Overview

In 2018-2019, Clif Greim served as Chair of the University of Southern Maine’s Board of Visitors (BOV), with Luc 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.

2018-2019 Membership

The USM Board of Visitors began 2018-2019 with twenty members (including the immediate past president). There was one vacancy during the year due to a resignation for work related reasons. There were eleven men and nine women. Thirteen members reside in Portland or its surrounding southern Maine communities; five 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/Economic Development (4)
- Financial (3)
- Arts (3)
- Accounting (1)
- Real Estate (1)
- Insurance (1)
- Architecture (1)
- Education/Youth Services (2)

Officers
Chair: Clif Greim
Vice-Chair: Luc Nya

Schedule
The USM Board of Visitors met six times in 2018-2019. 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, 2018

The August meeting included a recap of the legislative activities by Sam Warren, UMS Director of Governmental Relations. Sam also discussed the plan for the grassroots campaign to support the bond campaign and Question 4. Sam thanked the BOV for their support of the legislation and encouraged their ongoing support of Question 4 describing it as an historic once in a generation opportunity for USM. The USM Foundation encouraged BOV members to donate to the PAC. The BOV also received updates on the Foundation, enrollment, and the President’s 9 goals.

Friday, October 26, 2018

The October BOV meeting took place at LAC. The BOV received a variety of updates including the following: Nancy Griffin, VP of Enrollment, shared data on enrollment growth; Provost Jeannine Uzzi gave a Master Plan update and noted that the report is in its final drafting; President Cummings updated the BOV on the marketing study to assess the benefit of a name change. The BOV was introduced to the new VP of Corporate Engagement, Jeanne Paquette. Terry Sutton, CEO of Maine Center Ventures (MCV) gave a presentation on MCV and its fundraising campaign. The Nominating Committee proposed Mike Sauschuck as a candidate to replace resigning member, Jon Jennings. The BOV voted unanimously in support of forwarding Mike Sauschuck’s name to the BOT for their approval.

Friday, December 14, 2018

The December meeting was a combined BOV meeting and Legislative Breakfast. Over 20 legislators were in attendance plus a broad representation of staff, BOV, faculty and students. Legislators received a warm welcome and presentations on a range of issues including USM’s workforce engagement efforts, the Law School and its PLUS program, and the valuable role of the Cutler Institute as the research arm of the Muskie School of Public Policy.

Friday, February 8, 2019

Vice Chair Luc Nya presided over the February meeting in Chair Greim’s absence. President Cummings shared leadership changes announcing that Alec Porteous would be joining as CBO in February and that Nancy Griffin had taken on the role of Chief Operating Officer. Nancy would continue to be VP of Enrollment and David Roussel will step into the role of Interim VP of Student Affairs. Finally, Danielle Conway accepted a position at another law school and Dmitry Bam will act as interim Dean of the Law School. Nancy Griffin gave an enrollment and retention update and noted ongoing growth in credit hours and retention. Master Plan Co-Chairs Cyrus Hagge and Jeannine Uzzi gave a joint presentation on the final Master Plan. President Cummings gave a presentation on the outcome of the name change marketing study noting that the study overwhelmingly supported a name change as a means to enhance recruitment.
Friday, April 5, 2019

The BOV meeting took place in Gorham on the same day as Admitted Student Day so that BOV members could attend and share in the excitement. Over 1000 admitted students were registered to attend. VP of Enrollment Nancy Griffin noted that admissions are at the highest level in USM history. President Cummings introduced USM’s new CBO Alec Porteous. President Cummings invited the BOV to attend commencement on May 11 noting that Janet Mills will be the Commencement speaker. Nancy Griffin gave a quick summary of the current capital projects. CBO Porteous gave an update on the USM Budget. Upon recommendation by the nominating committee, the BOV voted unanimously in support of a proposed slate of new BOV members that included Chris LaVoie, Jennifer McCarthy and Kimberly Hamilton. Those candidates’ names will be forwarded to the BOT for their approval. The BOV also unanimously supported a change to the by-laws to allow a term-limited Chair an extended term, if needed, in order to serve a term as Immediate Past Chair.

Friday, June 7, 2019

Sam Warren, UMS Director of Government Relations, gave a broad overview of legislative efforts this past session. Legislative priorities going forward will depend on the incoming Chancellor’s priorities. Sam noted that one of the identified priorities is an effort to encourage increased investment in R&D. BOV members discussed the One University initiative. Chair Greim thanked Sam for her outstanding work on behalf of USM and UMS. Corey Hascall, VP of Foundation and Alumni Relations, thanked the BOV for their leadership in giving. She encouraged the board to give to the Page Scholarship, an endowed scholarship that the BOT established to honor Chancellor Page’s service to UMS. President Cummings shared an update on the 9 goals noting that USM has made tremendous and impressive strides. President Cummings thanked the faculty and staff for all of their efforts in USM’s successes. Nancy Griffin, COO and VP of Enrollment, gave an update on the many capital projects at USM.

Chair Greim noted that the BOT approved the BOV’s proposed nominees (N.B. the BOV approved four of the nominees at the April meeting and one of the nominees, Adam Lee, was approved by email vote after the April meeting. All five proposed BOV candidates’ names were forwarded to, and approved by, the BOT.) The BOV took a final vote and unanimously approved the slate of BOV members. The BOV also unanimously approved Luc Nya as Chair and Jane Eberle and Vice Chair. Finally, the BOV unanimously approved the proposed 19/20 meeting schedule.

President Cummings noted that Mark Blessire, Denise Taaffe, Dennis Eagleson and Tony Payne were termed out. He thanked them for their service and noted that each will receive a thank you gift. Glenn also thanked outgoing Chair Clif Greim for his dedicated service to USM and the BOV and presented him with a gift.

Submitted by Clifton Greim, Chair USM Board of Visitors
Date October 1, 2019