



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TRUSTEES MEET IN BANGOR
Approve Construction of UMaine Planetarium & Observatory

BANGOR – On Monday, Trustees of the University of Maine System held their July board meeting the System office in downtown Bangor.

Trustees took action on a number of items including the approval of:

- Construction of a new planetarium and observatory at UMaine, which will be paid for with \$1 million in institutional funds and \$4.2 million in gifts;
- Establishment of the Dr. Waldo “Mac” Libbey Professorship in Electrical and Computer Engineering at UMaine;
- Leasing space in Westbrook and Portland to operate communications equipment for WMPG, USM’s radio station; and
- Increased funding levels for three previously approved energy related projects funded by General Obligation Bonds at USM, where one project (Luther Bonney Hall) received higher than anticipated bids, and the other two projects proposed additional energy improvements, such as building controls, pumps and fans, which could be added in a more cost effective manner while the previously approved work is under way.

The Board also approved the creation of an ad hoc committee for strategic imperatives to undertake special assignments on behalf of the Board. Newly appointed UMS Board chair Michelle Hood explained, “This will be the ‘go to’ committee for the Board, when a particular idea comes up that would be a major strategic initiative for the System as a whole. The committee will include Board members and also utilize the expertise of others in the community to help us outline and evaluate major System initiatives as they arise.” Hood noted that the committee will be led by Trustee Kevin McCarthy.

Several presentations were also made to the Board including one on work related to academic program realignment; as well as a report presented from an employee health plan task force which makes several recommendations to reduce the predicted cost increase trend in the health plan.

Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude introduced two newly appointed Trustees in attendance, Gregory “Grog” Johnson of Harpswell and Karl Turner of Cumberland. Bonnie Newsom of Eddington was also recently named as a Trustee, but unable to attend today’s meeting. Pattenaude also introduced newly appointed UMaine President Paul Ferguson to Trustees.

Trustees approved the following appointments: Christine Corsello, vice president for student affairs and dean of student at UMPI; Julie Hopwood, senior advisor to the president at UMaine; Dahlia Lynn, interim dean of graduate studies at USM; Michael Sonntag, provost and vice president for academic affairs at UMPI; and Lucille Zeph, interim associate provost and dean at UMaine's Division of Lifelong Learning.

The next meeting of the UMS Board of Trustees takes place on September 19 in Bangor.

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.