

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

July 20, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Board of Trustees Meeting

Present: James Erwin, Chair; Mark Gardner, Vice Chair; Kelly Martin, Trish Riley, Lisa Eames, James Donnelly, Emily Cain, Sam Collins, Tim Doak, Trevor Hustus, David MacMahon, Sven Bartholomew, Michael Michaud, and Betsey Timm. **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **University Presidents:** Glenn Cummings, Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ray Rice, Edward Serna, Becky Wyke, and Deborah Hedeon. **Faculty & Student Representatives:** Tim Surette, Kennedy Rubert-Nason, Harlan Onsrud, Ameya Karaparkur, and Salvatore Cardinale. **System Staff:** Robert Placido, Ellen Doughty, Dan Demeritt, Chip Gavin, Carol Corcoran, Rosa Redonnett, Kay Kimball, Ryan Low, Kim Jenkins, and James Thelen.

Absent: Pender Makin.

Monday, July 20, 2020

Trustee Erwin, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the Executive Session to order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Trustee Donnelly, which was seconded by Trustee Hustus, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees meeting went into Executive Session under the following provisions:

- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-A to discuss the evaluation of personnel and the consideration and discussion of appointments, employment and duties.
- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-C to discuss or consider economic development only if premature disclosure of the information would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the System.
- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-E to consult with its attorney concerning legal rights and duties of the university.

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Gardiner, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees concluded the Executive Session.

PUBLIC SESSION

Following the Executive Session Trustee Erwin, Chair, reconvened the public meeting and welcomed everyone. He stated that the meeting was being held by Zoom and was being live streamed to YouTube for the public. The Clerk performed a roll call of the Trustees present.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Citizen Comment is a time regularly set aside for comments from the public. The following individuals spoke during the Citizen Comment period:

None.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Erwin provided a brief overview of the UMS Board of Trustees Standing Committee appointments. The assignments were finalized in July and the chart outlining the appointments was included in the Board meeting materials.

Chair Erwin acknowledged Chancellor Malloy, University Presidents, System Staff, faculty members, students, and other UMS community members for their outstanding efforts in helping UMS to attain the goal of reaching unified accreditation. Chair Erwin said the meeting with the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) in late June went very well and that no negative comments were made about the UMS request for unified accreditation. Chair Erwin was recently copied on a letter from NECHE to Chancellor Malloy stating that NECHE had accepted UMS's request for unified accreditation. He congratulated everyone for this accomplishment and stated that much work will need to be done in the next two years to ensure that the UMS unified accreditation model is successful and fully adopted by NECHE at the end of the probationary period.

Chair Erwin stated that he wanted to acknowledge System and Campus Leadership for their outstanding work in developing the UMS Fall return plan amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. He congratulated them for developing a well thought out and detailed plan to ensure that UMS students could return to in person classes safely in the Fall.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Malloy introduced Dr. Deborah Hedeem, who was recently selected as the President and Provost of the University of Maine at Fort Kent. He welcomed her to the University of Maine System and expressed that he was looking forward to working with her.

September Return to Campus Planning

Chancellor Malloy provided an overview of the planning that UMS has been undertaking in order to ensure that UMS students will have the opportunity to return to campus for the Fall 2020 semester. He explained that the University Presidents and the Dean of the Maine Law School have been instrumental in helping to develop the plans over the past few months. He stated that two committees have been formed to help guide System and Campus leadership as the Fall return protocols are developed and enacted. The two committees are the Fall Safe Return Planning Committee and the Scientific Advisory Board Committee. UMS plans to reopen for Fall semester using a combination of in class and remote learning modalities. Chancellor Malloy explained that it was decided early on that UMS had to develop a COVID-19 testing plan independent from the State testing availabilities. He explained that UMS made an agreement with Jackson Laboratory and ConvenientMD in order to make sure they can process COVID-19 tests quickly and efficiently, prior to the start of in person classes in late August. In May, UMS worked with the other higher education institutions throughout the State to develop a written safe return framework of principles that all Maine higher education institutions could consider so their students have the opportunity to return to in-person classes for the Fall semester. UMS hosted several telephone and virtual (Zoom) meetings to talk with other higher education institutions about safe return planning. Chancellor Malloy stated that an announcement was made on July 1st to state that several of the UMS campuses in conjunction with their athletic conference affiliation were going to suspend Fall sports.

