

**FACULTY SENATE Minutes**  
**October 12, 2022**

**Present:** Henri Akono, Susan Bennett-Armistead, Catahrine Biddle, Carla Billitteri, Tim Bowden, Alice Bruce, Stephanie Burnett, Ana Chatenever, Sabrina DeTurk, Paula Drewniany, Phil Dunn, Nuri Emanetoglu, Allison Gardner, Nancy Hall, Cynthia Isenhour, Stephen Jurich, Jesse Kaye-Schiess, Andre Khalil, Anil Raj Kizha, Eric Landis, Sara Lello, Danielle Levesque, Margo Lukens, Ivan Manev, Dmitri Markovitch, Eric Martin, Shannon McCoy, Derek Michaud, William Nichols, Brain Pitman, Deborah Rogers, Amber Roth, Michael Scott, MJ Sedlock, Kathryn Slott, Rosemary Smith, Sean Smith, David Townsend, Peter Van Walsum, Tim Waring, Todd Zoroya, Anosha Raziq (Undergrad Rep), Jen Bonnet (PEAC), Provost John Volin, Robert Dana, Emily Haddad, Joanne Yestramski, Kelly Sparks

**Absent:** Elizabeth Armstrong, Emmanuel Boss, Debbie Bouchard, Ian Bricknell, Kristina Cammen, Mauricio Da Cunha, Michael Grillo, Mark Haggerty, Matt Hawkyard, Liliana Herakova, Steven Kimball, Amanda Klemmer, Sarah Lindahl, Renae Moran, Harlan Onsrud, Elizabeth Payne, Bob Rice, Matthew Wallhead, Manuel Woersdoerfer

**I. Welcome and Announcements**

The strategic planning group is returning to campus on Tuesday October 18, time is set aside during the day for a group from the faculty senate to meet with the planning group from 3:15 PM to 4:00 PM in Wells 1, info will be sent out via email and the senate shared google calendar, a more general faculty meeting will be happening on the same day from 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM in Wells 1

**II. Approval of Minutes**

September 14th meeting minutes were not available for approval, and will be voted on at next meeting

May 4th 2022 minutes: **APPROVED**

**II. Announcements and Updates from Administration (5min)**

President Mundy was unable to attend today's meeting

The new dean of libraries Daisy Dominguez Singh started Monday, October 10th, and will be present next Monday, October 17th, on campus

Megan Walsh is the new campus director and dean of UMaine Machias, she comes from St. Bonaventure and she starts December 19th

Norm Jones has been named the new interim VP of enrollment management, bringing over 40 years of experience to the position

Kelly Sparks was introduced as the new VP for finance and administration as well as Chief Business Officer, she hails from the state of Washington, bringing experience from Oregon School of Law and Oregon State University

### **III. Budget and Enrollment Updates and Discussion (30min)**

With enrollment down, it will create implications on budget, there is momentum happening on creating action plans and to get support to make improvements to enrollment, those numbers are coming Saturday, October 15th

The administration had an idea that enrollment was gonna be affected when looking at housing, due to only 17k applications and having a lower yield overall, enrollment is down 5% total with undergrad down 6% and graduate down 3%, all these numbers are from last year

Incoming class enrollment was down 15% for first year students but the transfer class was strong, gaining 1 more person than 2021's class, in state enrollment has been affected by free community college, leading to in state yield being down, out of state numbers are also down by 24%, again, creating significant impacts on budget, early college enrollment is up 47%,

For UMaine Machias, enrollment is down 5% overall with early college enrollment up 19%

Last February, there was talk starting about creating strategic enrollment management plan, a main focus for the plan is retention, UMaine loses about 1 in 4 students from first to second year, and this has been consistent over the last 10 years, part of UMaine's growth strategy is to help students be successful and stay at UMaine

UMaine hosted a retreat this past summer, many members of administration was invited, that retreat had a whole day of meeting for enrollment but shortly after the retreat, Chris Richards stepped down, there is a national search being led by Emily Haddad to fill his position, Norm Jones is taking over as VP of enrollment management until next summer

