

## *University of Maine Faculty Senate Motion on Multi-Campus Degree Program Curricula*

### *Introduction*

The Faculty Senate of the University of Maine supports the University of Maine System's efforts to increase access to high-quality, affordable university education for all in Maine. In a thinly populated state with seven UMSystem campuses, we believe that we can strengthen our academic offerings and research capacities state-wide through programmatic collaboration developed through the stabilizing processes of shared governance. Working to these goals, the Chief Academic Officers of the seven campuses have begun to develop Multi-Campus Degree Programs, in which the campuses share courses and faculty in a shared curriculum, with students in the program receiving their degree from their participating home campus. Accompanying this motion, please find the Proposed Model for Faculty Governance from the UMSystem CAOs which has been given to the Senate by the Provost's Office.

We look forwards to working with our faculty, professional, administrative colleagues here and at other campuses to build sustainable academic programs that improve the educational and research opportunities for all while strengthening our academic quality in as effective, efficient, and responsible a manner possible.

### *Motion*

The Faculty Senate of the University of Maine can support developing Multi-Campus Degree Programs only if all multi-campus agreements use courses and curricula approved through established protocols that have been approved through each individual campus' shared governance processes. Developing new multi-campus programs and partnerships need engage the Chief Academic Officers and representative Faculty Senates to establish a sponsoring campus, with the approvals from each of the academic departments involved in the proposed partnership.

Any multi-campus degrees needing new programs developed at the campus level here need follow the established fourteen step approval processes honouring our shared governance agreements. For us to work collaboratively with the other campuses, we need them to follow their equivalent established processes for any Multi-Campus Degrees originating from their campus.

The structure of Multi-Campus Degree Programs needs approval through each participating campus' established processes of shared-governance.

All new Faculty hires that stem from the needs of a Multi-Campus Degree Program need be weighed in terms of the programmatic priorities at the Department level of the participating campus identified as the appropriate home for the possible hire.

Where each participating campus issues its own degree to students in Multi-Campus Degree Programs, students at UMaine need meet established degree residency requirements.

Proposed Model for Faculty Governance  
of Multi-Campus Programs offered through Unified Online

Department structure and operations

- a. A steering committee will be established to include one faculty member from each participating campus. Faculty from each participating campus will make a recommendation for the steering committee appointment from their campus. Such recommendation shall be sent to their campus Provost / Vice President for Academic Affairs who will consider the recommendation and make the final decision for appointment.
- b. A chairperson will be elected from the steering committee membership, and that position will rotate among the campuses as appropriate.
- c. Members of the steering committee will also serve as program coordinators on their respective campuses.
- d. The chairperson is responsible for convening the steering committee on a monthly basis and coordinating the schedule and delivery of program course requirements on a year-to-year basis.
- e. The chief academic and student officers from chairperson's home campus will be responsible for representing and supporting the program, as needed, at the System level.
- f. Individual instructors will continue to function as employees of their respective campuses with regard to all aspects of BOT policy, campus policy, and relevant collective bargaining agreement (e.g., compensation, performance evaluation, etc.)
- g. Primary responsibility for faculty hires remains at the individual campus level. Search committees are encouraged to consider allowing a member or members of the program steering committee—from another campus—to participate in the search process in some manner and provide input and thoughts to the search committee for the search committee's consideration.

III. Curriculum

- a. Any alterations to the program curriculum, including significant revision to individual course syllabi that result from significant changes in curriculum, must be initially approved by the program steering committee. After such approval is granted, the change must then be vetted and approved through the appropriate faculty process at each participating campus.