Trustee Sally Vamvakias, Chair, convened the meeting.

1. **Citizen Comment**
   
   **Linda Sturm**, Director of Guidance, South Portland High School, read from a prepared statement requesting that the University of Maine at Augusta remain as a community college offering two-year degree programs. She spoke to the need for such programs to meet the needs of students who are not ready for a four-year college environment. Ms. Sturm stated that transforming UMA into a baccalaureate institution would reduce further the options for high school seniors and would reduce the number of two-year degree campuses in the state. She said that higher education is crucial to developing the skills needed to compete in the job market and that Maine needs more, not fewer community colleges.

2. **Acceptance of Minutes.** The minutes for November 9-10, 1997 were ACCEPTED as presented.

3. **Chair’s Remarks and Agenda.**

   **Student Affairs Committee** Trustee Vamvakias reconstituted the Student Affairs Committee by appointing the following members: Donald McDowell, Chair; Judith Andrucki, Catherine Pinkham, Valerie Collins, Absalom Dow, Dana Furlong, Mitschka Hartley, and Angela Shea. Chancellor Terrence MacTaggart. Presidents Owen Cargol, Michael Easton, Peter Hoff, Theodora Kalikow, Charles Lyons, Paul Nordstrom, and Richard Pattenaude. Chancellor’s Office Staff: Mary Ann Haas, Sue Ann Huseman, Russell Smith, Richard Eustis, Samuel D’Amico, Tracy Bigney, Tracy Elliott, Shannon Coes, and Nina Lavoie. Press and public.

   Trustee Vamvakias announced that she wanted to “emphasize the importance of the research and development initiative.” She made the following statement: “The Legislature has formed a Joint Select Committee on Research and Development. The Committee is chaired by Senators Cathcart and Bennett, and the Committee’s charge is to review and make recommendations to the Legislature on the importance and implications of stimulating Maine’s economy through a significant investment in University Research and Development. Since World War II, the federal government has seen basic science research as an appropriate mission and has provided the funds for its university partners to conduct such research. This has enabled business and industry in the private sector to focus on opportunities in applied research which involves developing the findings in basic research to produce products for the marketplace. This three-way partnership between government, research universities, and industry has been powerful and effective. However, during the fifty-year period since World War II, Maine has woefully fallen
behind. Maine currently grossly underinvests in public university-based research and development and thereby undermines its ability to use our strengths in science and engineering, to act as a magnet to attract additional research personnel, to expand or update our research facilities, equipment needs, to improve our ability to attract the matching funds which are a prerequisite of many of the federal programs, or to turn significant findings over to Maine’s private sector where jobs and a boost to Maine’s economy would occur. Maine is at or near the bottom in comparison to other states. Maine ranks fiftieth in both research and development expenditures and the number of graduate, science, and engineering students in doctoral institutions. And, Maine would need to more than double its current $30 million annual research and development spending and the number of graduate students in order to raise our grades in these areas of the development report card of the states from an “F” to a “D”.

“Last week, the Joint Select Committee on Research and Development unanimously recommended to the Legislature that financial support in the amount of $10 million from the general fund and $13.5 million in a bond package be directed to the R&D program. In an effort to support this bill as it makes its way through the Legislature, the University System in conjunction with its campuses has indicated the areas of interest, and I think that you are aware that those relate to biotechnology and marine science and areas that relate to Maine’s economy specifically. In addition, an action team comprised of Trustee Jim Mullen, Chancellor MacTaggart, John Lisnik, and others will be coordinating an effort that will support the successful passage of this bill. Because the Legislature is scheduled to adjourn early in the Spring, we are talking about a relative short time frame. So, if you are called upon to assist this action team please make it a top priority.

“Maine claims it wants to be an active participant in the global market place. If we understand the importance of the creation of knowledge in a knowledge-based world, and the positive impact scientific research can have on the classroom experience, and if we recognize the economic and social benefits that will come from applying the fruits of scientific research. If all of the aforementioned is true, then it is appropriate and timely that we call attention to a distinctive and potential richly productive aspect of our mission--research. As the research conducted on our campuses can contribute greatly to the welfare of Maine’s citizens and the economy in utilitarian ways. And while we call attention to scientific research, we need to acknowledge the benefits of scholarly research in the humanities, in art, and in literature, and in history. For these research efforts are equally important in expanding our understanding and the intricate dimensions of the entire human potential scale.”

