

Peer Selection 2017

FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Powered by Survey Monkey

Results Presented by the Office of Organizational Effectiveness



Using a custom research model, UMS institutions will be able to benchmark their performance and establish priorities and goals based on statistically similar and/or aspirational peers.



Survey Overview

Institution	Open Responses
 University of Maine	66
 University of Maine at Augusta	10
 University of Maine at Farmington	6
 University of Maine at Fort Kent	7
 University of Maine at Machias	9
 University of Maine at Presque Isle	6
 University of Southern Maine	41

Total open responses: 145

Total entries/views: 831

Comments Regarding Draft UM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 1 of 9

- About as expected
- These peers are acceptable
- Actually, I think this is a very appropriate set of peers -- although I see some challenges in comparing UMaine to UVM and UNH, it makes a lot of sense from a regional perspective. URI is an aspirational institution for us in many ways. I will add that it's interesting that this is the list of peers identified given that these represent almost exactly the set of peers identified by UM's Institutional Research office almost a decade ago.
- I think this is a better set of peer institutions with respect to types of programs, research emphasis, and land grant status.
- All are land-grant institutions. That's great. Thanks!
- From what I know about these, they are about right. They are land grants, they have departments roughly like mine in my field, and they are roughly as successful in terms of rank at various locations, etc....
- These colleges are from primarily rural states which is the demographics of Maine and I think that they would understand the challenges of a rural state, not wealthy, per se, but rich in natural resources.
- I agree with this peer list.
- University of Maine's peers are as expected...
- These seem reasonable, with three New England flagships, two rural-state flagships, and two rural state universities.
- Looks like a good list...

Comments Regarding Draft UM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 2 of 9

- Seems like a reasonable list
- These are reasonable peers based on the Experiment Station status.
- The list appears a reasonable portfolio of close (proximity) and therefore thematically linked public universities like UNH and URI (although I suspect these Universities have more resources at their disposal given their population sizes) as well as schools in rural locations with more similar populations...
- Sounds reasonable...
- These all look plausible to me.
- Reasonable
- These match what I've personally been using.
- I think these make sense as UMaine peers. They are public, land grant institutions of a similar size. As we move forward I hope to see universities with a more significant research focus.
- Seem legit on first pass...
- Very aspirational!
- ...I think University of Vermont might be more of an aspirational peer for UM based on UVM's academic performance and fiscal indicators.
- New Hampshire and Vermont seem a couple of steps above us. Seems more like aspirant institutions
- Are some of these peers actual peers and others more aspirational peers? ... In other words, in what ways are we like or aspire to be like these institutions? ...

Comments Regarding Draft UM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 3 of 9

- UNH and UV are aspirational. Sadly.
- We have been told for years that UNH is an aspirational institution. It's faculty is much larger...
- University of Vermont has a College of Medicine, which makes it significantly different to UMaine as a peer institution.
- Seems very realistic other than UVM has a medical school.
- Any consideration for Oregon State University? We use the OSU salary survey frequently in HR for comparator salaries for UM-- particularly faculty salary setting. Thanks!
- ...I would suggest other public land grant institutions in the Midwest or South, such as the University of Kentucky or Clemson; the Midwest, such as the University of Nebraska or University of Missouri; and the Northwest/West, such as University of Oregon or Washington State University. It is important that peer institutions serve primarily as rural comparison institutions.
- Wyoming and Idaho have similar demographics to Maine.
- ...(I look to the Washington Monthly college rankings, not the USNWR rankings). For New England land grants, it works (we're not like UMass or UConn, in comparison). For the non-New England schools, I guess these are all in rural states like ours, and further north, as well. Also, given their reputations in my field, they give us something to aim for, and something to feel superior about (smirk).
- Shouldn't there be a peer group for the UMS system as a whole?
- The University of Vermont has a medical school and we do not. This makes comparisons of research activity difficult.

