



UMS TRUSTEES MEET JULY 12 IN BANGOR
Receive update on strategic investment fund awards

BANGOR—The University of Maine System (UMS) board of trustees held their July meeting today at the System's downtown Bangor headquarters.

UMS vice chancellor for finance and administration Rebecca Wyke provided an update to trustees on the System's strategic investment fund which was established to provide targeted funds to support new university initiatives, as well as existing programs.

"A total of \$2.3 million was awarded in two strategic categories and they are investments that will ensure a more sustainable university system for the future," Wyke explained. "The two strategic areas which received funding are enrollment management activities with awards totaling \$892,000 and academic programs responsive to state needs with \$1 million—with a focus on allied health; alternative energy education; and our STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) disciplines."

The strategic investment funds are awarded on a competitive basis. Out of 39 project proposals submitted for fiscal year 2011, a total of 14 have received final approval and an additional ten are in preliminary stages of approval. Projects range in scope from a UMaine program to incorporate innovation engineering across the state, to an UMFK program in excellence in teaching and technology to an engineering and science pioneers program at USM. A list of the 24 awards for fiscal year 2011 may be found [here](#).

Trustees took a number of business actions, including:

- Authorized an extension on leased space by USM at 501 Forest Avenue in Portland, pending review and approval of all lease documents. In addition, the [Maine Small Business Development Center](#) will be relocated to this site from another USM property which is in the process of being sold.
- Approved UMaine's proposal to replace two boilers at the university's steam plant with a high-efficiency boiler. Estimated cost is \$2.76 million with an annual savings estimated to be \$488,000.
- Approved an interim academic reorganization at UMA, which will be in place until the university's current strategic planning process concludes. In this interim arrangement, UMA's three colleges will be reorganized into two colleges: the College of Professional Studies and the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Approved the creation of a Bachelor of Arts in Visual and Performing Arts at UMF.

In addition, trustees made the following appointments:

- USM student Anastasia Alexis as a student representative to the board of trustees;

- Ivan M. Manev, interim dean of UMaine's College of Business, Public Policy and Health;
- Joseph Szakas, interim dean of UMA's College of Professional Studies and interim associate provost;
- John R. Wright, USM's interim provost and vice president for academic affairs;
- Peter S. Hoff, UMaine president emeritus, in recognition of his service and contributions.

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.