

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

Ad hoc Board Committee – Law School Advisory Committee

Room 216, Abromson Hall, USM Campus, Portland
February 25, 2019 at 1:15 pm

AGENDA

- I Welcome and Charter
- II Team Introductions
- III Committee Orientation Issues
- IV Outcome
- V Proposed process, plan, and schedule for meetings
- VII Expectations for next meeting

Note: Times are estimated based upon the anticipated length for presentation or discussion of a particular topic. An item may be brought up earlier or the order of items changed for effective deliberation of matters before the Committee.

**COMMITTEE TO ADVISE ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE LAW SCHOOL
CHARTER
15 February 2019**

BACKGROUND

The University of Maine School of Law (Maine Law) is Maine's only law school, preparing those going into legal practice as well as those entering professions and occupations that benefit from elements of legal training. As the legal profession has an essential economic and societal role, it is critical that Maine Law is well positioned to serve its students, the profession, and the State.

Maine Law has a long and distinguished history of preparing lawyers for Maine and beyond, of providing the value of a quality legal education to those engaging in other pursuits, and of serving as a vital repository of the exceptional culture of high quality, ethical and civil practice embodied by the Maine bench and bar.

Like similarly situated law schools across the country, a confluence of factors is significantly impacting the school and presenting serious challenges that must be addressed. These factors include a changing market for legal services that requires new and innovative approaches to legal education, a decline in law school applicants creating a highly competitive market for qualified students, and a state experiencing a severe demographic challenge and growing skills gap. Furthermore, as a small school, Maine Law is challenged with respect to having a stable and predictable funding stream sufficient to achieve its fundamental mission of providing a high-quality legal education.

This is also a time of opportunity. A small, nimble and innovative school, properly resourced, can re-envision and reposition itself to play a lead role in how legal education can better serve its students and, indeed, Maine as a whole. The timing is fortuitous: the University System's One University initiative encourages and supports new collaborations and innovations, the Maine Center for Graduate and Professional Studies project brings new resources and partnerships to the table, and greater Portland and the University of Southern Maine is becoming an attractor of talent and capital.

Given these challenges and opportunities, the University of Maine System Board of Trustees acting through the Office of the Chancellor is assembling a small group of internal and external stakeholders to act as an *ad hoc* Committee to Advise on the Future Direction of the Law School (the Committee) to advise it on these key issues. This advice will take the form of a report to be delivered to the Chancellor's office for consideration at the July 2019 BOT meeting. Interim or additional briefings may be requested by the Chancellor or Board Chair.

CHARTER PURPOSE

The purpose of this Charter is to set the tasks, roles and responsibilities for the Committee.

CHARTER SPONSOR

The UMS Chancellor acting on behalf of the System Board of Trustees is the Charter Sponsor.

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Committee is co-Chaired by Kurt Adams and Deirdre Smith. Additional Committee members are Martha Casey, Ben Devine, Ben Gideon, Gregory Johnson, Peter Mills, Heather Sanborn, Chief Justice Leigh Saufley, Terry Sutton, Adam Tuchinsky, and Vendean Vafiades. The Committee will be staffed by the UMS General Counsel and Chancellor's Chief of Staff Jim Thelen who will be able to call upon additional UMS and campus personnel as needed.

COMMITTEE CHARGE

The Committee will deliver a report that includes:

1. an analysis and opinion as to the direction of 21st century legal education, with topics to include: how legal education can best serve Maine's legal profession and the emerging legal services industry, how best to develop options for new or expanded student markets (e.g., non-traditional and international students as well as students pursuing legal training for other professional and career reasons), and how to improve access to legal services in rural parts of the state;

2. a summary and assessment of how Maine Law is currently addressing the topics discussed in response to Charge #1, including its program of legal education and other programs and initiatives;
3. an analysis of opportunities for Maine Law as a member of the Maine Center consortium and in partnership with Maine Center Ventures, with recommendations including, but not limited to: expanded programming and (micro-) credentialing, multi-modal course and program deliveries, and greater academic alignment with UMS campuses including pathways for students to post-graduate attainment;
4. a review with recommendations of Maine Law operations, including, programs, finances, organizational issues including back-end services with UMS and USM, advancement, enrollment strategies, and statewide public engagement;
5. a recommended profile for the new Dean of the Law School informed by the Committee's findings;
6. other matters that may advance the Law School, its students, and its impact on Maine statewide.

The use of an outside professional consultant who is expert on national trends and developments in legal education is strongly recommended. The Co-Chairs will collaborate with the Board Chair and Chancellor to identify and engage this individual, with the final decision resting with the Board Chair.

RESOURCES

There will be an initial allocation of \$2500 from the Chancellor's office for the Committee's incidental expenses. The Co-Chairs may request additional resources from the UMS Chancellor to complete its work including the cost of external consultants.

CALENDAR

The Committee's report will be delivered to the Chancellor's office in time for review and subsequent consideration at the July BOT meeting. A specific date will be determined later. Interim or additional briefings may be requested by the Chancellor or Board Chair.

CHARTER EXPIRATION AND MODIFICATION

This Charter and the Committee's work will expire with the chairs report delivery in July 2019. It may be extended or modified with written approval by the Chancellor or the Board Chair.


J. Page
Chancellor