Comments Regarding Draft UM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 4 of 9

- URI serves a "metropolitan" state and doesn't have the same statewide extension/outreach obligations of a state the size of Maine. UNH is reasonably comparable. UVM also. Wyoming doesn't have the ocean or Sea Grant aspects that UVM, UNH and UM have. Idaho and the Dakotas are comparable... but those three also have competitive alternates in each state--Idaho with ISU and BSU, SDSU with USD, and NDSU with UND. It might be advisable to have a peer that would be more aspirational for UMaine, such as a Colorado State, Oregon State, or Mississippi State.
- UNH, URI and UVM make a great deal of sense to me.
- In my role as Dean of Engineering, I compared UMaine's engineering programs to the programs at the peer institutions. This comparison is based on data published by the American Society of Engineering Education and information on the websites of the proposed peers. Based on this review the engineering programs at these schools are much smaller that at UMaine. UMaine offers 11 B.S. engineering degrees compared to 5 to 8 at the peer institutions. With the exceptions of UNH and NDS, the undergraduate engineering enrollments are lower than UMaine. The value of engineering research conducted by the proposed peer institutions is a fraction of that conducted by UMaine. UMaine does about \$12.5-M in research per year were as the peers conduct between \$2.7-M and \$8.0-M. The smaller size of the engineering programs at the proposed peer institutions will likely result in these institutions having a lower cost of operation that UMaine. I also note that UW, URI, SDSU, UNH, and UVM have either recently constructed or are constructing major new engineering buildings. This adds impetus to UMaine's efforts to construct a new building.
- UVM and UNH are much higher ranked institutions than UMaine. So, not really peers, in terms of quality of students who attend. U Idaho is more of a peer institution. Also, UMass Lowell should be in the mix. An additional school with a Marine Science program is needed for comparative purposes.

Comments Regarding Draft UM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 5 of 9

- ...would it be worthwhile to pick at least one Canadian or other foreign institution, if only to stimulate creative thinking?
- Use RI, VT and NH as the peer groups. The others are inappropriate.
- UVM is a very different campus than UMaine or UNH, though I do understand it being here as a regional competitor.
- University of New Hampshire is a higher tier than UMaine.
- Agree with UVM, UNH, URI. I have always believed we should be emulating UVM in our student recruitment.
- University of Vermont has a medical school which makes it a significantly stronger biomedical research institution than UMaine. NDSU has a law school which is also significantly different from UMaine's campus structure.
- Not a fan of including the remote states. Our economy doesn't compete with the Dakotas. Fair enough to avoid private institutions or urban campuses. But UMass Amherst, SUNY Albany, SUNY Binghamton are much closer and more realistic peers for who we need to measure against. Also while I do recognize Idaho and Wyoming as fundamentally similar and comparable types of institutions, the Dakota schools are nowhere near the caliber of UMaine in national reputation and are clearly cooking the books to make us look better.
- ...I do wonder if some Universities in the south might be reasonably similar in size and scope?
- ...I would suggest considering adding the University of Montana.
- Vermont is questionable.

Comments Regarding Draft UM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 6 of 9

- UID, UWY, SDSt, UNH, and ND St are fine. UVM has a much more robust \$ base AND has a populace that supports higher ed. URI just built (in 2008) the Center for Biotechnology and Biological Sciences. It is almost TWICE the footprint of the entirety of Hitcher Hall. The Department of Cellular and Molecular Biology (formerly Microbiology and Immunology) increased its number of majors from 70 to 240—JUST BASED ON THE FACILITY THEY COULD SHOW PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS. A key to the complex is that HALF IS DEDICATED LARGE CLASSROOM SPACE and TEACHING Laboratories; and the other half research space. NO NEED FOR INFOSILEM.
- U. Rhode Island, UNH, and UVM are not appropriate peers for UMaine. They are each ranked much higher as National Universities, compared to UMaine (especially UVM, ranked 97, compared to UMaine's 181). UVM also has a medical school, which very much changes many aspects of the school. Much more money is invested in faculty research at URI than at UMaine. For example, there are numerous faculty paid significant amounts of hard money, by the university, to perform research 100% of the time, whereas research-only faculty at UMaine are generally 100% soft money. Indirects are returned to researchers at URI at a much higher rate and have been for a long time now (not just small amounts 2 months for the first time ever, as at UMaine). These types of support for research fundamentally change the ability of faculty to produce research, compared to what is currently possible at UMaine. Thus, URI, UVM, and possibly UNH are simply far out of our league at this time and should not be considered our peers.
- “When our UMaine Graduate programs had an external review about 20 years ago, the review team recommended Louisiana Tech as a most similar peer institution. They were not looking at undergrad programs, but I thought I would mention, as at least one similar-seeming institution that is not in the two camps above: New England land grants OR land grant western schools in large, rural states.”

