

To: Glenn Cummings, President

From: Buster Neel, Chief Business Officer
Nancy Griffin, VP Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
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Date: October 7, 2017

RE: Recommended Peer Institutions

The University of Maine System (System) has asked each institution within the System to recommend new peer institutions, using the research and tool established by Hanover. At University of Southern Maine (USM), the President's Cabinet briefly discussed criteria. Key criteria considerations were aggregated, and members of Cabinet met. The resulting peer institutions are listed below, followed by the criteria and process that was applied in selecting the peers.

Recommended Peer Institutions for the University of Southern Maine:

University of Arkansas - Little Rock *
University of Texas - Kingsville
Chicago State University
Texas Women's University
Fayetteville State University
University of Michigan - Flint *
Murray State *
Salem State University **
California State University - Dominguez Hills
North Carolina Central University **

*on the Faculty Senate proposed list

**on the currently codified list

These peer institutions were selected by comparing specific data points with those of USM. These data were the overall budget, admission rate, the percent of Pell eligible students, the percent of transfer students, the discount rate, the default rate, the percent of commuter students, the academic programs, 6-year graduation rates, and the student to faculty ratio.

After applying numerous different filters, and removing filters such as CUMU only, there were clear-cut peer institutions. Additionally, the current peer list and the peer list as proposed by the Faculty Senate in 2014 were also reviewed and compared against USM. There were institutions from each list that met the criteria as determined by the Cabinet and were subsequently included in the recommended peer list.