4. **Chancellor's Report and Agenda**

Chancellor Terrence MacTaggart thanked USM President Richard Pattenaude and his colleagues for hosting the Board of Trustees meeting. President Pattenaude said that he was pleased to have the Trustees on the Gorham campus to see the activities that have been discussed in various meetings. The President then turned the attention of the Board to Bradley Coull, a junior at USM, who shared his thoughts about the scholarly activities of the Honors Program on his campus. Members of the Honors Program attended the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, last October. With generous campus support, the students attended student and professor-led seminars on diverse topics. Several USM students and two professors gave presentations. Over 1500 students attended the Conference, which gave everyone an opportunity to collaborate. It is one of the few forums available to undergraduate students to present original work. Mr. Coull said the representatives from USM and their program received enthusiastic praise from fellow participants at the Conference. He said he felt honored to have been a participant is such a prestigious event.
Aspirations Initiative Update. Chancellor MacTaggart briefed the Board on what has been taking place with regard to the Aspirations Initiative. He said that two concerns have emerged: 1) many talented students graduate from the high schools in Maine and do not go on to post-secondary education of any sort; and 2) many talented students graduate from high schools in Maine and decide to leave the state to go on to college or university. Over 90% of high school students initially graduate, but only half of those students go on to college. To get a frame of reference for this initiative, the Board heard from experts in the field and conducted hearings across the state. Chancellor MacTaggart mentioned that David Silvernail, a member of USM’s Muskie Institute, has an article in the recent edition of The Maine Policy Review, which, according to Chancellor MacTaggart, is a very readable and lucid article.

Chancellor MacTaggart said that after listening to people who attended the hearings held in Ellsworth, Newport, Mexico, Thomaston, and Millinocket, three reasons emerged for why students in Maine do not go on to college: cost, cultural attitudes, and lack of communication between the universities and the high schools. One of the initiatives that is coming out of this investigation are the “jump-start” program, which provides a fifty percent tuition waiver for qualified juniors and seniors in Maine high schools. This is a cooperative effort with Maine’s public institutions and the Department of Education. The second major initiative is the electronic transfer information system along with an 800 telephone number for students who want to resolve transfer problems. He said there is a link between high school and college education with regard to transfer referring to a person at the Millinocket hearing who said students attending K-Tech did not go on to college because they didn’t think they could transfer their onward courses at the Center. The third major initiative is private fund raising for scholarships. The System has recently received $2 million in endowment in support of scholarships. The last set of initiatives is coming from the Legislature. The Chancellor reported that there are four or five ideas being debated which would increase access to higher education—a college savings program, prepaid tuition, and public involvement in creating endowments for scholarship support. Representative Christina Baker has proposed a $10 million contribution from the State with matching funds from private giving which would be endowed for scholarships. And finally, a major initiative is to reduce tuition for first-year students in public higher education.

The Chancellor mentioned that support for community college services is being advanced by a task force, in cooperation with the technical colleges, led by UMFK President Charles Lyons to see how working together can make a fair amount of the services normally expected from a community college available within the State without having to restructure the systems in place now. He said, though, that much of the initiatives will come from the University Presidents and their relationships with the K through 12 educators and parents. He then asked each President to give a flavor of what is taking place in their region of the state. Responses included campus visits by juniors from local high schools, early study programs, pilot programs with elementary schools, various programs on campus which bring community people on site to participate, store-front receptions to attract the disenfranchised, and visiting area high schools.

Chancellor MacTaggart said that there will be more forums planned for the Spring to test out the above ideas and to decide which would be incorporated permanently into System policy.

Director of Communications Chancellor MacTaggart introduced a new member of his staff—Shannon Bowman Coes, who is the Director of Communications.

5. Consent Agenda. On motion of Trustee George Wood, Vice Chair, which was seconded, the following resolutions were adopted as presented:
· **Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, UMFK.** The Board approved the establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

· **Bachelor of Arts in Women’s Studies, UM.** The Board approved the establishment of the Bachelor of Arts in Women’s Studies at the University of Maine.

· **Master of Science in Marine Policy, UM.** The Board approved establishment of the Master of Science in Marine Policy at the University of Maine.

· **Master of Science in Marine Biology, UM.** The Board approved establishment of the Master of Science in Marine Biology at the University of Maine.

