

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM WILL LOWER TUITION INCREASE TO 9.8 PERCENT
BASED ON NEW LEGISLATIVE BUDGET PLAN**

**MacTaggart Says Appropriations Committee's Budget will Help Universities Sustain
Quality and Maintain Affordability**

BANGOR— University of Maine System Chancellor Terrence J. MacTaggart today released the following statement regarding the Appropriations Committee's recommended budget increase for the University of Maine System:

"Maine's 44,000 public university students will be pleased and relieved to hear that the Appropriations Committee has unanimously recommended an \$8 million increase in State funding for the 2007-08 academic year. Our trustees, presidents, and I are grateful to those legislators and their party leaders for helping us maintain academic quality and affordability.

"Based on the bipartisan support provided by legislative leaders, the committee, and the Governor, we will be able to implement a sizable portion of our proposed Tuition Offset Plan. The additional funds will allow us to reduce the 12.6 percent tuition increase the Board of Trustees tentatively adopted last week to a smaller, 9.8 percent increase. For a full-time, undergraduate student from Maine, the State appropriation will reduce the size of the increase to \$533 for the year, as opposed to the \$685 increase that would have resulted from the higher tuition proposal. For most of our students, the actual increase will be even less, since three out of four of our students receive financial aid.

"We realize that the new budget plan primarily addresses the new academic year's budget situation. We have more work to do, both in Augusta and across the University System, to address future funding issues and cost-efficiencies. Our trustees and university leaders will work closely with our state policy makers to ensure that Maine people always have access to a high quality, affordable university education."

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System is the state's largest educational enterprise. It features seven universities – some with multiple campuses – located across the state, as well as 11 University College outreach centers, a law school, and an additional 75 interactive distance learning sites. For more information, log onto www.maine.edu.