AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

1. NAME OF ITEM: Title IX Sexual Assault Policy: Overview and Discussion

2. INITIATED BY: Gregory G. Johnson, Chair

3. BOARD INFORMATION: X

4. BOARD ACTION:

BACKGROUND:

The Violence against Women Act (VAWA), which included the Campus SaVE act, was renewed last year, calling for the review of many of our policies and practices related to sexual assault, and as added more recently, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking.

The first step in our review and updating of policies was the UMS Student Conduct Code which was approved by the Board of Trustees in November 2013. The next step involved reviewing our existing policies and practices, both campus based and System, related to this. Campus Title IX coordinators and deputies, Student Conduct Officers, EEO Directors/Coordinators, HR representatives and UMS Legal Counsel have been working together over the last year to bring literature into alignment, update the Conduct Code, formulate an updated Policy and Procedure document and determine the best approach to both broad based student and employee training and more specific training for Title IX coordinators and designated campus officials.

Attached you will find the final draft of the "University of Maine System Policy and Procedures: Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Retaliation." We have incorporated all guidance received thus far from the Department of Education and the White House so you will find it up to date in responding to the more recent announcements coming out of Washington.

This policy will replace the existing Board policy on Sexual Harassment, will involve a possible update of the Campus Violence policy, and will include revisions to EO complaint procedures (this latter item becomes a part of collective bargaining). This Policy and Procedures document is intended to be the “first read” for the Academic and Student Affairs and Human Resources and Labor Relations Committees, with final approval occurring at the November meeting. Nina Lavoie, UMS Senior Associate Counsel, Karen Kemble, Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, University of Maine and Elizabeth Lavoie, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, University of Maine, will present the committees with an overview of the work and a review of the recommended policy changes.

August 18, 2014