Comments Regarding Draft UM Peers

- UVM is a much more expensive, nicer, and better University
- WY and SD are oil or coal states and therefore have more funds/financial support. How rich the state is should be factored. Also, Maine has far more coastline than any of the peers listed which should also be considered.
- UVM is much unlike Maine in two distinct ways. First it is in Burlington a thriving and enticing city that easily attracts out of state as well as home grown students. In part, this is because it is located in ski country and close to Montreal Secondly its Liberal Arts Curriculum is vastly better than ours and this UVM attracts smarter, less prosaically driven students
- Why not Umass and Uconn?
- It is unclear from this list how the peer institutions were selected for benchmarking purposes...
- This is a fun exercise, but it feels overwhelming. I don't feel I can provide input without taking a lot of time thoroughly looking at each campus.
- What are the metrics that were used to identify peers and how does UMaine compare to the peers in this list in relationship to those metrics?
- This is not helpful. It provides no information about how these peers were selected.
- When I receive a request for input on a survey, I usually have an idea of what the subject is by this point. Even if I did know what the term "peers" means in this particular instance, it looks like a half-hearted, after-the-fact attempt to appear to be inclusive and sensitive to people's opinions.
- ...What are the criteria that makes them peers?

Comments Regarding Draft UM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 8 of 9

- By what criteria were these peers selected? If these are current peers of UMaine, what institutions do we aspire to have as peers in 10 years? Why and how will we achieve that new peer group?
- What metrics were used to select these peer institutions?
- The links are not very helpful. It would be more useful to know the reasons why these peer institutions were chosen.
- ...Also, it seems like a very short list. I have worked on identifying and selecting peer institutions at other universities, and it seems like 10 or more is a pretty standard number for research institutions.
- ...How/why were these institutions chosen as our peers?
- Is this based on student enrollment? Research focus? Size of research budget?
- I think any school that is not part (flagship) of a larger system should be reconsidered. Not all peers need to be part of a larger system but at least 2-4 should be.
- My only hope would be that the significant role of research which makes up an important component of the University of Maine mission is accurately mirrored in what the other institutions feature as well...otherwise, it may need to be revisited.
- Idaho? Wyoming? South Dakota State University? I assume the real purpose here is to argue that UMaine faculty are overpaid relative to our peers.

Comments Regarding Draft UM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 9 of 9

- I am familiar with the New England schools and would agree. I am struck by the fact that no peers are listed from other regions except the upper Midwest/mountain states. I would think there might also be peer institutions in the south for example. The University of Mississippi, for example, or Alabama, Arkansas, etc. Perhaps other regions as well?
- This is a ridiculous list of peer universities. For UMaine to improve in national rankings, we need to be compared with higher ranked land grant and non-land grant state universities. We need to be compared to where we want to be in five-to-ten years, not where we are today. It would benefit UMaine if we were compared to institutions such as UConn, Univ. Maryland, Univ. Delaware, UNC, and Univ. of Texas.
- NDSU - positive -- not sure what this is about ????
- I think this whole exercise is a stupid waste of time.
- Universities with schools/colleges of medicine or pharmacy would not be comparable 'peers' for some of our programs - like cellular and molecular biology, biochemistry, microbiology and likely chemistry
- The peer selection should include state financial report.



Comments Regarding Draft UMA Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 1 of 2

- I took a look at the universe of non-residential schools with a high percentage of online students. I think UMA has done the best that they can reasonably accomplish with the peer list given the difficulty of finding institutions providing similar programs and with a similar student profile.
- These seem to be very good fits, from what I know about some of these institutions -- smaller branch campuses of larger systems, with distance ed as part of the mix but not the whole mix.
- All of these institutions have campus housing, unlike UMA.
- I believe the budgets of many of these institutions is much larger than UMA and the infrastructure is much more solid. I am not sure these will work well as peers...
- These all share some characteristics with the University of Maine at Augusta, but none have enough in common with UMA to be peers...
- Most of these do not represent programs offered at UMA. No Art/Architecture, Aviation, Music, Mental Health & Human Services. Only one has a Dental Hygiene Program, none have Dental Assisting. All of these are expensive programs largely because of the hands-on components of the curriculum. Which Mental Health & Human Services has adapted to a largely online program, the others listed require on-campus facilities for laboratory, clinical & experiential activities. Understanding that it is difficult to match all of UMA's programs elsewhere, we shouldn't exclude the campus-based curricula.



