AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

1. NAME OF ITEM: Appointment of Interim President, UMA

2. INITIATED BY: James H. Page, Chancellor

3. BOARD INFORMATION:          BOARD ACTION: X

4. BACKGROUND:

Dr. Allyson Hughes Handley resigned her position as President of UMA effective September 8, 2014 to accept a position with National University. Consequently there is a need to appoint an Interim President of the University of Maine at Augusta.

Trustee Marge Medd will head the formal presidential search committee to be formed later in the academic year to identify a president for the University of Maine at Augusta.

Chancellor Page conferred with numerous constituent groups about the priorities for the University of Maine at Augusta and the characteristics needed in a president. Following those consultations, Chancellor Page discussed the appointment with the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees and subsequently announced that Dr. Glenn Cummings would be appointed as Interim President of the University of Maine at Augusta effective September 9, 2014, subject to confirmation by the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Cummings was the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Vocational & Adult Education in the Department of Education, where he helped manage a $1.9 billion budget that focused on improving access to adult education and literacy training, as well as career and technical education. He has also taught Educational Leadership at the University of Southern Maine and has been conducting research into improving higher education retention and completion in Maine.

Since 2010, Glenn Cummings has been President and Executive Director of the G.W. Hinckley organization. Under his leadership, the organization leveraged a generous contribution from the Harold Alfond Foundation to create the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences. This statewide residential school delivers an innovative curriculum to Maine students centered on the environment, agriculture and forestry.

Dr. Cummings has also served in the highest levels of elected office in Maine. He was Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives and chaired the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. As a lawmaker Dr. Cummings helped create the state community college system and has been a tireless advocate for increased appropriations for higher education.
Dr. Cummings has been granted a leave without pay from his USM faculty role for the current academic year.

5. TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

That the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Dr. Glenn Cummings as Interim President of the University of Maine at Augusta, effective September 9, 2014 at an annual salary of $150,000. The appointment will end on the date a successor president assumes office.

09/11/14