

Professional Staff Senate
University of Southern Maine
Wednesday, October 5, 2005
Videoconference (144 Luther-Bonney, 9 Bailey, 125 LAC)

I. Meeting called to order at 2:33pm by Vice-Chair Granahan. Brief introductions made.

Present: Senators Crumb, Granahan, Kennedy, Krieger, LaBelle, Lapping, Moulton, Nickerson, Theriault, Volland, and White. Judy Ryan, from President's office. Margaret Park and Terri Pelletier from Lewiston-Auburn Campus. Josh Chiasson – President of Student Senate, Pauline Pierre from Classified Staff Senate.

Excused: Senators Hassler, Jarry, Roy, and Menezes.

Absent: Senators Arey, Saucier, and Wood.

II. September minutes approved as amended.

III. **Executive Committee Updates**

- Met last week to review newsletter ideas, bios, and October agenda.
- Senator Crumb has created a form to aid in completing our bios for the web site, as well as our newsletter. Also please try to send something in about your dept. We would like to get an edition out this semester and pricing is being explored for printing.
- Senator Nickerson expressed concern about budget reductions; prefers to have the newsletter out via E-mail. Senator Granahan suggested we could have an article about how our departments are dealing with budget cuts and some cost-saving ideas.
- Committee also discussed future guest speakers. President Pattenauade will be coming next month.

IV. **Senate Reports**

- **Classified:** Senator Granahan mentioned that Donna Somma presented fall enrollment statistics. Rosa Redonnet is exploring a “one-stop shopping” venture for how USM operates. Mention of Homecoming. Mention of institutional research by Provost Wood. They have a printed newsletter that will be coming out soon. Will be having a general get-to-know-you meeting 10/14 at Glickman. Will be contributing flyers, posters and \$250 towards Employee Development day.
- **Faculty:** Senator Nickerson mentions that Provost Wood also reported about the external research study. Fundraising going well per President Pattenauade. Enrollment is slightly down. Residence Halls are full. Bond issues will be on ballot for USM and LAC expansion. There is a \$400,000 – 700,000 shortfall. We are now in the implementation phase of the Strategic Plan (can check Faculty Senate website about this). Exploring a Masters in Public Health degree, Women's Studies degree + raising admissions standards. Nancy Martz is the new interim director of research initiatives. Searching for a new chief research officer to do grant acquisition. Joe Wood would like an evaluation; has never had one – would like Faculty Senate input.

- **Student:** Joshua Chiasson, President of Student Body will try to attend all of our meetings. He spoke about the proposed \$9 billion federal cuts for financial aid. Plan is to write a resolution and get our senators and representatives to vote against this. There is also less financial state assistance. He pointed out a recent article in the *Phoenix* reporting how we are the only urban institution not receiving monies. There is a system-wide student governance group being organized – they'd like our help. This group would like to be more politically active and advocate for themselves (e.g. "NO on 1" stand). Please contact Joshua regarding any concerns or input at Joshua.chaiisson@maine.edu. His phone #615-4669. Would like to have a professional staff member to the Student Senate meetings usually every Fri. at 2pm (or 11am if there is a BSO meeting).

V. **Standing Committees** – will try to update our web site in regard to committees!

- Elections – Senators Hassler and Jarry not present.
- Professional Recognition – Senator Krieger still waiting to confirm the date of 5/23 or 5/25 (5/25 is our date of choice; may have to wait until 1/06 to reserve).
- Divisional Awards – Senator LaBelle working with Robin Day. They will present a final draft and template at next meeting.
- Historical – Senator Granahan needs copies of historical information.
- Emerging Professional Staff – Senator Lapping will still be our representative.
- Professional Development program: Senators White and Pelletier state that only 25 people have registered. Registration begins at 8:30am, 10/21, in the library. Would like us to have materials at a table. Please attend! Great motivational speaker.
- Colleague Connection – Senator Saucier not present. Communications Committee – Senator Crumb says to get in your bios ASAP. Will take digital photos, as needed, next month.

VI. **Ad Hoc Committees**

- Space Planning – Dana Gray not here.
- Parking – Senator Arey not present but a meeting recently occurred.
- UPBAC – Senator Wood not present.

VII. **Old Business**

- President Pattenaude will be at next month's meeting. Please be here at 2:30pm SHARP.
- Submit your department's news or something interesting to Senator Crumb for our newsletter.

VIII. **New Business**

- Senator Krieger expressed concern about the wastefulness of everyone receiving course catalogs. Also there was duplication of people getting catalogs at home as well as work. Feels we need to decrease waste – have a better system of checks and balances to accomplish this. She may write an article for our newsletter regarding her concerns.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

Next meeting: Wed., Nov. 2, 2:30pm – videoconference with 9 Bailey as the main site, L-A campus and 144 Luther-Bonney as alternates.