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UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TRUSTEES SELECT PATTENAUDE AS NEXT CHANCELLOR

AUGUSTA – The University of Maine System Board of Trustees on Monday unanimously selected Richard L. Pattenaude as the next chancellor of the state's 34,200-student public university system.

Pattenaude, 60, currently serves as president of the University of Southern Maine, one of seven universities of the state system.

Trustees approved the action during a special meeting held Monday afternoon in Augusta. The action was contingent on Pattenaude accepting the offer, which he did in a phone conversation with Board Chair Margaret A. Weston immediately following the Board's vote.

"Dr. Pattenaude was selected through an open and highly competitive process," Weston explained. "All three finalists would make an excellent chancellor.

"In the end, the Board concluded that Dr. Pattenaude has the best combination of leadership and academic experience to meet our needs," she added. "We believe he is very well suited for the challenges ahead."

Pattenaude was one of three finalists trustees considered for the position. The other two were James Applegate, the vice president for academic affairs for the Kentucky council for Postsecondary Education, and Warren H. Fox, executive director of the Office of Higher Education Policy and Planning for the United Arab Emirates' Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Applegate withdrew as a candidate Monday morning, according to Weston.

Nearly 40 candidates applied or were nominated for the position, which opened up last June following the resignation of Joseph W. Westphal.

"I've been proud to serve as USM's president for nearly 16 years," Pattenaude stated following the decision. "Leaving will not be easy but I'm honored by the opportunity to work for the people of Maine on a broader scale. I look forward to doing all I can to ensure that Maine's public universities are increasingly effective catalysts for economic and social change."

Pattenaude will assume his new duties on July 1. He will succeed current Chancellor Terrence J. MacTaggart, who is scheduled to step down in June. MacTaggart, who first served as chancellor from 1996-2001, agreed to return to the position for one year following Westphal's resignation.

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Pattenaude joined the University System in 1991 as president of the University of Southern Maine. His responsibilities include overseeing USM's campuses in Portland, Gorham, and Lewiston as well as administrative responsibility for the University of Maine School of Law in Portland. Pattenaude holds a doctorate in political science from the University of Colorado. He is married and has four adult children.

As Chancellor, Pattenaude will oversee a higher education system of seven universities, a law school, and 11 academic outreach centers. The University System employs more than 5,000 faculty and staff members. The University System's current revenues total \$599 million, with 31 percent funded through a State appropriation. Most of the remainder of revenue comes from student tuition and fees, room and board charges, and research grants and contracts.

Pattenaude will continue to serve as USM's president for the remainder of the current academic year. The process and timing for selecting his successor as USM president will be determined at a later date.

Weston, MacTaggart, and Pattenaude will hold a news conference Tuesday morning at the University System's headquarters in Bangor to address the appointment.