· **Doctor of Philosophy in Marine Biology, UM.** The Board approved establishment of the Doctor of Philosophy in Marine Biology at the University of Maine.

· **Appointment of Libra Professor, UMM.** The Board approved the nomination of Robert A. Froese as Libra Professor at the University of Maine at Machias for the period January 1 through May 31, 1999, with a stipend of $5,000 and an additional $2,500 for research and/or travel expenses.

· **Libra Professorships.** The Board accepted the recommendation regarding additional guidelines for the awarding of Libra Professorships as presented by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the January Board meeting.

· **Construction of Lifelong Learning Center - Phase I, UMM.** The Board authorized the construction of Phase I of the UMM Lifelong Learning Center at a cost estimated to be $2.6 million, but not to exceed $2.8 million.

· **Acceptance of Gifts, Grants and Awards.** The Board accepted with gratitude all gifts, grants and awards listed under the date of January 26, 1998.

· **Appointment of Mark R. Shibles Distinguished Visiting Professor, UM.** The Board approved the appointment of Dr. James P. Comer as Mark R. Shibles Distinguished Visiting Professor in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Maine for an eighteen-month term, effective February 1, 1998, with a stipend of $16,000 plus reimbursement for visit related expenses.

· **Personnel Actions for Trustee Approval.** The Board approved the list of salary adjustments as submitted.

· **Tentative Agreement with Part-Time Faculty Unit.** The Board authorized the Chancellor to conclude the agreement with the Part-Time Faculty Association after receiving notice of ratification from that organization.

· **University Legal Counsel.** The Board authorized the Chancellor to make the appointment of University Legal Counsel and to report the appointment to the Board of
6. Committee Matters/Action.

Committee of the Whole

- New Model for Distributing Resources. Chancellor MacTaggart gave a brief summary of the process. The Model was presented at the present meeting for the Board’s information. The Board will conduct hearings sometime in February over ITV to receive questions, comments, and support. At the March meeting, the Board will be asked to approve a new model for distributing resources.

Academic Affairs. Trustee Donald McDowell, Chair pro-tem, reported for the Committee.

- Report on Libra Professorships. Trustee McDowell reported that there had been concern expressed that Libra professorships were not being awarded in accordance with the wishes of the donor, Mrs. Betty Noyce. The program started in November of 1989. He said the Report consisted of an 8-year analysis of previous awards and some advice on how to continue. The review was led by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs with the participation of the Chief Academic Officers. The recommendations that were made supported a mix of internal and external candidates, an appointment no longer than four years, no consideration for renewal, adherence to both Board guidelines and Campus criteria, and, finally, a request that the Board seek additional funding for such professorships. While there was no motion included in the background materials, the Committee decided that the Report was satisfactory and should be accepted. On motion of Trustee McDowell, which was seconded, it was

VOTED: to accept the recommendation regarding additional guidelines for the awarding of Libra Professorships as presented by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the January Board meeting.

- Diversity in the University Community. Trustee McDowell reported that a draft paper entitled Diversity for the 21st Century, A Strategy for the University of Maine System, builds on a long history of concern for diversity going back to January, 1989, and a paper called Common Goals, Uncommon Means, a report of the Commission on Pluralism to the Board of Trustees. In September of 1997, a group called ALANA, University Diversity Task Force, gave a report to the Chancellor outlining recommendations to improve and enhance diversity on the campus. That report was sent to the Board of Trustees. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, since that time, has worked with the ALANA group and developed a draft paper outlining how the diversity issue can be carried forward, not only in the area of racial/ethnic diversity, but other areas faced in today’s world--religion, gay/lesbian, etc. The draft paper presented is a document in process. At the meeting, members of the ALANA group spoke in behalf of the document. The Committee looks forward to a final report coming at a later point.

Trustee Vamvakias announced that Vice Chancellor Huseman may be asking Trustees to participate in the ongoing discussions.

7. Information Items. Trustee Vamvakias listed the following items which were included with the Board materials for information:

- Proposed Revisions to Board Policy
- Supplemental Appropriation Request/energy Conservation Bond Request
- Annual Grants and Contracts Report
8. **Date of Next Meeting**  The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held March 22-23, 1998, at the University of Maine.

On motion of Trustee Vamvakias, which was seconded, the meeting was adjoumed.

Sandra F. Johnson for
Mary Ann Haas, Clerk