AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

1. NAME OF ITEM: Student Conduct Code: Revision

2. INITIATED BY: James Page, Chancellor

3. BOARD INFORMATION: BOARD ACTION: X

4. BACKGROUND:

The UMS Student Conduct Code applies to the entire University of Maine System. As mandated by Board policy, the Code is reviewed by the Student Conduct Review Board (Review Board) and updated every three years, and is ultimately approved by the Board of Trustees. The last regular review occurred during the spring of 2012; approval occurred at the May 2012 Board meeting.

Subsequent to the last review and formal process, a piece of federal legislation, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which included the Campus SaVE Act, was passed, mandating time sensitive revisions. Although the policy requires specified individuals to be part of the Review Board, including the Conduct Officers, the need to move forward expeditiously did not allow the time normally necessary for pulling the full Review Board together. Due to the need to incorporate these language changes quickly, the Conduct Officers across the System, legal counsel, and a System representative began meeting in late July and met on October 10 to finalize the updating of the Student Conduct Code to reflect these changes. At the same time, minor changes in language reflecting Conduct Officer concerns and reformatting for readability occurred. Subsequent to this meeting, meetings have been held with appropriate Conduct Code Review Board members and updates have been provided to the Presidents to include them in this process.

David Fiacco, Director of Community Standards, Rights and Responsibilities at the University of Maine and Laura Rodas, Coordinator of Community Standards and Mediation at the University of Maine at Augusta, updated the Board Academic and Student Affairs Committee on the importance of the Student Conduct Code and the role it plays on our campuses, and gave an overview of the updates being put in place due to this legislation. Nina Lavoie, Senior Associate University Counsel, was also in attendance to answer questions about the legislation and its connection to the Code. The Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee was asked to review these changes and recommend that they be approved at the November Board of Trustees meeting; some clarifying language was requested by the Committee and the updated version will be presented to the Board for final approval.

5. TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

That the Board of Trustees approves and ratifies the revisions as amended to the Student Conduct Code and the review process.