Comments Regarding Draft UMA Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 2 of 2

- Headcount should be weighed more heavily since UMA has such a large number of part-time students that are being served, across a very dispersed service area that includes two full-service campuses and nine University Centers. Those factors disproportionately impact the cost of providing services to UMA students.
- ...In any case, UMA should be given additional funding no matter how this study sorts out. The funding formula is not to our favor, and we deserve additional support.
- ...none have a majority of students learning online, none have a majority of non-traditional students. UMA's total core expenses per FTE seem comparable to our draft peers. However, when the figures are recalculated by per student headcount (HC), UMA's total core expenses appear drastically lower than our draft peers.
- Will the System Office respond to the concerns and questions included in our peer report? Will there be meaningful discussions on campus with the System decision makers about these finding and their implications?
- None of these peers sound like the part-time, non-traditional student who is typical of UMA

Comments Regarding Draft UMF Peers

- UMF has a fine set of peer institutions there.
- These seem reasonable. Three are COPLAC schools (more could be added, including New College of Florida), and two are rural-based SUNY schools. The two in the west had close similarity to UMF based on culture and demographics. Good list.
- It's always difficult to create a peers list. This one is pretty good in terms of the character and aspirations of the institutions, and financial circumstances.
- These seem reasonable.
- Why was Plymouth State University of New Hampshire not included?
- It's rather difficult to compare universities in this way. It is a great way to compare "websites" BUT just look at our own. the website doesn't really tell the story accurately. Some parts are outdated, others are just not true, some aspects understated. I know that is all we have, but it's really not sufficient to get an accurate read. At best we'll get lucky.

Comments Regarding Draft UMFK Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 1 of 1

- Looks like a reasonable list to me.
- I do not understand how some of these can be UMFK's peers. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts is in a very different classification than UMFK academically, residentially, and concerning distance education. I also want to note that it seems odd to have UMPI including UMFK as a peer and UMFK does not list UMPI despite far more similarity there than some of the institutions listed.
- I don't know a number of these schools and the preparatory materials from UMFK don't provide a lot of insight but do note that two of these schools -- MCLA and UVaWise are designated public liberal arts colleges. They may be similar in size to UMFK, but they are not in culture, academic mission or menu. One option might be to have seven peers akin to what most other UMS schools are submitting, which would eliminate the liberal arts issue.
- Seems a college in Idaho or Montana or South Dakota would be reasonable peers rather than other colleges listed where there is greater population density.
- I examined each institution and it appears that Lewis-Clark State College shows a high degree of similarity, academically, to UMFK. Some of the suggested peers are double or triple UMFK's student population, so don't really provide useful comparisons and some don't match the academics at UMFK unless they are aspiration models.
- UMFK is a peer of UMPI, WHY NOT the converse?
- I am not familiar with any of the above universities.

Comments Regarding Draft UMM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 1 of 2

- While they all appear to be larger than UMM, there are some very interesting commonalities that seem appropriate as peer measures, if they can be adjusted or understood in light of the differences in factors like size.
- It appears that the list for Machias does reflect the transitional nature of the campus and should be helpful in fashioning renewed and adjusted strategic planning moving forward.
- Aspirational more than actual...
- I believe that the peers that are most like us would also be in the northern zones, as this impacts facilities, infrastructure, and energy use. I see Dickinson State, Montana State-Northern, and The University of Montana-Western as the pick of the peers.
- ...Kentucky State is four times the size of UMM, etc. They are also more independent overall than UMM. If these "peers" are used for budget comparisons, the comparisons may be skewed.
- The similarity numbers for these schools with Machias suggest taking a second look at the possibilities. UVaWise is a public liberal arts college with a very different feel from UMM. Too bad privates won't work here -- UMM is akin to Green Mountain, College of the Atlantic, and Unity, all nearby with similar missions.
- ...How were these institutions deemed "peers" of UMM, and by whom? What process was used in deciding these were peer institutions to UMM? What criteria were used? Who decided?
- Some of the similarity scores seem very dissimilar to UMM. Were no peers with a greater similarity available?

