Memorandum of Understanding
Between the University of Southern Maine, Southern Maine Community College, Central Maine Community College, and York County Community College

To facilitate student transfer to the University of Southern Maine from the community colleges and to enhance the information technology workforce, the following is agreed upon.

Strategic long term action:

Because there is currently no degree that is a direct bachelor’s degree completer for the computer technology associate degrees from the community colleges, we propose the development of a new USM degree that is compatible with and extends associate degrees in computer/information technology/information science in from the community colleges.

The first step will be to establish a committee with representation from USM’s departments of Technology and Computer Science and the community colleges to develop the new degree. Target date to establish the committee is June 2012.

Short term actions:

We propose the following actions that will both improve student transfer in the short term and be applied when the new degree is approved.

1. Assess community college and USM courses in relation to each other to determine equivalency, and where possible, increase the number of equivalent courses.

2. Align the current community college and USM degree requirements to maximize the transfer of community college courses into USM degree programs (Technology Management, Applied Technology Leadership, Computer Science) to the extent they are compatible with the USM programs. Target date is May of 2012 and on-going

3. Develop and maintain communication and a student advising system between the community colleges and USM to facilitate student transfer between the institutions including things such as:
   - A comprehensive MaineStreet course equivalency listing. Target date is May of 2012 and on-going
   - Joint advising strategies. Target date is May of 2012 and on-going
   - Degree worksheets showing how community college courses fit into specific USM degree programs. Target date is September of 2012
- A communications management plan to assure effective coordination between the programs: including regular meetings, advising communications, document management, future curricular discussions & mapping, program worksheet updates, MaineStreet updates, course equivalency discussions, etc. Target date is May of 2012 and on-going

- The opportunity to cross register for courses between institutions. Target date is fall of 2014 or when new program is implemented

- Joint recruiting strategies to include the possibility of dedicated scholarships for community college transfer students. Target date is fall of 2014 or when new program is implemented

- Coordinated internship partnerships. Target date is fall of 2014 or when the new program is implemented

4. Maximize transfer of community college courses into the USM General Education Core. Target date is May of 2012 and on-going

The undersigned agree to the MOU as stated above:

[Signatures]

Dean of Academic Affairs, CMCC

Vice President and Academic Dean, SMCC

Vice President and Academic Dean, YCCC

Dean, College Science Technology and Health, USM

Provost, USM

Date: 4-25-12