

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM TRUSTEES TO MEET
MAY 18-19 IN PRESQUE ISLE**

BANGOR—The University of Maine System Board of Trustees will deal with a full agenda of financial, academic, and management items when it meets Sunday and Monday, May 18-19, at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

The Board will be meeting for the first time since the State finalized its allocation plan for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1. Excluding targeted appropriations for university-based research, the State budget for the new fiscal year funds the University of Maine System at essentially the same dollar amount as the current year. State funding constitutes roughly half of the University System's general operating budget, with student tuition and fees making up the other half.

As part of the budget-making process, trustees will discuss and determine tuition rates, campus fees, and room and board rates for the upcoming academic year. According to System Chancellor Richard L. Pattenade, "Tuition and fees are the revenue source of last resort, and will be adjusted only to the extent necessary to balance budgets and sustain academic quality while protecting affordability and accessibility."

Pattenade noted that the university system has undergone a rigorous cost-cutting and efficiency effort over the past two years, and that the new budget he will present to trustees will reflect significant cuts and savings. However, he also noted that the universities must address the major increases in the cost of fuel, utilities, food, and other expenses affecting the operation of the universities and their 45,000 students.

"Higher education has not been spared the effects of the current economic conditions affecting the nation and the state," Pattenade said. "Those conditions are making this budget-building process one of the most difficult the System has faced since the early 1990s."

Along with its budget, trustees will consider and act on several other items, including:

- extension of Donald N. Zillman's contract as president of the University of Maine at Presque Isle
- authorization of renovations to classroom, laboratory and other learning facilities at several university campuses
- approval of a bachelor's degree in nursing at the University of Maine at Augusta
- election of board officers for the new fiscal year
- personnel actions

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System is the state's largest educational enterprise. It has an annual enrollment of more than 45,000 students. It features seven universities – some with multiple campuses – located across the state, as well as 10 University College outreach centers, a law school, and an additional 75 interactive distance learning sites. For more information, visit www.maine.edu.

All Board meetings are open to the public. Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to attend should call Eduard Dailide, director of facilities management and planning, at 973-3335 (voice) or 973-3262 (TDD/TDY) or by e-mail at edailide@maine.edu.