AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

1. NAME OF ITEM: Veterans’ Resolution

2. INITIATED BY: Samuel W. Collins, Chair

3. BOARD INFORMATION: BOARD ACTION: X

4. BACKGROUND:

Maine currently has over 130,000 military service members within its population (11.6% of our total population) and more are entering higher education due to the expansion of benefits for post 9-11 veterans. Our campuses have over 1100 students identified as receiving some form of GI bill benefits. Helping these students come back into higher education and achieve the academic credentials that will translate into future success is critical for both their futures and that of the state of Maine. Given this, it is important for our campuses to endeavor to provide a range of services and supports for this group of students that mirrors “best practice” across the country and to understand and address the special issues and concerns that may impact their success and ultimate graduation.

5. TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

That the Board of Trustees, acting through the Executive Committee, recognizes its responsibility to serve the postsecondary educational needs of our active duty and veteran population and ensure that the System universities provide a welcoming and supportive environment. It directs the System and universities to review and act on policies, practices and operating procedures to fully enable active duty and veteran students in the achievement of their higher education aspirations through proactive recruitment, enrollment, and provision of a broad range of services and supports designed to promote student success, graduation and eventual transition into the workforce.

02/17/14