



**UMS TRUSTEES APPOINT HESS AS UMFK PRESIDENT**  
**Trustees also receive updates on New Challenges, New Directions**

BANGOR—University of Maine System Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaudd announced today at a meeting of the System's Board of Trustees that he is recommending Wilson G. Hess of Freedom, Maine, as the next president of the University of Maine at Fort Kent. Trustees at the meeting approved the Chancellor's recommendation.

"Wilson Hess brings a wealth of enthusiasm and experience to UMFK," said Pattenaudd. "His successful background working with small and rural educational institutions will be a great fit for the UMFK community. When you combine this with his knowledge of Maine, I really think he will hit the ground running."

Hess will begin his new position on July 19 and receive a salary of \$137,000. He will succeed Richard Cost, who announced his retirement in August of last year. Cost has been UMFK president since 2002.

Hess most recently served as president of the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI), from 2005 to 2009, and was recently named President Emeritus of the institution. CMI is the national college of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (located in the equatorial Pacific region), where Hess oversaw the implementation of a highly successful enrollment management program and established a \$27 million building program and campus redesign. Hess previously served as executive director of the Audubon Expedition Institute and from 1990 to 2000 he served as president of Unity College in Maine. Prior to these positions he held various faculty and administrative positions at Unity College from 1977 to 1989.

"It is an honor to have been selected to serve as the University of Maine at Fort Kent's next president," Hess said in a statement. "Helping UMFK achieve its vision—especially as it relates to rigorous liberal arts education, experiential learning, the natural environment, sustainability, and community engagement—is an issue close to the core of my experience as a higher education professional."

Hess earned a master's degree in History at the University of Maine in Orono and a bachelor's degree in History at the University of Baltimore. He has also engaged in doctoral studies in History at the University of Maine. More information about the UMFK presidential search may be found at [www.maine.edu/UMSUMFKPresident](http://www.maine.edu/UMSUMFKPresident).

In other activities at Monday's meeting of UMS Trustees, Chancellor Pattenaudd provided an update on the "New Challenges, New Directions" initiative including a status report on the tuition, financial aid, and market study currently being completed by a nationally recognized specialist in enrollment management. He also talked about an upcoming day-long academic summit he is hosting in April to bring together leaders in business, government, and education to focus on aligning UMS academic programs with the state's workforce needs.

Trustees also:

- Approved recommendations for tenure for faculty members, and received a report on faculty and tenure statistics;

- Received an update on collective bargaining and met with leaders of the unions representing university employees;
- Approved the establishment of a Forest Bioproducts Research Institute at UMaine, which will support the sustainable development of value-added forest products;
- Were presented status reports on various capital projects taking place at UMaine, UMF, and USM—including the expansion of UMaine’s Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center and the renovation of vacant space at USM’s Sullivan Gym annex in Portland for the Communications and Media Studies program;
- Approved the appointment of Dr. Curt Madison, as Director of University College at the University of Maine at Augusta;
- And approved changes to policies applicable to non-represented employees.

The next meeting of the University of Maine System Trustees will take place on May 23-24 at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

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***About the University of Maine System***

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System is the state’s largest educational enterprise. It has an annual enrollment of more than 42,000 students and serves over 500,000 individuals annually through educational and cultural offerings. The University of Maine System features seven universities – some with multiple campuses – located across the state, as well as nine University College outreach centers, a law school, and an additional 75 interactive distance learning sites. For more information, visit [www.maine.edu](http://www.maine.edu).

***About the University of Maine at Fort Kent***

The University of Maine at Fort Kent was founded in 1878. It offers 28 baccalaureate and associate degree programs to more than 1,100 students. A number of the University’s 1,126 students are from foreign countries, particularly Canada. UMFK’s academic program is firmly grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, with an emphasis on experiential learning and attention to individual students. UMFK is one of seven universities in the 42,000-student University of Maine System.