

STRATEGIC PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

March 12, 2019

MINUTES

All members were present via Zoom conference, except Sharon.

1. Discussion of Board Workshop take-a-ways

Review of written summary – some discussion regarding the board support for accreditation. The Board was supportive of the concept, but was concerned regarding the cost, burdens on faculty and some questioned if the benefits of being accredited would outweigh the identified negatives. Administration needs to answer how, who and which accreditation agency.

Location:

State will be the driver of this. Currently our funding is tied to Limestone. Current Board has a strong, vocal preference for Limestone. But there is support for this committee to continue to ask the hard questions.

Clear increasing enrollment should be our #1 priority. We need to work on state support for reducing the room and board fee. Also ideas for regional partnerships with NH and/or VT. The strong consensus that MSSM needs to prioritize marketing and development.

The data point of increased application pool and the survey results (especially when we can see trends from the Umaine survey as well). Should help inform the location discussion.

Stepped timeline – A decision to move and the time to move adds up to needing to address the current facilities issues as we will be in the current facility for some amount of time.

Saturday during public comment there was strong support for Limestone. From people connected to the school at a meeting in Limestone.

Are there local long term partners in Aroostook County that MSSM could be taking advantage of?

David Coit updated us on his work building connections with the Lunder Foundation, Maines Congressional delegation. There is strong federal support for the school. Political leaders consider it a hidden gem for the State. David spoke about the North Carolina school which has a deliberate fundraising approach. They can demonstrate the schools ROI based on the results of its Alumni – the impact is \$500 Million a year in activity added to North Carolina. MSSM needs to be in a position to develop and track that kind of data.

Facilities – short term focus on health and safety issues.

New partner with Town of Limestone. How do we resolve the issue of Control? Does the school need ownership, day-to-day control? Baseline the school needs issues like the eye wash station fixed, with an action plan that resolves health and safety concerns quickly.

The Town has floated the idea of an association or condo like ownership for the building with

common space and individually owned space. This needs to be explored by administrative team and the Board of Finance and Facility.

Should the strategic plan include some suggested lower cost remodels, reconfigurations of the current space? Do we want to include a longer term plan for campus investment? Location is the first piece to that longer term plan.

2. Discussion of Frank O'Hara's suggestions

Frank's suggestions were very sound and appreciated. Some concern regarding funding his involvement and the timing of his input. David P. will find the funding and it was decided that it would be best to get Frank involved in late summer, early fall, when the plan has been fleshed out with action steps by the Administrative team. So he can help us produce the strongest plan that can be used in Augusta for a comprehensive MSSM bill.

3. Next conference is March 26th.

- a. Revised plan for review – based on above suggestions