

Maine Compact for Higher Education

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors 12.10.07 Via Conference Call

Minutes

Board members present: John Diamond, Joseph Foley, Laura Fortman, Susan Gendron, Martha Johnston*, Dan MacDonald*, Richard Pattenaude, Susan Percy, Kent Peterson, Lynn Ploof Davis, Colleen Quint, Hank Schmelzer, George Spann, Mila Tappan, and John Witherspoon. (*Members-elect)

Staff present: Henry Bourgeois.

Joseph Foley, chair, opened the special meeting of the Compact's Board of Directors at 10:20 a.m.

Mr. Foley explained that the purpose of this special meeting is to determine if the Compact should 'agree in principle' to have the organization participate in the College Challenge program as outlined in the 11-page Overview document sent to members last week. The Harold Alfond Foundation has asked each of its partners in the new program to make this commitment before tomorrow's public announcement.

Mr. Foley noted that this agreement in principle is not a legally binding statement, but rather the next step in the commitment process. He reminded everyone that the Compact board unanimously expressed its "...sincere and enthusiastic intent to participate in the proposed program..." at its November 29th meeting. The next step in the process is for the partner organizations – FAME, Merrill Lynch, Maine hospitals, and the Compact – to enter into contract with the new Alfond Scholarship Foundation. Mr. Foley said that the Compact board would review and approve such a contract, along with a business plan and budget.

Several members asked questions:

- a. Mr. Peterson asked if additional staff would be needed. Mr. Foley responded that this depends on the scope of work, but should not require more than one-half to one additional staff persons. The staff would report to Mr. Bourgeois.
- b. Mr. Peterson also asked if additional office space would be required; Mr. Foley and Mr. Bourgeois felt the current office configuration would probably be adequate.
- c. Ms. Fortman expressed that this is an incredible opportunity, and asked who will be paying for these services. Mr. Foley was confident that resources would be available to do the job, and that this question would be answered before a contract is executed.
- d. Mr. Schmelzer observed that the Compact will likely need to re-prioritize its work as Mr. Bourgeois assumes these new and additional responsibilities, and that the Board should be prepared to discuss which items currently on our work plan could be delayed or changed.

Regarding workload, Mr. Bourgeois estimated that in the early start-up phase – now through early February – at least half of his time would probably be spent supporting the new organization. The next phase of the work – February through December – will also take considerable time as the new organization gears-up for statewide implementation in 2009. The business plan should provide a good estimate of time/expenses.

After brief discussion, the board:

VOTED, on a motion by Mr. Schmelzer seconded by Ms. Quint, that the Compact agrees in principle with its role in the new Harold Alfond College Challenge program, as outlined in the Overview document. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Foley adjourned the board of directors meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Henry Bourgeois, December 10, 2007