



UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM TRUSTEES APPROVE TWO-YEAR BUDGET REQUEST

ORONO—On Monday, University of Maine System Board of Trustees voted to approve a two-year university budget request for consideration as part of the State of Maine’s biennial budget for fiscal years 2012-13, among many items considered during the meeting held at the System Office in Bangor.

The University System’s two-year budget request is based on flat enrollment reflecting Maine’s declining traditional student demographics, significant cost reductions taken at each of the seven universities and the System Office, and the adoption of an annual tuition and fee request of no more than 3%. The request seeks a \$7.1 million increase in current (FY2011) operations base appropriation for FY2012 and an additional \$7.4 million increase in FY2013.

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Rebecca Wyke presented the budget to trustees. “While it is a difficult time for State government and for Maine residents—it is also a difficult time for our public universities,” Wyke explained, “If the State would participate at the level the University System is requesting, we would pass the savings on to students and their families in the form of a lower tuition increase. This would better align the growth in tuition with the growth in the income of Maine families.”

The budget request includes a \$1 million increase in R&D funding in FY2012 and an additional \$1 million in FY2013 for the Maine Economic Improvement Fund. Researchers at Maine’s public universities, in turn, utilize this funding to leverage additional federal and private dollars to fund university-based research projects. In the most recent fiscal year reported, more than \$58 million in federal and private sector funding was leveraged to advance projects in areas such as marine science, biotechnology, composites, environmental technologies, and precision manufacturing.

A variety of other subjects were discussed and approved at the meeting, including:

- A new USM program which provides a doctorate of nursing practice degree to prepare graduates to assume leadership positions in the health care industry and in nursing education.
- Administrative reorganizations resulting in the creation of an enrollment management division at UMFK and a chief operating officer position at USM.
- Increased authorization for UMaine’s studio art/new media complex at Stewart Commons, as a result of an architectural firm’s findings that several items need to be addressed including removal of hazardous building materials; the need to replace the building’s roof and ventilation equipment; and needed improvements to reduce barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Acceptance of transfer of ownership of the Fort Kent Armory, which is located on a nearly 3 acre site that borders the UMFK campus, subject to review by designated UMS officials including Chancellor Richard L. Pattenau, Wyke, and university legal counsel. A Resolve passed by the Maine

Legislature (LD 1759) and signed by the Governor in April transfers ownership from the Military Bureau to UMFK.

- A renovation project at UMA's college center on the University College at Bangor campus which will relocate, modernize, and expand the dental health program as well as the dental health clinic—which serves the greater Bangor area.
- Authorized UMaine to enter into a 20-year landfill gas supply and development agreement with Casella Waste System, subject to review by designated UMS officials including Chancellor Pattenaude, Wyke, and university legal counsel. The agreement is expected to reduce UMaine's carbon footprint by 30,000 metric tons annually reducing the university's current steam plant emissions by more than 40 percent, as well as saving tens of thousands of dollars in annual energy expenditures.

Several appointments were also made at the September meeting including:

- Steve Abbott, UMaine interim athletic director;
- Andrew Anderson, USM dean of the Engineering, Health Professions, Nursing, Science & Technology College;
- Susan Campbell, USM chief student success officer;
- Gillian Jordan, UMA interim dean of the College of Arts & Sciences;
- Lynn Kuzma, USM dean of the Communication, Culture & the Arts College;
- Katherine Greenleaf, USM chief operating officer; and
- James Shaffer, USM dean of the Public Service, Business, Graduate Education & Social Work College.

The next meeting of UMS trustees will take place November 14-15 at the University of Maine at Farmington.

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. Nearly two-thirds of its alumni—120,000 people—live in Maine. 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.