

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2009

Contact: John Diamond 973-3224 or 949-4904
or Peggy Markson 973-3245



UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM TRUSTEES TO MEET MARCH 16 IN BANGOR

BANGOR—The University of Maine System's Board of Trustees will receive a status report on Chancellor Richard L. Pattenade's financial sustainability initiative when the Board meets Monday, March 16, at the UMS central office in downtown Bangor.

Pattenade's initiative, entitled, "New Challenges, New Directions," is intended to produce "major transformational changes" necessary to reduce overall expenses by \$42.8 million over the next four fiscal years—in addition to \$34.2 million in reductions already adopted to balance the current year's budget alone. The initiative is focusing on administrative, academic, and structural changes as well as increasing revenue within the seven-university state system.

Pattenade, who developed the proposal with the seven university presidents, previously said that the plan is necessary due to the financial consequences of the current recession on students and the university system itself; rising health care, energy, and personnel costs; changing demographics; and the need to invest in technological improvements related to teaching and learning, research, and university management and operations.

As part of the initiative, a 12-member task force has been holding meetings throughout the system to gain public and stakeholder input. The task force is scheduled to submit recommendations to Pattenade in June.

Monday's meeting will also include presentations and reports related to spring semester enrollment, academic programs, and appointments. The meeting will be the first since the Board switched to a one-day, compressed meeting format as a way to reduce costs. Previous meetings were held over a two-day period.

The full agenda for the meeting may be found at <http://www.maine.edu/pdf/CommitteescheduleandagendaMarch162009.pdf>

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 10 University College outreach centers, a law school, and an additional 75 interactive distance learning sites. With an annual enrollment of approximately 45,000 students, it educates 68 percent of all students enrolled in Maine's public universities, community colleges, and Maine Maritime Academy. Its student population represents 48 percent of all students enrolled in Maine's public and private postsecondary institutions combined. 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.