

University of Southern Maine  
Professional Staff Senate  
Wednesday, April 7, 2004  
2:00-4:00 PM  
11 Baxter Blvd, Portland Campus

I. Attendance: Meeting was called to order at 2:02pm.

Present: Sharon Bannon, Donna Bird, Sandra Bogdonoff, Robin Day, Dana Gray, Sheera LaBelle, Joyce Lapping, Pat Marston, Mark Menezes, Kathleen Pease, Kat Schorr, Sara Treible.

Excused: Joy Britting, Casandra Fitzhebert, Thomas Wood

Absent: Norma Charette, Anita Higgins

II. Acceptance of March 3, 2004 Minutes as amended:

“V. b. Bylaws Committee: Senate Bylaws have been updated and the committee has disbanded.”

“V. g. 2. UBPIC: Senator Bannon categorized ideas submitted by the USM community as being an enormous task needing to be done carefully and methodically. Senator Wood admitted to his comments being off-topic but expressed concern at this time about the poor quality of PeopleSoft training offered to employees. Senator Wood suggested having USM take bids on training contracts. Senator Wood asked what the role is of the Professional Senate in regard to concerns about staff experience with training and consultants...”

III. Guest: President Pattenaude

President Pattenaude attended the meeting to discuss the “Transforming USM” document. He began by describing the Chancellor’s approach to the changes to the University of Maine System as “moving in the right direction” but also expressed that from the “inside” it appears to be a little “messy.” He explained that the UMaine Trustees are frustrated with USM particularly because “We” as an institution have a hard time focusing, because we offer such a diverse collection of opportunities for the public. He also explained that there is a huge difference between finding a focus, and placing limits on the University’s growth. He is very interested in seeing USM move towards developing itself as a “robust, comprehensive urban college.”

President Pattenaude also discussed the future of USM integrating the UMaine Augusta Campus into a “satellite campus,” based on the Lewiston/Auburn model. He is positive that the merger will happen, and he is excited, because UMaine Augusta would give USM new outreach opportunities, educational technologies, and help us further gain the support of the community. We also discussed the impact of the creation of the University of Northern Maine, and the challenges that come along with such as difficult task. Senator Bird asked about how governance, and President Pattenaude said that this is being worked on.

Senator Day and Senator Lapping expressed concern about the process of students coming to USM from the Community Colleges, especially for Education and Human Development students, such as Ed Techs. There has been concern expressed from the faculty about student placement in programs and giving “credit” for prior work experiences. He expressed the need for and the challenges of USM to continually try to tie together classroom and non-classroom experiences, like internships, experiential learning, and service learning.

President Pattenaude expressed interest in the future development of the Portland campus in the years to come, including the demolition of the existing student center, replacing it with a much larger and more flexible facility.

#### IV. Treasurer's Report

Senator Marston reported that {enter amount} was spent on flyers and ballots for the upcoming election by the Elections Committee, which makes the remaining total {enter amount}.

#### V. Committee Reports/Updates

##### a. Recognition Reception Committee

Senator Marston reported that the Senate will be receiving some funding for the Reception this year, although we will still do our best to keep costs down. There will be fewer door prizes, and they will all be done at once. There will be one program printed per table to save on printing costs. The Committee is working on making arrangements for a musical performance from students. The food service will be different than in year's past specifically there will not be a "buffet-style" service. There will be a simple blue/gold color theme to go along with the theme of community, unity, and transformation. The prizes for the loyalty awards will most likely still have the old USM logo on them. Invitation will go out around the first week of May. There will be special letters sent to those receiving loyalty awards to remind them to attend!

##### b. Election Committee

It was reported that ballots have gone out. There was a need expressed for help counting ballots on April 26th and 28<sup>th</sup>.

##### c. UPBIC; No report.

##### d. URIC

Senator Day reported that the committee met last week and that they are continuing to review the comments from the staff and compile them into a database.

##### e. Space Committee

It was reported that a "master plan" is being developed for the Portland campus regarding changes for the future. This includes some zone changes for new construction.

##### f. Parking Committee

It was reported that there is an increase of student parking space at 11 and 15 Baxter Boulevard, there are handicapped accessible spaces in the parking garage. The committee is also working on a fee schedule to keep the parking garage open for special events.

##### g. Communication Committee

There is new information on the Professional Staff Senate website regarding award information.

#### VI. Senate Reports

##### a. Student Senate

There was a recent elections in which there were 21 seats open, 21 people running, and 21 elected to office. There was a record high in voter turnout, 684 votes! There is an Officer's election on April 23, 2004. It was also reported that there is a Leadership conference that is being held all day on Friday, April 9, 2004.

##### b. Faculty Senate: no report.

##### c. Classified Senate

Senator Day reported an odd coincidence. This year there will be 77 loyalty awards given to Classified Staff members, which is the same as for Professional Staff members.

#### VII. Open Forum

The last Professional Senate Meeting on June 2, 2004 will be held at the University Library.

#### VIII. Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

Next meeting is May 5, 2004 from 2:00-4:00pm at 301 Bailey Hall, Gorham Campus.