



## **UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM TRUSTEES UPDATED ON MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN**

FARMINGTON, ME—Members of the University of Maine System’s Board of Trustees were updated on the System’s newly updated multiyear financial plan, at their meeting today at the University of Maine at Farmington.

“Our key budget variables include enrollment, faculty and staff compensation, investments in our physical plant, and the State appropriation to the System,” explained Rebecca Wyke, UMS vice chancellor for finance and administration. “This five-year plan includes combinations of strategies and scenarios for achieving a balanced budget and ensuring the financial sustainability of the University System.”

Wyke said that she is encouraged by the multiple options to achieve a sustainable University System, and noted that over the past three years, the universities and System Office have gone to great lengths to reduce spending and find efficiencies—including a reduction of the statewide System workforce by a total of 6%. She added that this year all seven universities and the System Office ended the fiscal year financially in balance and that this year’s actual operating expenditures were \$5 million below the previous fiscal year’s expenditures.

Trustees also received an update on student enrollment and a new System-wide enrollment planning initiative.

“The number of Maine community college students choosing to pursue a four-year degree continues to grow,” explained Rosa Redonnett, UMS executive director of student affairs. “Across the System, transfers from the community colleges are up 12 percent over last year—and our campuses are working with MCCS staff to further simplify the transfer process and provide counsel to prospective students.”

Redonnett also noted that although overall enrollment is relatively flat, the number of first-time, first-year students is up 4.4% across the System to 4,236 students in Fall 2010. Another area that continues to grow is learning via distance education—which includes learning online, onsite at the System’s University College Centers, interactive television, and videoconference. The percentage of distance education credit hours grew 8.5% over the previous year, with online credit hours increasing by 27%.

Trustees considered and approved the following items:

- Elimination of two bachelor of science degrees at the University of Maine at Fort Kent—in bilingual secondary education and English/drama/art in secondary education;

- Creation of an associate of science degree in dental assisting at the University of Maine at Augusta to meet the growing demand for dental assistants in Maine’s labor market; and,
- New mission statements for the University of Maine, University of Maine at Farmington, and the University of Southern Maine.

Trustees reviewed various proposals for facilities and approved the following:

- \$983,000 to purchase and renovate facilities in Falmouth to create UMaine’s Tidewater Regional Learning Center, which will house Cumberland County Cooperative Extension offices and programs, establish new teaching facilities and a farm-based demonstration area, and consolidate the locations of other Portland-based UMaine personnel—the project will reduce ongoing operating costs for the Cooperative Extension and the other resident UMaine offices and is funded by one-time Cooperative Extension funds, a donation from the Tidewater Conservation Foundation, and private donors;
- \$3.75 million from a June 2010 General Obligation Bond to improve energy efficiencies and replace building systems at UMaine’s Nutting Hall, home of the School of Forest Resources and the Department of Wildlife Ecology;
- \$4.85 million project to renovate Alford Arena at UMaine including new dehumidification, ventilation, and ice making systems, to be paid for by grants from the Harold Alford Foundation, Efficiency Maine, and private donors;
- Authorized the University of Maine at Augusta to lease the Michael Klahr Center to the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine, subject to review by university counsel;
- \$2.02 million from Federal and State grants and a State bond for Phase II renovation of the Folsom/Pullen classroom building at the University of Maine at Presque Isle to improve energy efficiency, renovate classroom space, and update the building’s mechanical systems;
- \$767,250 in Health Care and Other Facility grant funding awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services to renovate and expand the University of Southern Maine’s existing nursing simulation lab in Portland from two beds to four beds—including updating related equipment, patient rooms, simulated patient mannequins, and office space; and,
- \$850,000 in funding from the U.S. Small Business Administration to establish a science technology research center on USM’s Portland campus to increase the capacity to serve students in science and biology programs.

Trustees received presentations from:

- University of Maine at Augusta President Allyson Handley and UMS Director of Distance Education Curt Madison presented a business plan for OnLineMaine, the System’s distance education delivery program;
- UMS Chief Human Resources and Organizational Development Officer Tracy Bigney presented a plan titled “Bending the Trend to Slow the Growth in Healthcare costs for UMS,” a System-wide collaborative effort among unions, management, and health care experts to slow down the growth in healthcare costs by reducing the annual increase of costs in the group health plan.

In other news, Trustees confirmed Kim-Anne Perkins from the University of Maine at Presque Isle and Karen Barrett from the University of Maine at Farmington as faculty representatives to the board, as well as

Nathan Grant, a graduate student from the University of Southern Maine, who was named a student representative to the board. These are non-voting representative appointments.

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—nearly 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](http://www.maine.edu).