



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TRUSTEES MEET TODAY IN BANGOR

BANGOR – Trustees of the University of Maine System met at the System Office headquarters in downtown Bangor today.

Trustees took action on a number of items including the approval of the implementation of recommendations from a UMS Employee Health Plan Task Force. Those recommendations would affect designated groups of employees and include design plan changes, health improvement, communications and education, as well as quality, cost and payment reform. “Reducing the cost trend for the group health plan is essential to the financial sustainability of UMS,” Tracy Bigney, the System’s chief human resources officer, noted during a presentation to Trustees. “In addition to the financial issues, the well being of our employees is essential to workplace morale and productivity.”

Several presentations were also made to the Board including an update on legislative hearings taking place next week on bond bills of interest to the University System including one on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math—commonly referred to as STEM—projects for the System and another bill which focuses on increasing educational opportunities for underserved regions of the state.

Other presentations included an overview of the University System’s first-ever integrated System-wide strategic enrollment plan. “The plan will provide university leadership with a ‘road map’ for challenges in enrollment in upcoming years,” explained UMS Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude. “Previous enrollment planning was campus-specific, this first-time, integrated approach will help in increasing the number of adults currently enrolled at the System—such as those with some college credits—and also in increasing the proportion of Maine Community College students transferring to UMS to obtain a baccalaureate degree.” Pattenaude noted that currently only 12% of community college students transfer to the University System to further their education and obtain a baccalaureate degree.

Another key strategy related to the enrollment plan is development of an online learning strategy through the System’s [OnlineMaine](#) portal. Pattenaude added, “We are rapidly adding online programs and now offer 35 online programs—in 18 months we’ve more than doubled the number of online programs that we offer, which was one of our key goals. These efforts will ensure that Maine has the educated work force that it needs to achieve economic health and vitality.” In addition to the programs, hundreds of courses are offered through OnlineMaine.

In an update on the *New Challenges, New Directions* initiative created three years ago, Pattenaude said that most of the items in the plan are now in place or completed. He also noted that since the System is in the

process of selecting a new Chancellor, the timing is ideal for a new leader to create a successor plan to *New Challenges, New Directions* to reflect the changed conditions in Maine.

Trustees approved two appointments at USM: Carolyn Ball, associate professor of public policy and management, and Katherine Greenleaf, chief operating officer.

Also at the meeting two university presidents formally submitted their plans to step down. UMF President Theo Kalikow [announced her intentions](#) last Friday and UMPI President Donald Zillman [made his announcement](#) earlier this month. At the end of June 2012, Kalikow will retire after 18 years as president at UMF. In the same month President Zillman, who has served as UMPI's president since 2006, will return to his previous position at the University of Maine School of Law.

The next meeting of the UMS Board of Trustees takes place November 13-14 at the University of Southern Maine in Portland.

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.