



PATTENAUDE PRESENTS PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ON UNIVERSITY SYSTEM INITIATIVE

Chancellor Says Plan Will Provide Financial Sustainability and New Focus on Maine's "Public Agenda"

BANGOR—University of Maine System Chancellor Richard L. Pattenauade on Monday submitted a long-term proposal which he says will, if adopted, “resolve our financial challenges and enhance our ability to serve the people of Maine.”

Pattenauade presented the plan to the University System’s Board of Trustees at its September meeting in Bangor. The Board is scheduled to act on the proposal at its next meeting, to be held in Bangor on November 16.

“We are looking at new ways of working, literally a new business model that provides greater feedback from the people we serve, makes our work more efficient, and responds more quickly to emerging needs in the economy.”

As Pattenauade explained, the plan he submitted is a synthesis of three reports, submitted in July, dealing with the academic, administrative, financial, and structural operations of Maine’s 44,000-student, seven-university system. Those reports, part of Pattenauade’s “New Challenges, New Directions” initiative, were compiled by separate working committees assigned to examine specific aspects of the university system’s mission and functions.

“It’s a bold plan,” Pattenauade told trustees, “bold in that it both reduces costs significantly through careful use of technology, strategic cost reductions, and the many talents of our people, and simultaneously invests resources in key priorities facing the state of Maine.”

According to Pattenauade, the implementation plan achieves its goal of closing projected budget gaps that would have reached \$42.8 million in Fiscal Year 2013 unless action was taken. He said the gap would be closed through a combination of cost cutting, efficiencies, and new revenues.

Pattenauade emphasized that the document he submitted, entitled “[The University of Maine System and the Future of Maine](#),” presents the framework for further, more detailed actions still to come. That framework, he explained, marks a very different approach to decision-making and operations. The proposed plan will determine academic priorities, cross-university collaborations, public-private partnerships, and strategic reallocation of resources, among many actions. A number of ad hoc and ongoing working groups will develop the specific action steps needed to realize the proposed plan’s objectives.

The implementation plan identifies the largest cost savings in the “arena” of administrative, student, and financial services. The plan projects savings reaching \$30-\$31.3 million in FY13. In addition, the implementation plan calls for \$8-\$10 million in cost reductions by FY13, related to academic programs and services. The plan

also projects revenue increases of \$3-\$5 million by FY13 as a result of improved student recruitment and retention strategies.

Along with financial sustainability, the plan would commit UMS to playing a leadership role in helping establish a “public agenda.” As Pattenaude explained, UMS would work with the public and private sectors to identify educational, social, cultural, and economic needs and opportunities, and to help develop appropriate responses.

“Our universities will work with people across the state to determine, establish, and pursue a public agenda,” he stated. “We would like to take leadership of this effort and help move the state forward toward mutual goals.”

Board Chair Lyndel J. Wishcamper of Freeport reminded attendees at Monday’s meeting that a series of meetings and public input sessions will be held over the next several weeks across the university system. In addition, university leaders will meet with other stakeholders to gain feedback about the plan prior to the Board’s action on November 16. Wishcamper praised the inclusive nature of the process that Pattenaude and the seven university presidents conducted since launching the “New Challenges, New Directions” initiative’s in January.

Other Board actions on Monday included the following:

Trustees adopted a resolution expressing “serious concerns about the negative educational and economic consequences” that could result from passage of the so-called “TABOR” proposal, which will appear as Question 4 on the November 3 statewide ballot. The resolution stated that the trustees believe that passage “would be harmful to the students, families, businesses, industries, organizations, communities, and individuals who depend on Maine’s public universities for educational and economic programs, services, partnerships, and resources.” Wishcamper explained that the action was being taken in keeping with the Board’s statutory advocacy responsibilities.

Trustees also passed a resolution in memory of former System Chancellor Robert L. Woodbury, who passed away on Saturday. The resolution described Woodbury as “one of the most influential higher education figures in Maine history.” Woodbury served as chancellor from 1986-1993 and returned as interim chancellor in 1995.

The Board approved collective bargaining agreements with three of UMS’s six bargaining units. Negotiations are in progress with the other three units.

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.