There was a 2.5 day visit by a consultant to UMaine Orono that came and interviewed many people and gave a report on enrollment, an action plan is being developed based on this report, deans met up and are working on an action plan draft, it will have short term goals, mid term, and long term goals, there are of course no quick fixes, these strategies are going to take 18 months to 2 years

Last year the entry class was up 8.5%, gives opportunity as a community to combat this, the enrollment management retreat created ideas that could be implemented university wide: a first semester completion celebration, increasing speed of admissions decisions, increasing consideration of teaching and advising, specializing theme tours for prospective students

Administration requests for 8-10 staff nominations for an enrollment management committee

MJ asked for recommendations, opens the floor for ideas for enrollment

Dee Nichols talks about his daughter's experience as an early college student, felt that high school students that are enrolling and that by being a member of early college, she felt it should've been an easy process but was difficult, it was a bit more complicated than she thought

Provost Volin feels the website is clunky and the process is clunky, there is evidence of early college not being used as a recruiting tool, wants the new welcome center to host all tours with a significant improvement on tour process, also work on parking for prospective students to be more welcoming

Major theme of retention was academic advising as a retention tool, also need to reflect student desire, students want an idea of direction, when looking at enrollment Provost Volin felt that programs that are pre-professional moving towards a professional certification had better retention opposed to open ended

programs, however, part of the liberal art and sciences curriculum is being more open ended and self directed, hard for students to navigate and feel part of a program with so many options with half hour advising once a semester not sufficient for looking for good student retention and student support

For infrastructure issues for visiting students, potholes on campus seen as ruining the experience for visiting, bad infrastructure is a bad look, makes the campus look under resourced when the campus looks messy already during winter and early spring, previously mentioned consultant report did touch on infrastructure on campus

Pre-professional programs were found to have higher retention and easier to navigate for students, there's a lot of work that's been done already for enrollment, highlight of this university and learning and sharing best practices

Infrastructure has been a yearly issue, for visiting students the tour has to be perfect, for infrastructure you can't pave the road and not finish it and leave holes during mud season, on facilities side they are understaffed and looking for help, how the campus looks is important and that's something the administration wants to focus on and create a rolling master plan and look at how to handle that maintenance, maintain the goal of providing visibility and being transparent on the work being done already, feels its not being communicated well

Snow and ice removal last year was bad and hard to park and walk around campus, something that needs to be kept on top of, again, there is a partial staffing issue, its been difficult to hire and retain, something to acknowledge when discussing infrastructure issues

Alice Bruce added that she wants to make sure dorms are part of that mix, no development of residence has contributed to on campus buildings recently and new residences haven't been built since 1990s, the average age of buildings are 63, residences are not welcoming and pleasant while off campus facilities have utilities and feel welcoming, the Hancock residences are basically empty due to enrollment

Laurie at Machias said students expressed to her that the enrollment website was difficult to operate

Nancy Hall brought up how the public comes to campus and there is perennial issues regarding getting access to the on campus clinic: limited parking, parking lot not plowed, feels the clinic provides a great service but not treated well during winter and is not being upkept

Out of state enrollment is down 24% for first year students, any idea what was right past years vs this year? Guess work but 1.4 million fewer students going to college, enrollment cliff in 2026, schools very aggressive in keeping students, high school numbers have been declining for years this year being the lowest since 2011, real competition to retain students, for example, UMass is showing a hard effort to keep students, the UMaine match program was successful but now other schools are doing it, competition is extremely fierce

Concern about campus feeling safe, campus climate issues, limited dining, poor lighting outside at night, better to walk to Orono from campus, question of school spirit appearances like bear tracks, no student spirit, needs to be more community building activities on campus, little things that matter and lead to enrollment

There is going to be a student task force to look at what priorities should be made from student perspective, allowing students to be part of that conversation is important for planning, the constraint of resources, human resources and what can be prioritized, financial resources and time constraints are things to explore

Idea of working with students is powerful, work with student government and have representation in committees so they can go and survey students and create a priority and lists, allow for student body to impact decision making, not just a small group, create a plan for students of all kinds to have a voice

