



UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTHERN MAINE**  
Provost and Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

**DATE:** April 29, 2008  
**TO:** Tom Parchman, Chair, USM Faculty Senate  
**FROM:** Mark B. Lapping, Interim Provost/VPAA  
**RE:** Monthly Report

By the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, I received nearly all of the program responses from those departments and programs placed on the review list. Two responses came in after the deadline, as previously agreed upon by me and the program directors. The program in radiation therapy, which has yet to graduate a student, requires additional consultation because it is an articulated program with SMCC. In general I have been very pleased with the responses. I now await the recommendations of the Senate-appointed committee in terms of its recommendation on the weighting of the criteria that could be used to assess the programs in question.

Academic Affairs has been trying to finalize budgetary adjustments so that we can meet our objectives. We are not only cutting some things but also fixing persistent budgetary problems, some of which were outlined in the PWC report. I will soon meet with the College of Nursing and Health Professions to initiate a search for a new dean of that college and look forward to doing much the same with the LAC community early in the fall semester, if not sooner.

The Chief Academic Officers of the System are now focusing some attention on resource-sharing that will allow us to program share. This would help to facilitate an initiative of the Department of Mathematics to extend its undergraduate degree to campuses within the UMS that currently do not offer a degree in this field. I am aware that the Department of Physics may also be interested in a similar program-sharing initiative. I am being asked to develop guidelines for the UMS that could lead to program sharing in the languages. As many of you may know, by 2012 the Maine Learning Results strategy has mandated two years of language instruction for all students graduating from an accredited Maine secondary school.

My office has also been busy with a submission to the NSF in the area of STEM education and in supporting several other projects along these lines. I was very impressed with the “Thinking Matters” conference and congratulate not only our students but their faculty mentors on a terrific conference. Aside from the normal day-to-day activities of the office I had occasion to meet with in-coming President Botman for several hours to discuss matters related to student retention, graduation rates, the demography of our faculty, and related issues. I found her highly engaged, inquisitive and thoroughly excited about joining the USM community.