



UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM TRUSTEES MEET TODAY IN ORONO
Change in UMS leadership officially takes place this week

ORONO – Today’s gathering of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees marked a day of transition as it was the final day on the job as Chancellor for Richard L. Pattenaude. Chancellor-elect James H. Page was also on hand for today’s meeting as he officially takes over leadership of Maine’s public universities on Tuesday, March 20.

Page, the first Maine native and alumnus to lead the System, was appointed to the post by the board’s executive committee last month. He was formerly principal and chief executive officer of the James W. Sewall Company in Old Town.

Trustees met at the UMaine flagship campus in Orono with a full agenda of board committee meetings, as well as meetings with faculty and student representatives to the Board—which were followed by an official board meeting.

Trustees approved two new academic programs in response to requests from business leaders to provide more graduates to help Maine keep up with local and statewide workforce demands. One is a baccalaureate degree program in tourism and hospitality at the University of Southern Maine which will have a statewide reach through collaborations with the other universities in the System, as well as Maine’s community colleges. The other is a physical therapist assistant associate’s degree program at the University of Maine at Presque Isle—the only program of its type within the University of Maine System.

“It’s imperative that our students graduate with the knowledge and experience that match the needs of Maine’s employers,” noted Greg Johnson, chair of the board’s Academic Affairs committee. “These two programs resulted from discussions among leaders in business, State government, and at the universities. I expect that we will see additional degree or certificate programs come to fruition as these dialogues continue.”

Trustees also received presentations and reports regarding spring semester enrollment, capital projects, as well as faculty and tenure statistics. One presentation focused on the educational needs of Maine’s working adults (age 25+) and described this demographic as the “new traditional” student—accounting for 39% of all UMS enrollment and an expanding focus of Maine’s public universities.

During the meeting trustees reviewed and approved the following:

- tenure recommendations for thirty faculty members from across the state, which were submitted by the universities;

- a change in the policy on academic student suspensions which allows each university's admissions office to decide whether to admit students who have been academically suspended or dismissed from other UMS universities;
- the Chancellor shall execute the collective bargaining agreement with The Teamsters Union Local #340 for the Police Unit, upon notice that the agreement has been ratified by the union.

The next meeting of UMS Trustees is a two day meeting and will take place on May 20-21 at the University of Maine System headquarters located at 16 Central Street in downtown Bangor.

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. 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.