UMS TRUSTEES APPROVE UMF NATURAL GAS PROJECT
Also authorize University College center’s move from Bath to Brunswick

BANGOR – The Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System met in Bangor today and unanimously approved a proposal for the University of Maine at Farmington to enter into an agreement to secure the delivery of natural gas to the University of Maine at Farmington and to complete campus facility improvements necessary to consume that energy.

The project, which will replace the use of heating oil in several campus buildings, is estimated to save the University $4 million over ten years. In addition, UMF President Kathryn Foster noted that, once fully implemented, the estimated heating oil reduction is estimated to be the equivalent of removing 200 cars from Maine roads each year.

The project’s final agreement and approval of associated expenses will be negotiated by UMF officials, subject to approval by the University of Maine System’s vice chancellor for finance & administration and the System’s legal counsel.

The System’s Trustees also unanimously approved a proposal to move the University College Bath/Brunswick center from Bath to a location at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station where it will be co-located with Southern Maine Community College’s new facility. SMCC is vacating its space in Bath in June 2014. The University College Center, which serves approximately 350 students each semester, has a lease at the Bath location which expires in June 2014.

Trustees presented a resolution in memory of former Trustee Charles O’Leary of Orono. O’Leary, who passed away earlier this month, served as a Trustee from 2005 to 2011.

At the meeting, Trustees met with representatives of each university’s Board of Visitors, which are volunteer groups who advise universities and their respective presidents, to formalize communications among the boards.

Complete meeting materials for the January Board of Trustees meeting may be viewed at: http://www.maine.edu/about-the-system/board-of-trustees/meeting-agendas/.

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System is the state’s largest educational enterprise. It has an annual enrollment of nearly 40,000 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 eight University College outreach centers, a law school, and an additional 31 course sites. For more information, visit www.maine.edu.