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**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM REPORTS ISSUED;  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO TRUSTEES AT JULY 13 MEETING**

BANGOR—Reports from three work groups studying varying aspects of the University of Maine System will be officially presented to the System's Board of Trustees at their next meeting on Monday, July 13, in Bangor.

The reports include the final recommendations of a special task force that examined the structure and governance of the University of Maine System. The other reports were compiled by an ad hoc committee that examined administrative, student, and financial services; and by a similar committee which explored academic programs and services.

Appointed by Chancellor Richard L. Pattenau in February, the groups were created as part of a trustee-approved initiative called "New Challenges, New Directions." The initiative's objective is to ensure long-term financial sustainability while protecting academic quality and affordability. Part of the initiative's purpose is to offset a projected \$42 million shortfall over the next four fiscal years through a combination in cost-savings or new sources of revenue.

"Following the presentation of the three reports to the Board of Trustees, the university presidents and I will start the process of melding the information into one comprehensive draft plan," Pattenau explained. "Once completed in draft form, the new document will be made available in September and presented to the Board at its September 14 meeting."

David T. Flanagan of Manchester, a former chair of the UMS Board of Trustees and the retired CEO of Central Maine Power Co., chaired the task force which examined the 40-year-old university system's structure and governance. "Our report represents the culmination of thousands of hours of time and effort by many people—the members of the task force, university staff, higher education and policy experts, and scores of witnesses and other contributors," Flanagan said. "The task force recommends a whole series of reforms in focus, missions, support services and financial policies to better enable Maine's public university system to play a leading role in addressing the tremendous economic, demographic, and educational challenges and opportunities ahead."

The full reports, along with a related report on distance learning and the University College Centers, are now available on the UMS web site at [www.maine.edu/UMSNCD](http://www.maine.edu/UMSNCD). Pattenau noted that members of the public are encouraged to review and comment on all three reports between now and **August 1** by sending an email to [ncnd@maine.edu](mailto:ncnd@maine.edu) or mail to New Challenges, New Directions; c/o Office of the Chancellor, University of Maine System, 16 Central Street, Bangor, ME 04401. Additional opportunities for public comment will occur once a

comprehensive draft plan is presented to Trustees in September.

The complete agenda for the July 13 UMS Board of Trustees meeting may be found at [www.maine.edu/pdf/CommitteescheduleandagendaJuly132009.pdf](http://www.maine.edu/pdf/CommitteescheduleandagendaJuly132009.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](http://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](mailto:edailide@maine.edu).