12/10/2010

**Statements and Recommendations of the Department of Administration Faculty**

The public administration faculty would like to suggest that the following points (if not wording) be incorporated in the PCRRC’s report to the Faculty Senate.

**Recommendation on the Merits:** Retain the University’s Bachelor of Arts in Public Management and it’s Master of Public Administration.

Both are healthy degree programs that complement one another, cost little, and jointly provide a great service to the State of Maine. They are the best such programs in the State, as well as the largest. The programs deserve neither suspension nor elimination - doing so would amount to false economy, violate the University’s basic mission, and deprive the University of significant connections with the political structure at state and municipal levels.

**Recommendation on the Prospects:** Explore and support collaborative approaches through which vested universities in the University of Maine System can use their combined public administration resources synergistically.

The University of Maine (including the Public Administration Department and the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center), the University of Maine at Augusta, and the University of Southern Maine each have resources to offer. Meanwhile, all parts of the State have a great need for the skills in governance, nonprofit management, and sustainable economic development that public administration programs foster - as do other academic programs as varied as Nursing, Engineering, Policy and International Affairs, and Parks, Recreation, and Tourism). Options for redesigning PA-education UMS-wide are on the table and include a strategic initiative proposal,* an academy of public service agreement,* and less formal discussions  possibilities that would benefit from analysis along with top-level leadership. Under President Kennedy,s leadership, a discussion between him and his counterparts at UMA and USM could provide a breakthrough approach by which, ultimately, more can be done very economically through creative use of technology and existing assets.

**Recommendation on the Process:** Treat APPWG’s recommendations about public administration programs as a call for realigning how public administration education can be provided statewide.

APPWG was conceived and executed as an internally oriented budget-cutting exercise. It was not designed to account adequately for external value, it did not have complete and adequate facts available for consideration, and, consequently, its proposal regarding PA programs deserves reevaluation - by the Faculty Senate, University administrators, and the potentially affected public. Terminating the University,s capacity to provide professional public service education involves more consequences than the APPWG process was designed to consider.
Please contact any of us should you or other members of your committee have questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,
   Dr. Thomas Taylor, Professor and Chair
   Dr. Kenneth Nichols, Professor
   Dr. Edward Laverty, Associate Professor
   Dr. Carolyn Ball, Associate Professor
   Dr. Ann Sossong, Cooperating Faculty

*These documents are provided separately for the record.