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MACTAGGART TO RETURN AS UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CHANCELLOR

BANGOR – The University of Maine System Board of Trustees today announced that Terrence J. MacTaggart of Hampden has accepted a one-year appointment to serve as chancellor of the seven-member university system.

“The Board is delighted and grateful that Dr. MacTaggart has agreed to this appointment,” said Charles L. Johnson III, chair of the Board of Trustees. “He has the knowledge of Maine, the respect of others, and an exceptional understanding of the issues facing higher education. We could not have found a better person to take over for Chancellor Westphal when he steps down next month.”

MacTaggart previously served as chancellor from 1996-2001, having fulfilled a five-year commitment to the position. He will succeed Joseph W. Westphal, who recently announced that he will resign his position on June 30. Westphal assumed the chancellorship in April 2002.

MacTaggart’s appointment takes effect July 1.

“I’m pleased to be able to serve the University System in this role,” MacTaggart stated. “I look forward to helping make the case for higher education in Maine and to continuing to extend its benefits to all Maine citizens.”

For his part, Westphal said that he thinks the Board’s choice of MacTaggart is ideal.

“Terry and I have a great working relationship,” Westphal added. “He was a big help to me when I first took this job. He and I have talked about this new appointment, and are planning a very smooth and productive transition.”

Johnson said that trustees expect MacTaggart to focus on implementing the System’s long-range strategic plan, initially in two areas of high importance to them.

“We have asked Dr. MacTaggart to focus his initial efforts on an operational audit of the System’s central offices and administrative functions. With our new technology and strategic plan, we are positioned to recognize system-wide efficiencies.”

“We also will ask Dr. MacTaggart to advance our recently adopted marketing and advocacy initiative,” Johnson continued. “We have a good plan in place and need his leadership to help showcase the value and benefits that Maine’s public universities provide.”

According to Johnson, MacTaggart will have the full authority normally provided to the System chancellor. He added that the trustees are considering having MacTaggart also coordinate the Board's search process for the person who will succeed MacTaggart when his one-year contract expires on June 30, 2007.

"Dr. MacTaggart is an internationally renowned expert on higher education leadership and governance," Johnson explained. "It would seem to make sense to have him undertake responsibility for the search on our behalf."

"Normally, a higher education system would contract with a search firm or would hire someone with Dr. MacTaggart's credentials to manage a national search," Johnson added. "Such a process normally costs about \$150,000. We would expect to save money by having Terry handle it."

Johnson said that MacTaggart's compensation will be the same as Westphal's – a \$200,850 salary, along with a university-provided vehicle, life insurance, and housing allowance. Johnson emphasized that MacTaggart would not receive extra compensation should the Board decide to have him manage the national search.

The Board will vote to ratify MacTaggart's appointment at its May 22 meeting in Bangor. Trustees are expected to decide how they will proceed with the search process within the next few weeks, Johnson noted.

MacTaggart is completing a four-year appointment as University of Maine System Professor, in which he has taught, advised students, and conducted and published research related to higher education policy, leadership, and governance. In addition to his past appointment as Maine's university system chancellor, he served as chancellor of the Minnesota State University System and as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Superior. MacTaggart is a widely published author and has served as a consultant for some of North America's most prominent colleges, universities, and university systems.

MacTaggart has held leadership positions within the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and has chaired multiple visiting teams for several regional accrediting groups. His academic credentials include a doctorate and master's degree in English literature from Saint Louis University; a master of business administration from St. Cloud State University; and an honorary doctor of law degree from the American College of Greece. He has served as a Fulbright Scholar to Thailand's Ministry of University Affairs.

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System is the state's largest educational entity, with more than 34,000 students enrolled. It features seven universities—some with multiple campuses—located across the state, as well as 11 University College outreach centers and more than 100 interactive distance education sites. For more information, log onto www.maine.edu.