

9/14/09 STATEMENT OF RICHARD L. PATTENAUDE, UMS CHANCELLOR:

## **The University of Maine System and the Future of Maine: The Final Report and Implementation Plan of the New Challenges, New Directions Initiative**

Chairman Wishcamper, members of the Board of Trustees, I am very pleased to present a proposed comprehensive plan, "The University of Maine System and the Future of Maine", that both resolves our financial challenge and enhances our ability to serve the people of Maine. This plan comes to you with the support of our university presidents. It reflects hundreds of hours of discussions and hard work by people at all levels of the system. It is based upon the analysis and recommendations found in the three arena reports presented to you at your July meeting, and also on the discussions we held at the Trustees' retreat held that same month. I want to thank all who contributed so much to that study effort, and particularly Trustees Medd and Fournier, for their work on the Task Force

It's a bold plan--bold in that it both reduces costs significantly through careful use of technology, strategic cost reductions, and the many talents of our people, and simultaneously invests resources in key priorities facing the state of Maine. At the System and the University levels we are reallocating our current dollars in order to strengthen undergraduate and graduate programs, research and development, and outreach.

We are looking at new ways of working, literally a new business model that provides greater feedback from the people we serve, makes our work more efficient, and responds more quickly to emerging needs in the economy.

You recall that there are three fundamental purposes in this initiative:

- First, balance our budgets over the long run; we've done that.
- Second, to ensure that we can provide quality affordable education to the students and the people of Maine; we've done that.
- And, third, that we can present new programs, new opportunities, new research efforts that will strengthen the economy of Maine and form a partnership to build a better Maine. We believe we've done that.

We look forward to our ongoing work and deliberations as the University of Maine System, in partnership with many organizations and constituencies, prepares itself to build a stronger Maine on behalf of all our citizens.

Our next step—with your approval—is to organize meetings at each University to meet with local university and community leadership and to hold a public open session. These meetings will be led by a trustee as this, in the end, will be the Trustees' plan. I will attend each of the meetings. We will also be briefing the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee of the Legislature this coming Friday and other state leaders in the weeks ahead.

After these steps are complete I will be working with you to make refinements to this plan before bringing it to the November Trustees meeting for final approval.

As my colleague President Theo Kalikow says, "onward!"