

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact:

University of Maine System: Peggy Markson 973-3245

Associated C.O.L.T. Staff of the Universities of Maine: Jim Bradley 689-6842

Associated Faculties of the University of Maine System: Ron Mosley 255-3492

Universities of Maine Professional Staff Association: Kerry Sullivan 780-4404 or 233-4345

Teamsters Union Local #340: Jim Carson 767-2106

PRESS STATEMENT

Joint Statement of the University of Maine System, Universities of Maine Professional Staff Association, Associated C.O.L.T. Staff of the Universities of Maine, Teamsters Local Union #340, and Associated Faculties of the University of Maine System

BANGOR – The University of Maine System and the bargaining agents representing its employees have mutually agreed to discontinue pursuit of furlough days as an option to resolving the System’s current financial shortfalls. The shortfall associated with the curtailment of state appropriation and the original net investment loss which emerged late in 2008 has largely been addressed for six of the seven universities through other cost reductions. In particular, the University of Southern Maine, under President Botman’s leadership, which initially expected substantial layoffs in order to address its share of the shortfall, continued to pursue aggressive cost reductions in order to mitigate the impact on employees.

“The University System is greatly thankful for the understanding and consideration demonstrated by our unions and their membership in their willingness to consider this proposal,” said Chancellor Richard Pattenau. “There has been a clear demonstration of their desire to assist their universities during very difficult financial times.”

While new financial challenges related to enrollments, net investment loss and other shortfalls continue to emerge and must still be addressed, the circumstances that gave rise to the furlough proposal have changed, resulting in this joint decision. The University System will continue to meet these challenges while minimizing any impact to employees. The University and the unions remain committed to seeking creative solutions to deal with the financial shortfall.