

Maine Compact for Higher Education

Board of Directors Meeting

1-24-08

Holiday Inn, Augusta

Minutes

Board members present: Wendy Ault, Ron Bancroft, Alan Burton, Rep. Glenn Cummings, John Diamond, Joseph Foley, Laura Fortman, Susan Gendron, Martha Johnston, Laurie Lachance, Danny MacDonald, Susan Percy, Kent Peterson, Lynn Ploof-Davis, Colleen Quint, Rep. Christopher Rector, Betty Robinson, Henry Schmelzer, Ted Scontras, Melinda Shofner, Mila Tappan and John Witherspoon.

Guests and Staff present: Melanie Arsenault, Employer Initiative Program Coordinator for the Maine Development Foundation, Henry Bourgeois, and Dianne Heino.

Joseph Foley, chair of the board, opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. immediately following the annual Legislators Breakfast.

Minutes of the November 29 and December 10, 2007 board meetings. Mr. Foley asked the members if they had any corrections to the minutes; no changes were suggested. The board:

Voted, on a motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Schmelzer, to approve the minutes of the November 29 and December 10, 2007 Board of Directors meetings. The vote was unanimous.

Legislators Breakfast. Board members were pleased with the annual Legislators Breakfast that just concluded. Some of their reactions:

- a. This is an important annual event because it reminds Legislators of the critical importance of higher education investments to the overall economic health of Maine.
- b. It is significant to note that key Legislator Leaders were present today and expressed support for the Compact's vision and goals.
- c. Conducting the event in partnership with the Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education is a good idea – it saves time for busy Legislators and makes an important statement about the need for a seamless connection between K-12 and postsecondary education.
- d. Attendance was down slightly (70 today compared to 80 last year) primarily because the location was a little less convenient for some Legislators.

Alfond Scholarship Foundation (ASF). Mr. Bourgeois updated the Board on the ASF program, explaining that the new ASF board just held its first meeting:

- a. Six of the 14 ASF board members are members of the Compact board, including the vice chair of the new ASF (Mr. Foley) and the chairs of the three ASF board committees.
- b. The Compact is one of six 'supported organizations' of the new ASF; the others are FAME, Mitchell Institute, University of Maine System, Maine Community College System and the Maine Community Foundation. The Compact has the largest number of members (3) on the board.
- c. The ASF is still negotiating a contract with FAME for delivery of the 529 program, and a contract between ASF and the Compact has yet to be discussed.
- d. 80%+ of Mr. Bourgeois' time has been devoted to the ASF since the beginning of December; he expects that time commitment will continue through March during this start-up phase.

At Mr. Foley's request, the board agreed to delegate to the Executive Committee the responsibility for executing a contract with the ASF for administering the new program.

ASF Support Organization Agreement. Mr. Foley explained that the supported organizations have been asked to execute an Agreement with ASF that expresses the intent and spirit of the unique relationship. Key provisions of the agreement are noted below:

"4. Commitment to Support. Each Supported Organization agrees to support the mission, operations and activities of the Alford Scholarship Foundation, including but not limited to:

- a. By nominating from time to time, in accordance with the terms of the Bylaws of the said Foundation, a representative or representatives of such Supported Organization to serve on the Board of Directors of the Alford Scholarship Foundation;
- b. By overseeing and supporting the active participation of its representative or representatives in their capacity as a Director or Directors of the Foundation;
- c. By fulfilling the terms of any independent contract that may exist from time to time between it and the said Foundation with respect to the provision of services in support of the College Challenge;
- d. By assisting, to the extent appropriate and consistent with the talents, acumen and scope of the mission of the Supported Organization and its personnel, and as agreed to by the parties hereto from time to time, with (i) incentive messaging and financial literacy messaging supporting children's aspirations and access to, and preparation for, higher education, and research related to the foregoing; (ii) assistance with enrollment management and other administrative elements of the program; (iii) publicity and outreach; and (iv) strategic planning for the said Foundation.
- e. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, this Agreement shall not *per se* impose any obligation on a Supported Organization to make any gift, grant, contribution or other payment to or for the benefit of the Alford Scholarship Foundation."

After a brief discussion, the board:

Voted, on a motion by Mr. Schmelzer, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the execution of the Support Organization Agreement. The vote was unanimous.

Compact Program Updates were presented; highlights follow:

- a. The Early College program was presented by Ms. Quint. In a recent report prepared by the Mitchell Institute, it was noted that the percentage of all students who enrolled in college within a year after graduation from high school was 60%, compared with an 80% rate for participants in Early College programs.

Over the past several years, Maine has at least doubled the numbers of high school students participating in early college opportunities from 1,000 to 2,000 students. And, nearly 79% of early college students earned grades of 2.0 or higher in their college courses, thus earning potentially transferable college credits.

- b. The Maine Employers Initiative progress report was presented by Ms. Arsenault: staff are engaged and the advisory committee has met; the kick-off press conference is under development; the evaluation plan is in preliminary design; 8 of 20 awareness building sessions have been held; and, the initial design is completed for the six regional workshops.
- c. The new Leadership program was summarized by Mr. Bourgeois: focus groups have been held in Bangor and Augusta, attended by over 30 community leaders. The response to the idea is very positive. Focus groups will be held in Portland and Lewiston. The launch goal is summer.
- d. Scholarship program. Several members expressed concern that the state's budget shortfall was so severe that financial support for the initiative was unlikely to be available this year. Others commented on the Opportunity Maine program, citing start-up difficulties and unanticipated costs associated with the program on campuses.

Mr. Foley thanked the board, and adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Henry Bourgeois, Compact Executive Director
January 31, 2008