



**UMS TRUSTEES ADOPT BUDGET**  
**Board Expresses Cautious Optimism About Increased State Funds**

BANGOR – University of Maine System’s Board of Trustees expressed appreciation and “cautious optimism” following the unanimous vote of the Legislature’s appropriations committee to support a \$4.2 million increase in the University System’s FY07 budget.

“The increase in funding is much needed,” according to Board chair Charles L. Johnson III. “That additional funding will help protect the quality, access, and affordability of our universities.”

The full Legislature is expected to vote on the additional funds before the end of the week.

As explained by University System Chancellor Joseph W. Westphal, the State originally did not appropriate any additional funds for the upcoming budget year starting July 1. Earlier this year, an additional \$2.75 million was appropriated to partially offset a budget shortfall caused in part by extraordinarily high utility and employee healthcare costs. The additional funds, if approved, will provide additional help to reduce that shortfall, he said.

The comments came as the Board discussed and approved the System’s \$463.4 million FY07 operating budget. Excluding restricted funds such as federal grants, the budget includes \$173 million in State appropriation, not including the \$4.2 million proposal pending legislative approval. It also includes an anticipated \$189.7 million in anticipated student tuition, fees, and room and board charges based on rates that were announced on May 3.

In other business:

The Board elected Margaret A. Weston of Yarmouth and Barry D. McCrum of Mars Hill as incoming chair and vice chair, respectively, for two-year terms of office. Weston, currently the vice chair, succeeds Johnson.

The Board formally voted to accept Westphal’s resignation as chancellor, effective June 30. Westphal, who began his service as chancellor in April 2002, announced in April that he was stepping down and would assume a full-time faculty position. The Board also formally appointed Terrence J. MacTaggart to a one-year term as Westphal’s successor. MacTaggart served as chancellor from 1996-2001.

The Board recognized fellow trustee James D. Mullen of Bangor upon his completion of 10 years of service on the Board, the maximum length service permitted by law. The Governor is expected to nominate a replacement for Mullen, who is a former Board chair and has been a national leader in higher education governance.

The Board approved a revised version of the System’s Student Code of Conduct. It also accepted the revised version of the System’s strategic plan implementation document.

The Board received an update on the System’s marketing and advocacy initiative.

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](http://www.maine.edu).