AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

1. NAME OF ITEM: Cutler Health Center University Volunteer Ambulance Corps (UVAC) Bay Expansion, UM

2. INITIATED BY: Norman L. Fournier, Chair

3. BOARD INFORMATION: BOARD ACTION: X

4. BACKGROUND & JUSTIFICATION:

The University of Maine requests approval to expand the footprint of the ambulance bay at Cutler Health Center by approximately 670 square feet to provide additional space for the two ambulances used by the University Volunteer Ambulance Corps (UVAC). The expansion will be completed through a construction project expected to cost approximately $180,000. It will be funded with UVAC E&G carry forward and reserves set aside for capital purchases. The project will increase operating costs by approximately $450 per year for heat and electricity. The increased utility costs will be paid for by increased UVAC revenue associated with the second ambulance.

This item is before the Committee because the ongoing Administrative Review in Facilities Management suggested and the Board of Trustees agreed in March 2014 that all increases in facility space should be presented to the Committee for consideration. As such, this agenda sheet represents a change in management practice in keeping with the Administrative Review. No Board policy requires this consideration. The scale, cost and other particulars of this project would not have resulted in consideration by the Committee but for the change in management practice under the Administrative Review. Changing practice but not policy on this point is intended to give management the operational flexibility that may be necessary in this area during this period of the Administrative Review.

With regard to the specific project, the existing single ambulance bay at Cutler was built as an addition in 1998. In 2014 the university purchased a new ambulance allowing UVAC to expand and improve services to the University and surrounding communities. With two ambulances UVAC is able to provide the necessary coverage for NCAA events while still serving the campus at large, which saves the university money. UVAC also was able to set up mutual aid agreements with both Orono and Old Town, so they can provide backup ambulance service to either of these communities as needed.

UVAC is a student volunteer organization, which offers University of Maine students unique learning and leadership opportunities by delivering emergency medical services both on the University campus and to surrounding communities. A state licensed emergency medical service, UVAC provides quality emergency medical care to those who live on, work on, or visit the University campus.
The service consists of about 60 volunteers – a combination of students and staff from various University departments, as well as community members. Over 60 percent of the members are EMTs, while others serve as drivers and assistants. All share a common interest in helping others. Operating as part of Auxiliary Services, UVAC members volunteer nearly 30,000 hours to the campus community each year. They respond to approximately 500 calls per school year.

An enclosed garage in close proximity to the Cutler Health Center, where UVAC is located, is essential for the new ambulance in order for it to provide the most efficient and effective service. No other similar space exists elsewhere on the campus and the existing bay is too small to service both ambulances. The proposed addition will fill in on either side of the existing bay to allow a double bay for both of these ambulances. The expanded bay will allow for supplies to be located in one central location, and by being in a climate controlled space the on board medical supplies and medicines will be able to remain in the vehicles allowing for a quick response.

5. **TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:**

That the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee of the Board of Trustees authorizes this project to expand facility space by approximately 670 square feet at the Cutler Health Center for storing ambulances and operating the University Volunteer Ambulance Corps at the University of Maine.