, projections and retention. USM has hired a consultant to prepare an international recruitment plan. President Cummings and Provost Uzzi mentioned that USM is working hard on its retention efforts and that retention success is due to this broad cross-university commitment to student success. George Campbell gave updates on MCV and the Foundation. Ainsley Wallace will be the new President of the Foundation effective May 1st. Two major searches underway, one for the MCV CEO and the other for a permanent Dean of the UMaine Graduate School of Business. MCV is working on messaging and branding. Tony Shalhoub has agreed to be the honorary chair for the Center for the Arts campaign. The Promise Scholarship has raised $6 million, so far.
BOV Chair Greim noted the smaller than usual turnout and questioned how to increase attendance at non-Portland based meetings. VPEMS Nancy Griffin gave an overview of fall enrollment noting that we are facing strong competition from other colleges and universities across New England. Despite these challenges, Nancy predicts that overall fall enrollment will be up by 1%. Our improved financial aid packages have had a direct and positive impact on enrollment. Enrollment is working with the Law School to create a recruitment plan. Two big challenges for attracting and retaining students include (1) insufficient supply of student housing and (2) the need to improve and expand our financial aid packages both for recruitment and retention. President Cummings congratulated Trevor Hustus and Ray Stevens on their appointments to the BOT. He also thanked Provost Uzzi and Cyrus Hagge for their work on the Master Plan. Glenn shared information about the Ricci Scholars event and Ray Steven’s generous donation to support improvements in the science in honor of his mentor, Prof. Ricci. USM presented our budget to the System. We have a balanced budget, added some to our reserves, and are reducing our reliance on turnover savings. The Law School has experienced budgetary challenges, similar to the challenges experienced by law schools nationally. To address this budget challenge, USM is financially assisting the law school and also working with the System to engage Hanover Research to do a review and audit of the Law School. Provost Jeannine Uzzi gave a presentation about the draft Facilities Master Plan and members were also invited to the public forum at 12:30. Information about the master plan is available at https://usm.maine.edu/president/master-plan. Cyrus Hagge, President of the Foundation Board, discussed the possibility of including someone from the BOV to come to a Foundation Board meeting and vice versa.

BOV Chair Greim shared his positive experiences attending Commencement and the reception the night before. Commencement included a USM Corporate Partner Hall of Flags with banners featuring student interns or alumni employees of the company that sponsored the banner. Sam Warren gave an update on the GO bond and thanked the many members who have reached out to Legislators to support the bond package. President Cummings announced that Ainsley Wallace is the new President of the USM Foundation. Ainsley introduced her new Chief of Staff, Nick Mancuso. Cyrus Hagge is now Chair of the Foundation Board and an honorary degree recipient. President Cummings introduced USM’s new Chief Business Officer, Beatrice Fevry who is taking over for Buster Neel. Enrollment was up 3.4% last fall, and in addition, our winter term and our two summer terms are up about 3-4%. USM is anticipating its fourth straight year of enrollment growth. USM reserves are now at almost $8M but our goal is $12M. We are less dependent on turnover savings in the 2019 budget. USM is holding steady on alumni fundraising participation but we are anticipating that to increase in response to efforts by the Foundation. There was a successful search for the CEO candidate for the Graduate Center. The new Dean of the MBA school has been hired. The MBA program will be housed in Portland, but will be a UMO MBA. Curricular discussions have begun between the USM MBA and the UMO MBA. We have hit all of the deliverables required by the Alfond Foundation. Executive Director of Public Affairs and Marketing Bob Stein is spearheading an RFP for a market research study to
test a possible name change for USM. The BOV reviewed and supported the 2018/19 draft meeting schedule. The BOV voted to support Rebecca (Beckie) Swanson Conrad to serve on the BOV.

Submitted by Clifton Greim, Chair USM Board of Visitors
Date October 1, 2018