AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

1. NAME OF ITEM: Naming of Facility, UMA
2. INITIATED BY: James H. Page, Chancellor
3. BOARD INFORMATION: BOARD ACTION: X
4. BACKGROUND:

The University of Maine at Augusta requests permission, pursuant to Board of Trustee Policy 803, to name its facility at 331 Water Street in Augusta Handley Hall in recognition of departing President Allyson Hughes Handley.

Policy 803 explicitly reserves the naming of facilities to the Board of Trustees and, among other things, states that facilities may be named: for any individual, living or dead, except for current employees or current members of the Board of Trustees; and, on the recommendation of, a major contributor of 25 percent or more of the cost of the facility.

President Handley is now a former employee of the University System and the naming has the support of the contributor, Richard McGoldick, who donated the facility to the University. The renaming of the building, currently known as the Gannet Building, is also supported by UMA’s Board of Visitors and the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce. UMA has also consulted with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and has ensured re-naming would not cause any concern.

When President Handley arrived at UMA, the institution had no development operation. President Handley established UMA’s first development department and staffed it without increasing UMA’s budget.

Soon after her arrival in 2008 she actively began to pursue donor opportunities and explored options for UMA to have its first ever presence in downtown Augusta. In 2010 Mr. Richard McGoldrick offered to donate the Gannett Building to UMA. President Handley worked diligently to demonstrate the merit of the idea and to secure the Board of Trustees’ approval to accept the gift. The building was valued at approximately $1.1 million at the time of the donation.

The campus transformed the former office building into classroom, studio and gallery space for UMA’s Architecture and Art programs. The fifth floor is home to UMA’s Women, Work and Community program. UMA’s presence in downtown has contributed significantly to the revitalization of Augusta’s downtown.
The acquisition of the Gannett Building has also impacted UMA’s degree offerings, making it possible to offer the Bachelor of Architecture program, which is the only public Bachelor of Architecture program offered north of New York City. The building provides a space in which architecture students can work on projects and assignments between classes, at night and on weekends.

5. TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the naming of the facility at 331 Water Street in Augusta as “Handley Hall.”

09/11/14