

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2006

October 19, 2006

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CHANCELLOR RECOMMENDS HUGGINS AS UMM PRESIDENT

BANGOR—University of Maine System Chancellor Terrence J. MacTaggart is recommending that Cynthia E. Huggins be given an ongoing appointment as president of the University of Maine at Machias (UMM).

Huggins has been serving as UMM's president on a fixed-length appointment, which would have expired next June. If MacTaggart's recommendation is approved by the System Board of Trustees next month, Huggins will be given a two-year, renewable appointment, which is standard practice for the System's university presidents.

MacTaggart's decision follows a recent assessment of UMM's needs and preferences regarding a presidential search and appointment. That review was conducted by Allen Berger, vice president and provost of the University of Maine at Farmington.

"There is clearly a high level of [community] commitment to the future of [UMM]," MacTaggart noted in a memo issued Thursday to UMM's faculty and staff. "It was also clear that there is great regard for the work that Dr. Huggins has done as president and great support for her to continue."

MacTaggart said he decided to recommend Huggins for full appointment as president "based on the input from the community, my own confidence in her, and the need for continuity and forward movement at UMM.

"I am pleased that Cindy has accepted this appointment, and I anticipate that the Board will confirm it at its meeting in Machias on November 6," he added.

Prior to becoming president, Huggins, 50, had served UMM as interim president, acting vice president for academic affairs, and co-chair of the university's arts and letters division. A professor of English, she joined the UMM faculty in 1997.

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Huggins is an accomplished scholar and teacher who earned master's and doctoral degrees in English literature from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She also earned a bachelor's degree in music from Furman University in South Carolina.

Her community involvement includes three years of service on the Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and membership as a trustee of the Centre Street Congregational Church.

MacTaggart has scheduled an open meeting at UMM on Friday afternoon at 2 p.m. in the university's Clipper Lounge. Huggins will join him for that session.