Comments Regarding Draft UMM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 1 of 2

- All of these peers are very like UMM in some ways and very unlike it in others. All of them are small-ish, public regional universities in largely rural areas, with small class sizes, and focus on undergraduate education exclusively or nearly exclusively. It's not clear, but it seems that many of them also serve populations with higher-than-average rates of generational poverty, first-in-family to attend college, and lower-than-average college readiness. There are a couple of important elements that are significantly different from UMM. First is the lack of community-engaged learning and undergraduate research as central elements of the curriculum. U of Montana and Montana State are listed among the Carnegie Classified Campuses, but the western and northern regional campuses are not mentioned by name in the list. Neither of the Montana websites touts their inclusion on the Carnegie list, however, and neither seems to highlight community-engaged learning....
- ...However, UMW does specifically highlight undergraduate research opportunities. KSU, Panhandle State, Dickinson State are not among the Carnegie Classified Campuses, and none of them highlight community-engaged learning. The second important difference is that most of the peers have very generic curricula, while UMM has the Environmental Liberal Arts core and a broad curricular focus on environmental and community well-being. Only UMW has an innovative curriculum framework in which students take only one class at a time, and many of their programs are environmentally focused. It's probably worth comparing UMM to schools with more generic core curricula, but it is a significant difference. Given these issues, it's important to keep in mind when comparing UMM to the peers that UMW is much more like UMM than the other peers.
- All of these institutions have a larger student body than UMM. None of the campuses are geographically similar in terms of being near a coast. These institutions have different programs...

Comments Regarding Draft UMPI Peers

- Many of these make sense to me....
- They look good
- many of these institutions have graduate programs where as UMPI does not. I noticed to that most have more full time faculty and staff
- ...I am not sure why UMFK is on this list while UMPI is not on UMFK's list. It does not make sense to include Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) because of differences in academics, residential profile, and distance education. Is MCLA an aspirational peer, maybe?
- If UMFK is a peer of UMPI, wouldn't the opposite be true? A surprising peer is MCLA, which is a public liberal arts college. Notably, it shows up on at least three lists for UMS schools. Consider only UMF for this one? OK Panhandle also is on multiple lists, as is UVa Wise. Same may be true for Dickinson and Montana Northern? Does having the same school on multiple lists make sense? (This comment goes for any of the peer lists.)
- I'm not clear on how members of other universities are better able to provide input in the allocation of resources and priority planning more appropriately than members of our own campus. It would be nice to be provided some information about how this process works.
- Some of the same names turn up for Machias, even though UMM is now a UMaine regional campus.

Comments Regarding Draft USM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 1 of 8

- Good list. I would say Salem State is the closest match.
- I like this range of universities from across the US.
- USM has managed to pick a list of reasonably close looking peers. Salem State definitely makes sense....
- Reasonable matches in the area of graduate education.
- TWU? Twice as big as USM and a handful of PhD programs. Why no NE schools besides Salem?
- Southern New Hampshire University, in my opinion, is our closest and most relevant peer from a competition perspective. Can they be added to this list? I don't completely understand the relevance of Texas Woman's University. Demographically, they are all women, whereas we are not, they are twice the population of us, they have more than three times the amount of graduate degrees, and they are in Texas. I don't understand what comparison value they offer except that they have a similar make-up of themes for their degrees.
- ...So I guess that would be my one concern with all of these--do they have a similar composition of student bodies? I'm having trouble imagining that we're a peer of CSU Dominguez Hills in LA County.
- Do any have multiple campuses? Any primarily commuter?
- Given the demographics at NCCentral (largely African American), I wonder if this school makes sense. Additionally, Fayetteville State is remote and does not have the same potential for community engagement as USM.
- Not sure all of these are peers...the larger state Universities seem to be matches, esp. w/ external funding activity...some, such as Salem State, Murray State, Texas Woman's barely mention research on their websites or show any activity other than UROP related.

Comments Regarding Draft USM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 2 of 8

- Only one of the peer universities has a comparable research portfolio. North Carolina Central has \$20 million in funded research. Unlike USM, their portfolio is heavily focused on bio medical (60%-70%). Not one of the peer institutions has anything similar to the size, scope and diversity of the USM research portfolio or USM's research infrastructure.
- ...Why are some of these larger and wealthier institutions included at the bottom of the list with high similarity scores, while a previous and similar peer like Morehead State University is not?
- TWU has over 15,000 students, as does Cal State-Dominguez Hills and perhaps others. Would it make sense to keep peers below 10,000?
- Coming from SpEducation I was interested in schools that had at a minimum UG SpEd certification programs. From my search, which may not be accurate due to a lack of familiarity with the sites I see UALR, TWU, NCCU and CSU-DH all having SpEd and most of those having an online component.
- Should peer schools like UVM and UNH be added to the list for USM?
- TWU is an odd match for USM - though it is a public university it operates OUTSIDE of the public university systems in Texas; that makes it very different than USM which is deeply constrained by the UMS.
- Peer institutions that seem to match best with USM are UA Little Rock, Murray State, Texas Woman's, and Fayetteville. These all have professional degree programs with a research component.
- What? I think this list is way off base--astonishingly so. UMass Boston; UMass Lowell; Southern Connecticut?
- ...at first glance, there are several southern/mid southern peers, only one other New England school, and no midwestern or Canadian institutions?