Post covid enrollment is concerning, students are coming of age in a peculiar time, these experiences leading up to this have been peculiar, isolating and detached students and are affected by culture, politics, emphasis of needing to be together, working to get back pre-covid is a priority, get students back into the focal point of campus culture, student life has been severely impacted by covid, necessity to get things in order, push students back into engaged positions

Question on how loyal graduates are, do their kids come to UMaine and the culture of fostering future black bears

No data on legacy students and many living alumni, high schools don't have banners suggesting UMaine, administration proposes to foster relationships with children of alumni to begin the legacy process

Issue brought up of intro courses being capped at 60, students get lost in those large classes and how does that fit into enrollment and retention

Administration needs to look at data and how class size are affecting it, that study is coming this year, UMaine currently accepts 92-94% of students, big classes with a lot of students usually results in do not finishes and students jump ship immediately when they don't succeed in those courses

#### **IV. Dining Services and Closure of Oakes Room (15min)**

##### ***Marianne Thibodeau and Stephanie Burnett***

There is a large amount of students who advocate for the return of the Oakes Room, when walking into Fogler, there are easels with big posters with student comments about bringing back the Oakes Room, students and staff enjoyed the Oakes Room, the library created a google survey that was out for 2 weeks asking if you would like to see the return of the Oakes Room and why, 313 responses, 310 yes responses, most had comments, 3 no responses and 2 of which had no comments and 1 was a spoof,

Discussions in committee about what could be done, an idea of a non managed way to get coffee and snacks, when the Bear's Den closes at 6 pm, the library is open 6 more hours with the only way to get food or drink is the dining halls which close at 8pm, students enjoyed being in the Oakes Room and setting up to study and did not have to leave the library to get food and drink

Goal is to see if there's a way to bring back the Oakes Room or a comfortable place on campus for students and help make the library the heart of the campus while making the campus more hospitable, giving students a late night option for food and drink, all responses to the survey are on the senate google drive, many heartfelt responses from students about how much they miss the Oakes Room

Administration says that understaffing led to the Oakes Room closing, trying to find a way to get around that issue and finding a solution for the Oakes Room to

reopen and what that would look like while managing the dining budget and dining itself is a priority

Since there is no commercial kitchen in the library with everything being brought in from the dining hall, perhaps there is a way to sublet to a non-university entity, new dean of libraries said she'd be supportive of reopening the Oakes Room

The Bears Den is closing but negotiations are going on between student life about the Bears Den due to the big demand for it to be open, class of 44 gave a lot of money for that facility and the Bears Den used to be open to 10

Looking for suggestions moving forward about solutions, consensus for late night dining to be available but there is staffing issues

The vending contract is under review and that has slowed up the opportunity for vending in library and an unstaffed solution, new vending contract is pending and could give opportunities for vending in the Oakes Room

**V. Questions of the Administration (20min)**

*All Faculty Senators are invited to address a question to any member of the Administration during this time. Respectful questions on any topic of campus business are welcome.*

**Q:** Most classrooms in Williams hall last summer were under construction, there are still some classrooms not setup for distant learning, there was a request last spring for this Fall for one student from Farmington who needed french class and there are no cameras in the rooms setup for distant learning, not a way to teach and have an interactive class, there is a necessity for classes to be set up for zoom learning

**A:** Unsure of the percentage of classrooms but not every room is setup to be a hybrid place, there is a phone number to reach out to find out the rooms setup for distant learning, the classes are already setup for the spring and rooms are assigned, students want to sign up for online class and classrooms don't have cameras, changes can be made after

**Q:** Update on the accreditation visit, how did NECHE review go and how is it on campus?

**A:** Never seen such a large NECHE group, when talking with them, they were excited about unified accreditation, first time system level accreditation was happening, the system did a great self study, the questions were really good, at the end of meetings, chair of the committee got up and gave an outline of strengths weaknesses and challenges, but you can't ask questions, very positive from the exit interviews, strengths were lengthy, came to challenges they were written in a way that were also positive, everyone was happy with the result, won't know until full report comes, UMaine did very well

