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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR'S CURTAILMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

BANGOR – This afternoon Governor Baldacci issued a State order to cut current-year spending in several areas of State government, including public higher education. The impact on the University of Maine System will be an \$8.3 million funding reduction – or 4.2% of the University System's current State appropriation. This figure is reduced from the \$10.6 million cut which was originally proposed.

"We appreciate that, in these enormously difficult financial times, Governor Baldacci clearly recognizes the essential role that Maine's public universities must play in Maine's economic recovery," noted Richard L. Pattenaude, University System Chancellor.

Pattenaude also noted that prior to the curtailment the University System had already implemented self-imposed permanent budget cuts totaling \$19.1 million, and had been working to offset a projected \$8 million shortfall resulting in large part from the global financial crisis. A few weeks ago, Pattenaude imposed spending control measures at the System's central office to help achieve those savings, and directed each president to implement similar measures at their respective campuses.

The reduced curtailment will lessen any impact on students and help the University System avoid elimination of class offerings.

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.