Comments Regarding Draft USM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 3 of 8

- Why not Central Connecticut State University? We should have another New England peer (and they list us as a peer). University of Nebraska-Omaha also seems like a good peer.
- No graduate nursing program at Little Rock and few factors prepared faculty. No DNP at Salem State. Also, different structure—chair vs. director. For my discipline, if these two are not representative. Texas women’s and Murray state are closest to USM generally and in regard to nursing.
- There is a structural difference between USM and above peers. For example, all the above Institutions have dedicated school/college of business/management whereas at USM, school of business exist within a complex structure CMHS (non related disciplines): Education, Social Work and Public Policy). Strategically and Academically, School of Business should be either a standalone unit or a part of the college with other disciplines viz. STEM where synergies and cross functional integration may exist (now and also in future) -: Data Science, Analytics, Engineering Management, Technology..... Management.....
- More in the region would be good, like Plymouth State in NH or SUNY Plattsburg. Especially since colleges in the south & west are often quite different from New England in governance, management, and culture.
- would be good to have a New England peer- Salem State North Carolina Central as HBCU could provide a diverse perspective (with an LGBTQ center) any of them more urban Portland ME style than others?- University of Michigan- Flint?
- This list is quite different from the last one, which included Central CT State, Northern Kentucky, and Southern Illinois, among others. My only question is whether the demographics of these schools align well with USM's student body.

Comments Regarding Draft USM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 4 of 8

- To Whom it May Concern: The Faculty at USM through its Faculty Senate proposed in December of 2015 a list of peer institutions after some considerable study. The following were not on that list, and should be removed from consideration: Salem State, Texas Woman's, North Carolina, Central Cal State, Dominguez Hills The following is the list submitted: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville University of Michigan - Flint California State University, San Bernardino University of Arkansas Little Rock University of Missouri – Kansas City University of Missouri – St. Louis University of Nevada, Las Vegas University of North Carolina, Charlotte University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Virginia Commonwealth University Washington State University Wayne State University Idaho State University Murray State University Saginaw Valley State University of North Dakota University of Texas at Tyler Wichita State University
- ...Salem State University, Murray State, U Michigan - Flint, North Carolina Central University, are similar in size and scope of USM whose Basic Carnegie Classification, Master's Colleges & Universities: Larger Programs, is in-line with USM's. Enrollments are also similar. Thus, it is reasonable to include these as peer institutions.
- Strange to see NCCU on the list given it's HX, and having lived in NC for 11 years, graduating from UNC-CH - this is the first I've heard of Fayetteville State! We continue to visit in laws living within 45 minutes of Fayetteville and yet it seems unknown even to them. Need to honor our legacy of Gorham and Pogo that were both familiar choices to my peers and friends in Vermont. Family & community awareness matter.
- The law school has different peers. UNH, Willamette, etc.
- Missing from list: University of Texas - Kingsville Chicago State University
- Why are these schools the peers?

Comments Regarding Draft USM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 5 of 8

- The University of Southern Maine's Basic Carnegie Classification is as a Master's Colleges & Universities: Larger Programs whose enrollment is approximately 8,500 students. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Texas Women's University's Basic Carnegie Classification are as Doctoral Universities with Moderate Research Activity. Based on this important factor, how can these institutions be deemed similar to USM? Indeed, faculty expectations employed at a Doctoral University differ than that of faculty at a Masters classified institution. Furthermore, Texas Women's enrolls more than 15,000 students, which is 6,000+ more than USM. Thus, these should not be considered peer institutions. Like Texas Women's, Dominguez Hills has 6,000+ more students than USM which does not make it a peer institution. Though a couple of thousand students less than USM's enrollment, and though classified as a Basic Carnegie Classification, Master's Colleges & Universities: Medium Programs, Fayetteville State University appears to be more in-line with USM and, thus, passes the straight face test as a peer institution....
- The USM faculty senate has identified over 150 potential peers using 9 separate criteria. Of its 39 finalists, only 3 were ultimately selected. And 4 of the selected didn't even make it to the list of potential peers. I am concerned that the mix of peers is not reflective of USM's standing, particularly with regards to accredited professional programs. Maintaining national accreditation in key programs such as business, engineering, music, and nursing imposes resource demands to an institution that are significant and that are not shared by many of the proposed peers. The list of selected peers sends a bad message that national accreditation is not valued at USM, and may result in insufficient resource allocation to maintain and advance our standing. The list should be revised to include more institutions from among those recommended by the senate.
- I would appreciate a definition of "peer" and what that means? It is that we can exchange classes, resources, etc? Maybe I missed that in a previous email...

