



## **UMS TRUSTEES APPROVE 2012 BUDGET AND TUITION RATES**

### ***Chancellor Pattenaude officially tells Trustees that he will not seek contract extension***

BANGOR—The University of Maine System’s Board of Trustees approved the lowest weighted average annual tuition rate increase in ten years—at \$311—for full-time undergraduate Maine students for the upcoming 2011-12 academic year. Trustees held their bi-monthly meeting at the System Office headquarters in downtown Bangor on Sunday and Monday.

“Our 4.3% tuition increase represents the lowest increase since 2002,” explained Rebecca Wyke, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration. “Our universities have worked tirelessly to reduce costs and implement financial savings measures to bring this percentage close to the increase in Maine per capita personal income.” Average tuition and mandatory fees range from \$7,300 at the University of Maine at Presque Isle to \$10,588 at the UMaine. The state’s flagship university in Orono continues to have the lowest in-state tuition and mandatory fees, and the second-lowest out-of-state tuition and fees, of the land grant universities in New England.

Wyke also noted that the budgets are balanced for all seven universities and the System Office, despite no budgeted increase in State appropriation and the loss of \$6.4 million in Federal ‘stimulus’ funds (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act).

In other news at the meeting, Chancellor Pattenaude officially notified Trustees on Sunday that, after twenty years in a leadership position in the System, he will not seek an extension of his current contract which expires in just over one year on June 30, 2012. Pattenaude plans to return to teaching in the System.

Trustees elected M. Michelle Hood of Bar Harbor as chair of the board and Samuel W. Collins of Caribou as vice chair. Other appointments included Ellen Schneider, UMA’s Vice President of Finance and Administration; Krish Thiagarajan, UMaine’s Alston D. and Ada Lee Correll Presidential Chair in Energy, and Professor of Mechanical Engineering; Joseph McDonnell, USM’s Dean of the College of Management and Human Services, and Professor of Public Policy and Management; Joseph Szakas, UMA’s Interim Provost; Brenda McAleer, UMA’s Interim Dean of the College of Professional Studies; and Robert Kennedy as President Emeritus of the University of Maine. Emeritus status is an honor that allows the individual to retain a title following retirement. Kennedy steps down as UMaine president at the end of June.

Also at the meeting, Trustees received updates on a strategic enrollment planning process and a financial aid study which have been under way in conjunction with Noel Levitz, a nationally recognized enrollment management firm. One important recommendation made earlier this year was for each university to

develop detailed enrollment management plans and actions in order to attract and retain multiple student populations—not only traditional-age students, but also adult and online students. All seven universities have developed enrollment plans and are currently implementing the actions toward these goals.

The financial aid study showed that there is variability across the campuses as to the availability of institutional financial aid. Recommendations were made to address this variability, such as how to better use institutional financial aid for Maine students who are particularly in need of financial assistance.

“Managing our enrollment and financial aid will help ensure access to education and help provide an educated workforce for Maine,” Pattenaude stated. “It also helps provide a new way to provide new revenue during a time when State support remains flat.”

Trustees approved several facilities related items, including:

- Improvements to an existing soccer field at USM’s Gorham campus, with an expenditure of \$1.16 million, funded for the most part by gifts and a U.S. Soccer Federation Foundation Grant;
- Renewal of a lease for USM, for Muskie School of Public Service staff based on Commerce Drive in Augusta, including classroom space and parking;
- Increased funding by \$270,000 for a major UMaine Fogler Library ventilation upgrade project which is currently under way, to will improve energy controls, the System Office will provide the funding;
- Disposition of a 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse occupied by UMaine’s Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research in Franklin, the building is not heated and does not meet current health and safety regulations and will be first offered by public advertisement for sale and intact removal from the site;
- Construction of a \$867,000 multi-fuel biomass heating plant to more efficiently heat UMFK’s Sports Center and Lodge residential building, primarily funded by a \$500,000 ARRA grant awarded by the Maine Department of Conservation;
- Renaming UMaine’s field house as the “New Balance Field House” and the student recreation and fitness center as the “New Balance Student Recreation and Fitness Center” for a twenty-year period. New Balance made a \$5 million gift to UMaine.

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. Two-thirds of its alumni—approximately 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).