**Q:** There is an issue with foreign nationals having access to the Advanced Structure Composite Center, there's a lot of controlled projects that have to do with the DOD but there's a lot of equipment in the building that are fundamental for foreign national residents and faculty that can't access it because of the DOD restrictions. There's worry that there is a chilling effect on hiring foreign nationals and getting foreign grad students educated and trained, would like to look into and see if there's a solution other than shutting down

**A:** Administrations explains the ASCC is not completely shut down but it is very challenging for foreign nationals especially for the size of the facilities and the amount of work, no simple answer, there are people from offices that they are working with at ASCC to look at these issues, the DOD research is important but at the same time it is a open university and students and faculty should have access to these opportunities, a possible solution is to make a secure area in the building for those projects and free up space for foreign nationals

**Q:** Follow up, there's an argument to be made that UMaine are going overboard in implementation of compliance, it has nothing to do with the research but the contract language the funding agencies are using, there is overboard security for things that will be written about and published about in the future, other agencies agree that it is more secure than necessary

**A:** There is a legit concern here, happy to make a get together with compliance and others who face this issue to look at and review this issue

**Q:** With homecoming this weekend and Maine Day being canceled, is there a concern that similar partying for Homecoming may occur?

**A:** The Homecoming tailgate is a huge problem, there are only 75 police and security with alums returning and there's hope partying will be downplayed, there have been problems with the tailgate in the past, plan to spread out the tailgate to hope to be less intensive, Fieldhouse parking gets packed, people bring their own booze, campus led alcohol programs haven't done anything to stop consumption in the past, this year the tailgate has time limits, it will start at 10:00 AM and dissipate after 1st quarter of the Homecoming game ends



**Q:** Is there concern with partying after the game is over?

**A:** Partying happens on fraternity row, it moves from the tailgate to a different place for parties, frats bring back a lot of people for homecoming, there's a lot of action on campus, a lot of effort to try and move things around so there is less density of people but it is a big game and a big tailgate

**Q:** Has the decision of Maine Day been made public to students yet?

**A:** Many students in the discussion around canceling Maine Day, the decision hasn't been ratified and delivered to students yet, but would think a lot of students know already

**Q:** Any update on when the resolution will be pushed through and if there is something for the senate to endorse in terms of a Maine Day resolution?

**A:** The resolution was sent to the senate subcommittee, it's in the senate's hands after this morning's meeting, Dean Dana sent back a motion that could be brought forward, MJ wasn't sure if the senate wanted a motion written for them, it is possible for the senate to make their own motion to pass or endorse, can discuss it at the next elected senate meeting and vote at the next full faculty senate meeting, the timeline is not aligned with when a decision needed to be announced for the academic calendar to be changed, a decision could be made to go against the senate process and bring it for discussion and vote during the October 26th meeting, or wait if senators need more information, a resolution basically says classes will be held and that Maine Day is canceled with the intention to keep the tradition of service, the senate can maybe not endorse something until what will be done to replace the spirit of Maine Day is brought forward,

Dean Dana states a point of clarification, a proposal and larger paper is being put together to move Maine Day to the middle of February instead of the spring, the plan is to continue the philanthropy and service aspect of Maine Day and focus on a pro social positive event and engage groups that engage in Maine Day traditionally, UMaine wants to keep the name and purpose but no longer have a day off, there is no plan for an announcement after Homecoming, Maine Day may also turn into adding a research and engagement component, a draft of a motion will be shared and put on the agenda for the October 26th meeting, figure out later what can be done for service aspect and the senate will take time to discuss then, the senate constitution and bylaws state that voting doesn't have to occur at a full meeting, the senate could choose to call a vote at the elected meeting, due to the precedent for that 3 years ago, passing the policy of pass fail, there will be more discussion and depending on the timeline the senate will go from there

**Q;** How does the canceling of Maine Day affect UMaine Machias?

**A;** Machias has no Maine Day but there is hope to still have a day of service for Machias that can coincide with the Orono campus, Dean Dana had talked about something that campuses could do at the same time

**VI. Adjourn**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM**