



**UMS trustees approve first in Maine five-year architecture degree program at UMA  
and receive update on Maine's changing labor market**

PORTLAND—Trustees of the University of Maine System met in Portland at the University of Southern Maine campus on Sunday afternoon and Monday.

Trustees approved the System's annual financial report for fiscal year 2011, which ended on June 30. Vice chancellor for finance & administration Rebecca M. Wyke stated, "The hard work involved in the *New Challenges New Directions* initiative has resulted in positive financial results which will help UMS rebuild lost assets and work toward creating a more sustainable future for our universities. Economic uncertainty, however, continues to be a factor for the nation and for Maine and the System may face further challenges."

Wyke added that many of the assets are one-time funds that have largely been committed to specific projects, operational and capital needs, and for scholarships.

In addition, John Dorrer of Jobs for the Future gave trustees an overview of Maine's shifting labor market and made several recommendations for UMS, including that the System continue employer engagement with key industries such as information technology and tourism, and that the System challenge students and parents to make informed choices about areas of study and debt load to better align the graduates of Maine's public universities with Maine's workforce needs. Dorrer stated, "The data is there, we need to bring this information into homes and high schools to promote the right kind of future for Maine."

Trustees also received a report on fall 2011 student enrollments across the System. A total of 31,108 students are enrolled at Maine's public universities. Overall baccalaureate level enrollment at the System is relatively flat in comparison to last year. However, the number of community college students transferring to the System continues to grow. "We are once again seeing more students transferring from the community college system to our universities," explained Rosa Redonnett, UMS executive director of student affairs. "This fall we saw a more than five percent increase over last year's transfer numbers."

Redonnett also noted the following UMS enrollment statistics from the report: Maine students comprise 88% of the student body; 60% of students are women; 71% of students are pursuing a baccalaureate degree; 49% of part-time students are between the ages of 30 and 64, while 76% of full-time students are between the ages of 18 and 25; and online enrollment has increased by 79% in the past four years from 19,026 credit hours in 2008 to 34,067 credit hours in 2011.

During the meeting trustees reviewed and approved the following:

- The creation of a five-year Bachelor of Architecture Degree at the University of Maine at Augusta, a degree which is an essential element toward the licensure of an architect. No five-year degree currently exists in Maine.
- A change in board policy which delegates hiring authority for management group positions to the university presidents.
- The appointments of Raphael DiLuzio as associate professor of art with tenure at USM; and Jon Henry as UMA's vice president for enrollment management.
- The issuance of revenue bonds to refinance \$30 million of debt due in March 2012, to finance \$7 million for renovations at UMaine's Field House and Memorial Gym, to refund any other prior revenue bonds where it is cost beneficial and interest savings may be achieved.
- Renovations to UMaine's Field House and Memorial Gym totaling \$14 million which are focused on ADA improvements, mechanical ventilation, and hazardous materials remediation. The renovations will be funded by major gifts and \$7 million from the university revenue bond announced today.

Other items presented to trustees included a study on lessons learned from UMaine as the university adopted a tobacco-free campus policy in January 2011; an update on the development of a proposed USM program related to tourism and hospitality; and a study on total compensation comparing UMS to similar institutions.

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System is the state's largest educational enterprise. It has an annual enrollment of nearly 41,000 students and serves over 500,000 individuals annually through educational and cultural offerings. More than two-thirds of its alumni—more than 117,600 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).