

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2006

Contact: John Diamond 973-3224 (949-4904 mobile)
or Peggy Markson 973-3245



RANDALL APPOINTED TO TWO-YEAR TERM AS UMA PRESIDENT

BANGOR – University of Maine System Chancellor Joseph W. Westphal today announced that Richard J. Randall has accepted a two-year appointment as president of the University of Maine at Augusta, effective July 1.

Randall, UMA's former provost and vice president for academic affairs, has been serving as interim president since the departure of Charles Lyons in 2005.

"Dick has been doing an outstanding job as the University's interim president," Westphal said. "He earned the respect and trust of the faculty, staff, and supporters of UMA and its Augusta and Bangor campuses. The trustees and I believe that his performance, combined with the upcoming reaccreditation process, warrant a full appointment to the UMA presidency."

Randall's appointment is expected to be confirmed by the University System's Board of Trustees on Monday, when it meets in Bangor.

The periodic reaccreditation process is scheduled to begin next year and continue through the following year. Westphal noted that Randall is highly experienced in reaccreditation issues, having served as a member of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges' accreditation team.

"Dick is the perfect person to lead UMA through that process, and into the university's transition to a baccalaureate institution, as spelled out in the University System's strategic plan," Westphal explained.

"My wife Mary Elisabeth and I are deeply committed to UMA and welcomed the opportunity to return last year," Randall said. "The support we received from the community, University faculty, staff and students, Chancellor Westphal, the Board of Trustees, and the other university presidents played a major role in the decision to remain for the next two years. It is an exciting time for our University and we look forward to being a part of that excitement."

Randall has held many faculty and administrative positions since joining UMA in 1967 as a sociology instructor. He rose through the faculty ranks through promotions as assistant professor, associate professor, and full professor of sociology, in 1989. Along with president, interim president, and the combined role of provost and vice president, his administrative appointments included director of student affairs (1968-71); dean of student affairs and educational services (1971-78); acting dean (1984-85); dean (1985-87); provost (1989-1993).

Retiring from UMA in 2001, he agreed in 2005 to return as interim associate provost. He became interim president a few months later.

Randall earned bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology from the University of Maine. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by UMA in 2004 and received professor emeritus status from the university that same year.

He and his wife reside in Winthrop. They have three adult children.