



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TRUSTEES REVIEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

BANGOR, ME—University of Maine System Trustees approved the selection of a vendor for a web portal which would serve university students, faculty and staff across the state—one of several information technology items discussed at their meeting today at the System headquarters in downtown Bangor.

A web portal is a one-stop, secure and customizable web-based center which organizes information, services, and web links for users—such as links to email, personal schedules, campus calendars, course management software, libraries, student services, etc. CampusEAI, a vendor that developed a very successful portal at the University of Maine at Farmington campus, was chosen to expand that platform and create a System-wide portal in a two-phase process, first at the University of Southern Maine and University of Maine at Augusta in August 2011. A second phase will occur six months later at the four remaining universities and the System Office.

Kevin McCarthy of Portland, chairman of the Board's information technology committee noted, "The goal of the portal project is to create an efficient, common platform and it is an excellent companion piece alongside the development of OnlineMaine, the System's site for online courses and programs." Total cost of the portal is expected to be a one-time cost of \$240,000 and ongoing annual cost of \$270,000.

In a related IT matter, McCarthy reported on the development of a new information System-wide security policy and a recently completed evaluation of System's computer resources, as part of additional risk management efforts. Vice chancellor for finance and administration Rebecca Wyke told trustees, "We must address IT problems when they arise and prevent ongoing vulnerabilities by putting additional protections in place." Wyke said the portal project will help create a more secure environment with one login and one password for each student, faculty member and staff member—reducing online vulnerability significantly.

Trustees also discussed and approved creation of a master of science degree in Early Childhood Education at the University of Maine at Farmington and a doctoral degree in Anthropology and Environmental Policy at the University of Maine.

Several facilities improvements to upgrade and replace several inefficient heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and pneumatic control systems at the University of Southern Maine were approved at the meeting. The upgrades include \$800,000 for Bailey Hall on the Gorham campus; \$700,000 for the Science Building in Portland; \$875,000 in Luther Bonney Hall, also located on the Portland campus. All three projects are funded by general obligation bonds approved by Maine voters in June 2010.

Trustees received additional presentations including: an overview of System-wide capital investment needs and successes found in a recent review conducted by Sightlines LLC; a draft business plan for distance education; and an overview of a two-year pilot project to move toward a common calendar structure among the universities. A common calendar benefits the hundreds of UMS students who take courses at multiple campuses or online, providing common dates for adding or dropping courses, obtaining refunds, and creating a common semester breaks.

Trustees held a moment of silence as part of a national observation held today for the victims of Saturday's shootings in Tucson.

The next meeting of UMS trustees will take place March 14 at the University of Maine at Augusta.

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.