AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

1. NAME OF ITEM: Overview and Discussion: Affordability - Trends in College Pricing

2. INITIATED BY: Gregory G. Johnson, Chair

3. BOARD INFORMATION: X  BOARD ACTION:

4. BACKGROUND:

Issues of affordability are of paramount interest to potential students, parents, families and policy makers. From our own efforts to freeze tuition to the work of the legislative committee “Commission on Affordability and Completion”, addressing affordability in a way that permits students to pursue higher education and ensuring that they have the information both about the cost of education and how to best finance it as they make critical decisions about their higher education future is critical.

Each year, the College Board releases Trends in College Pricing which reports prices charged by colleges and universities within the 2014-2015 timeframe, how prices have changed over time, and how they vary by region and type of institution. Most specifically to the University of Maine System, this study shows how our tuition freezes have translated within the national and regional context, and present an opportunity to leverage this as one component of our overall efforts to promote the UMS to potential students and their families. Led by the Chair of the Committee, this discussion item is intended to provide an overview of our current efforts.

As further background for the Committee, the report Game Changers (sponsored by Complete College America) is provided. This report was of special interest to the Commission on Affordability and Completion (mentioned above).