Dear UMS Colleagues,

As part of its broader initiative to rethink public higher education in Maine, the University of Maine System has embarked on an important and forward-looking process to review its academic menu and program delivery. Known as the Academic Portfolio Review and Integration Process (APRIP), the effort seeks to leverage cross-campus excellence and opportunities that will enhance quality, broaden student access, and achieve financial sustainability of our academic offerings.

That this process is occurring simultaneously with campus budget processes has created inadvertent confusion. These are separate processes. By its timetable and scope—a multi-month review of programs offered by multiple campuses—APRIP differs from and is not a replacement for campus-based budget processes currently underway for FY16.

As outlined in APRIP materials found on the system’s Think Mission Excellence website, (http://thinkmissionexcellence.maine.edu/priority-initiatives/academic-review/) campus-based Chief Academic Officers play the central role in guiding the multi-year academic portfolio review process. Currently the CAOs are identifying programs that offer opportunities for cross-campus delivery and potential restructuring. The CAOs will in turn look to cross-campus, discipline-based sub-teams—composed of faculty, students, and others—to research how UMS currently structures and delivers the program area and recommend how the university system might do so in the future. A key focus of the sub-team work is to consider the potential for inter-campus collaboration and other opportunities to realize APRIP goals and better serve our students and the state. Overseeing the process and ensuring that we realize its goals is a 17 member Process Oversight Committee, which includes 14 campus-based representatives of which 9 are faculty.

In coming weeks APRIP members will be visiting every campus to formally introduce the process, answer questions, and hear your ideas. Dates and times for these sessions will be announced by your campus leadership. Also in coming weeks you will receive a communication announcing the first wave of APRIP discipline-based reviews and issuing an open call for nominations and self-nominations to serve on the corresponding sub-team.

The programs we offer to meet student and state needs are central to who we are and what we stand for. Imagining how we might better achieve our mission in the years to come is at once critical and enlivening. Thank you for your work to advance public higher education and for your participation in the academic portfolio review process.

With appreciation and warm regards,

Kathryn A. Foster

Chair, Academic Portfolio Review Process Oversight Committee

President, University of Maine at Farmington