Board of Visitors Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2019


Vice Chair Luc Nya, standing in as Chair in Clif Greim’s absence, called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

Opening Remarks
Luc opened the meeting and introductions followed.

President’s Report
President Cummings thanked everyone for coming and thanked Luc for stepping in as Chair. Clif is away at the Chamber of Commerce meeting in Sunday River.

Leadership Changes
Glenn lead the meeting in a hardy “welcome back” to Interim CBO, Buster Neel. He then shared that Alec Porteous would be joining us as CBO February 19th. Nancy Griffin has taken on the role of Chief Operating Officer but will continue as VP of Enrollment until July 1st when we hope to have a replacement. David Roussel has stepped up to the role of VP of Student Affairs. Danielle Conway, Dean of the Maine School of Law, has accepted the position of Dean for the Dickinson Law School and will start there on July 1st. The search for a new Dean is expected to take a year, and Dmitry Bam will act as Interim Dean.

Enrollment and Retention Update
Nancy Griffin shared that we are continuing to see growth in credit hours, and retention is up 11%. Undergraduate credit hours are up 269 students for the spring, and for graduate students, we are up 44 students for the spring. Financial aid applications and admission applications are up. We are up 74% in students who identify themselves as multicultural or multiracial. Adult students are up 17%. We are using text messaging in the admission process for the first time this year and getting a huge response to those messages.

Glenn said the MBA is transitioning starting Sept. 1, and it will become a UMaine program thereafter. USM will continue teaching half of the classes and it will be a true joint program.

Nancy said we are going to have a very large graduating class this year and that means more students are staying with us and completing their degrees.

Luc asked for clarification about the joint MBA program with UMaine. Jeannine said that we can think about it like a brand shift. Under the UMaine brand, they will be offering a fully online MBA and then a blended evening face-to-face MBA in Portland as well as an online option. Glenn added that we will see more sister universities collaborating on programs.
New Portland Campus Presentation
Glenn thanked Jeannine Uzzi and Cyrus Hagge on all their hard work putting the Master Plan together. Glenn and Nancy then gave a joint presentation on the changes that are coming to the Portland campus. Further details can be found in the attached PowerPoint document.

Name Change
Glenn gave a passionate presentation about a potential name change, from The University of Southern Maine to University of Maine at Portland. He shared that he consulted with Kate Foster who was the President of the University of Maine, Farmington and is now the President of the College of New Jersey. This college used to be called Trenton State. Her best piece of advice was to really take time to get feedback from students and the community and talk with them about why the change would benefit the university. Glenn has scheduled numerous forums with all campuses, various staff and student groups and the larger community to plead the case and get feedback. For additional details, please see the attached document.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Visitors is Friday, April 5th, Alumni Reception Room, Gorham campus