



December 1, 2017

TO: Michael Scott, President
Faculty Senate

FR: Susan J. Hunter
President

RE: Response to Faculty Senate Motions from November 15, 2017 meeting

- Motion 1: Recommendation regarding the proposal to reorganize the Maine Business School
- Motion 2: Align General Education courses with Faculty Senate approved criteria

Your memo dated November 15, 2017 was received by my office on November 28, 2017. After review with Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Jeffrey E. Hecker, my responses to the November 15, 2017 UMaine Faculty Senate Motions are as follows:

Regarding Motion 1:

While I understand and share some of the concerns expressed during the Faculty Senate meeting of 15 November 2017, I do not accept the motion regarding the reorganization of the Maine Business School.

The reorganization of the Maine Business School into separate Undergraduate and Graduate entities along with the creation of a physical presence in Portland will benefit students, faculty, the university and the state of Maine. The reorganization will allow enhanced collaboration with the Law School and the Muskie School, greater connectivity to the Portland business community, the establishment of UMaine as the only AACSB accredited MBA program in the state and the financial support of Maine's largest private philanthropic organization. I believe it is incumbent on the University to be more flexible and creative with regard to establishing programming options in other locations and to make sure the business community looks to us as the key element for changing the economic landscape of the state.

The objections raised at the meeting and in the months leading up to the meeting have centered on elements that are not part of the reorganizational proposal submitted by Provost Hecker. The Provost and I recognize that concerns about curricular decisions, appropriate authority of the Dean regarding hiring, tenure, and promotion, reallocation of resources away from the undergraduate program and a stated focus of the MBA program on full-time residential education are real. However, those elements do not form the basis for the proposal submitted by the Provost. They are suggested in the MOU between the University of Maine System and the Harold Alfond Foundation and the *Maine Center for Graduate Professional Studies* business plan.

He and I have raised these same objections many times and in multiple venues. We would not support actions that would abrogate faculty responsibility for curricula, alter the authority of the Dean, reallocate resources from the undergraduate program or create a model that relies on building a substantial full-time student cohort.

Concerns raised that are part of the proposal focus most strongly on the two-dean model of operation which is seen as leading to: 1) an inefficient operation, 2) establishment of a faculty class structure which will damage faculty recruitment and retention and, 3) concerns regarding AACSB accreditation. I believe all of these elements can be effectively managed. Neither the Provost nor I would support operational decisions that would create the damage outlined above.

While I do not accept the Senate recommendation regarding the proposal, I found the meeting on 15 November to be an example of shared governance in action. I believe there is general support for the broad initiative goals and that the faculty and administration are in agreement regarding concerning elements of the MOU between the University of Maine System and the Harold Alfond Foundation and the *Maine Center for Graduate Professional Studies* business plan. Where we differ is in the balance of risk vs benefits of the initiative. I am fully cognizant of the elements of risk but feel they can be mitigated with careful attention by both administration and faculty.

Regarding Motion 2:

I appreciate the efforts made over the last year to bring this motion to the table. I support the motion as written.

cc: Jeffrey E. Hecker, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Kimberly D. Junkins, Administrative Specialist, CL1, Faculty Senate