

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**STATEMENT OF  
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CHANCELLOR TERENCE J. MACTAGGART REGARDING  
GOVERNOR BALDACCII'S BIENNIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL  
January 5, 2007**

The Governor's proposal seeks a \$5 million increase in the University of Maine System's current \$175.2 million budget and a \$9.4 million increase over the current budget for FY08.

His budget also seeks more State investment in university-based research and development: a \$3 million one-time appropriation in the current budget year for infrastructure improvements; and, in the FY08-09 biennium, a \$5 million increase for Maine Economic Improvement Fund, which helps fund university-related research that leads to commercialization and economic development.

The Governor's budget recommendations show that he appreciates the importance, value, and potential of Maine's public universities. Governor Baldacci, along with many other state policy makers, understands that higher education and university-based research and development are essential to growing jobs and Maine's economy. The recent Brookings Institution report on Maine's economy underscores that point.

Our own legislative priorities focus on four objectives geared toward job creation and economic growth:

- making, and keeping, higher education affordable for all Mainers
- expanding investment in university-based research and development to help generate jobs and economic growth
- upgrading the quality and safety of classrooms and laboratories
- ensuring high quality, reputable programs and services for all university constituencies through fair compensation for all employees

The Trustees and I look forward to working with the Governor and Legislature over the next several months. We also hope that our many supporters around the state continue their efforts to spread the message: Maine's public universities are essential and valuable resources and partners for Maine and its people.

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System is the state's largest educational entity. 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).