

University of Southern Maine
Professional Staff Senate

Wednesday, May 4, 2005
Philippi Hall – Gorham Campus

- I. Meeting called to order by Senator Gray at 2:35pm.
Present: Senators Arey, Audesse, Day, Granahan, Gray, Higgins, Krieger, LaBelle, Lapping, Menezes, Pease, Treible, and Wood.
Excused: Senator Marston.
Absent: Senators Nickerson, Pufhal, Saucier.
Guests: Bob Caswell (in lieu of Kathleen Roberts, President's Office) and Dan Rabata, Manager of Employment Services.

- II. March and April, 2005 minutes approved.

- III. President's Office Report – Bob Caswell, Public Affairs
 - Transforming USM / Capital Campaign – to raise \$25 million for University Commons. Kickoff was last month with two large donations. Campaign ends 12/06. Portland Pipe purchased for \$1.95 million, via private funds – have 18 mos. to relocate.
 - Facilities –
Rezoning efforts initiated for Portland Campus Master Plan. The rezoning will respect current housing borders for the next 20-25 years (this may eventually change). May create townhouses and academic housing in the future.
Bio-Science Bldg. almost completed, except for outfitting the labs (bond issue to hopefully fund this endeavor if it passes).
Abramson Center opened 4/26 – Bob Hanson to be sending out notice re potential free usage for certain areas; otherwise usage fees help to pay for the internal debt.
Upgrading of Existing Space – Luther-Bonney Auditorium upgrade this fall in honor of Gerald Talbot. Bailey Hall will not be upgraded except for possibility of science labs if federal funding received. New Gorham Childcare to be built behind Mitchell Center – construction starting 8/05, groundbreaking 6/05. 334-bed residential hall will be built behind Bailey (opening 8/07 – apt./suite style). Senator Audesse expressed concern re lack of graduate housing, that this is a problem in attracting students to USM – graduate students being 20% of our enrollment. Mention made of future 250-bed residential hall plans for Portland, may be more geared for graduate students. Senator Arey expressed concerns re LAW building – there are plans for very distant future renovations.
 - Legislative Update – Recent chaos, uncertain future re proposed monies for UMS. We continue to get 24% share. 3 bond packages to be authorized 11/05: \$2 million for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, \$5-6 million for bio-science, \$2 for Lewiston-Auburn expansion.
 - Utilization of Volunteer Advocates – Bob Caswell read a very positive quote from Ken Nelson, outgoing chair of Board of Visitors, re USM.

- Research Consultant(s) – Provost Wood working on this. Senator Wood mentions that this is a good opportunity to provide input.

IV. Committees

- Divisional Awards (Senator Pease) - 4 nominees, will need a new chair next year! Loyalty awards are in.
- Elections (Senator Higgins) – List of new Senate distributed.
- Emerging Pro Staff – process completed.
- Recognition Reception – Senator Krieger reports that food and decorations under control. Invites going out very soon. Please come at 12n to help with set-up if possible. Script for Senator Gray will be provided. Letters re loyalty awards to also go out. Ray Dumont to check the RSVP line daily. Dress will be “groovy”. Book store has agreed to supply some door prizes. Senator Granahan has contacted President’s Office re solicitation of door prizes – will try and get less prizes, but “cooler” ones.
- Space Planning (Senator Gray) – Woodbury Campus Center’s A, B, and C rooms will be taken over by Student Senate operations 5/16.
- Parking (Senator Arey) – Relandscaping around Brooks Center. Lot to be created for short-term parking for Brooks.

V. PDQ Update (Professional Classification System) – Dan Rabata

Task force began in 2002 with consultants. There was a hiatus and then implementation ran into some “snags”. UMPSA was part of the process, mainly intended for new hires. There will be 8 new wage bands. Low-paid employees will be brought up to the \$23,660 minimum wage. Approach now is that long-term employees, at the minimum, should get a one-time raise. USM is being matched with similar-style universities. Program kicks off in July – everyone to receive a letter. There will be an appeals process.

VI. Senate Reports

- Classified (Senator Granahan) – mentions that Classified Staff may propose to merge with us in the future.

VII. Old Business

By-Law amendment approved to change the wording in section III article 2 from:

“A member may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms... to *three (3) consecutive terms.*”

VIII. Adjourn – 4:35pm.

Next meeting: June 1, 2005 7th floor Glickman Library