Comments Regarding Draft USM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 6 of 8

- I believe there is a fundamental problem that has been seriously overlooked in this process. If an outstanding matching with several institutions has been found for one of the Maine Universities, and a not as good match for another (others), as has been stated by some of the presenters, then the PROCESS IS FLAWED, since the University with the not as good matching (and assuming it was compared to slightly better Universities) will make the comparison aspirational, and that Maine University will look worst and in need of more resources than the other University(ies) where better match was found.
- The University of Arkansas at Little Rock is not be a strong peer institution for the School of Nursing. They offer an associate degree in nursing as well as a baccalaureate. They do not offer any graduate program in nursing. They are accredited by a different organization than the USM SON. Texas Woman's is also not a strong peer to the USM SON. They offer more advanced degrees including a PhD in nursing. North Carolina Central also would not be a strong peer institution for the USM SON. North Carolina Central is accredited by a different origination and does not offer a graduate degree in nursing. California State University- Dominguez Hills does not offer an undergraduate degree comparable to what is offered by USM SON. Fayetteville State does not offer a graduate degree in nursing but is accredited by the same organization as USM SON. The other institutions: Salem State, Murray State, and University of Michigan - Flint would be considered better peer institutions for the USM SON.
- I am concerned that the reasoning for selecting these peers isn't detailed on this survey or in the e-mail we received. I clicked on Salem State U to see if I could find demographic information and gave up after looking for an "at a glance" intro, a fact book, or an IR page/entry....All their copy and photos cater to a traditional age population, and they have a single, "park-like" campus, not to mention 14,000 students.

Comments Regarding Draft USM Peers

Comments Submitted: Slide 7 of 8

- This is probably a great list. The however, is pointless to me without some description of how the list was created. WHO was involved? WHAT FEATURES did they prioritize? It could be taken care of in just two paragraphs. I hope t makes sense that surveys provide you data BUT also provide those surveyed information that builds an opinion in those surveyed about the situation and those in charge.
- I don't know what we are supposed to do with this list. You have not explained this very well. Are we voting? Are we telling you which ones are "good" and which ones are "not a good match"? How would we know unless we have been to all of these? Will we have to read the website for each of these to determine if they are similar to USM? If so, what are the criteria?
- I have no idea how these were selected And how this list is going to be used to allocate resources to USM. I think it is extremely stupid to base the allocation of resources based on this list. The amount of money allocated to each campus should be based on more sensible criteria.
- Not familiar with these
- I don't have specific comments on the peer institutions themselves, but more on spreading the word on what connections we have with these peer institutions, and how to best make use of these connections.
- Due to the ongoing progress and forward momentum for USM it might be important to regard the snapshot of peer institutions as something of a stepping stone and reassessing in an ongoing way valuable to ensure best possible peer set.
- Given USM's brand as a metropolitan university, does it make sense to have so many rural-based schools?...

Comments Regarding Draft USM Peers

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- USM is the 2nd largest university in Maine, located within the state's primary population center. It's location relative to the rest of New England further places USM squarely in the realm of a regional comprehensive university. Many of the suggested peer universities do not appear to reach the level of regional comprehensive university.
- With the exception of one institution, the majority of the institutions do not have a research portfolio, in terms of breadth and depth, that is similar to USM. I understand that the purpose of the peer institution comparison is to inform funding allocation and performance measures. I also understand that research infrastructure at USM needs to be built up to level commensurate with a large Master's institution. This said, I have concerns that budget allocations to USM based on these peer institutions will not be sufficient and will undermine the need to build up the research infrastructure.



Compiled by:
Office of Organizational Effectiveness
5717 Corbett Hall, Orono, ME 04469
207-581-5443 • missionexcellence@maine.edu
thinkmissionexcellence.maine.edu/oe