All UMS out-of-state and residential students will need to be tested for COVID-19 before the start of classes in August. They will be encouraged to be tested in their home state within a 72 hour window of returning to campus; however, UMS is prepared to administer COVID-19 tests upon their arrival. Students without prior testing will be required to quarantine until a negative test result is confirmed. Additionally, plans are in place to test a sampling of the UMS faculty, students, and staff on an ongoing basis in order to catch any possible new COVID-19 cases once classes have started. UMS has set aside a

substantial amount of housing to have a place for students to isolate if they have a positive COVID-19 test or to quarantine if they are exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual upon arrival or if they test positive or are exposed as the semester progresses. UMS is also working to test campus sewage for any evidence of COVID-19. In addition to the testing protocols UMS is following all Federal and State Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. These guidelines provide protocols in areas such as classroom capacity, cleaning, and the usage of face masks.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration & Treasurer Mr. Ryan Low provided the following update.

Investment Update

The Managed Investment Pool has a current market value of \$346 million. It experienced a gain of 3.9% for the month of May, with a fiscal year to date loss of approximately 0.9%. Preliminary June results indicate a return of 1.6%. The Pension Plan has a current market value of \$25 million. It experienced a gain of 2.2% for the month of May, with a fiscal year to date gain of 4.4%. Preliminary June results indicate a return of 4.8%. The Operating Fund has a current market value of \$281 million. It experienced a gain of 1.5% for the month of May, with a fiscal year to date gain of 2.7%. Preliminary June results indicate a return of 1%, yielding net investment revenue for the fiscal year to date of nearly \$8.2 million, allowing UMS to close out the fiscal year with an approximate \$4.8 million over the \$3.4 million FY2020 budgeted investment income.

Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Update

Vice Chancellor Low provided a brief update on the recent changes in campus peers through the Hanover Research Project. UMS is in the second fiscal year of using their new allocation model, which is a method used to distribute annual State appropriations across the System and campuses. When the new allocation model was being developed, each campus worked with Hanover Consulting to identify their peer institutions. UMS built into the allocation model that as time went on, the universities could update their peer institutions to provide more accurate data. Every other year, UMS allows each university to drop, add, or drop and add only one peer, unless there are approved exceptions. This year there are two such exceptions. USM is being allowed to swap out a couple of peers, due to a change in the UMS mission, since the separation from the Law School. Additionally, since the Maine Law School has separated from USM, they will be working to identify their own peer institutions for the allocation model. Vice Chancellor Low stated that the list of newly selected peer institutions would be provided at a future Board of Trustees meeting.

FY2021 Budget Update and Schedule Change

Vice Chancellor Low explained that the FY2021 budget was presented to the Board at the June 26, 2020 Special Board of Trustees meeting and at that time, UMS was still looking at an unresolved budget gap of approximately \$5.4 million. As part of the approval conditions of the FY2021 budget, Vice Chancellor Low agreed to provide regular updates to the Board about the FY2021 budget process and progress. At that June 26th Special Board meeting, 4 of the 8 budgets presented had balanced budgets; however they have continued to review their budget and find areas of improvement to more closely align with modest enrollment and state appropriation numbers. The other four budgets that were presented were not balanced and are under review in order to find areas that can be used to mitigate their budget shortfalls. The campuses who presented unbalanced budgets at the June 26th Special Board meeting include UMPI, UMFK, UMF, and Maine Law School. Additionally, UMF has hired a consulting firm to help identify the best path forward to balance the UMF budget over the next two fiscal years. Vice Chancellor Low stated that he anticipates providing an update to the FY2021 budget, with numbers closer to a balanced

budget, at the September 28, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting. He also stated that he does not anticipate being able to close the budget gap completely for FY2021.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS' UPDATE

Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA) Dr. Robert Placido provided an update on the following Academic Affairs items:

Faculty Spotlight

The Faculty Spotlight was created to highlight knowledge and innovation leaders serving on the faculty of Maine's public universities by celebrating their accomplishments, commitment to scholarship, and the global impact of their work. President Ferrini-Mundy has recommend Ali Abedi for this distinction. Dr. Abedi is a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and also serves as Assistant Vice President for Research and Director of Center for Undergraduate Research. Dr. Abedi provided a presentation on wireless communication research at UMaine and how it impacts Maine's Broadband access initiative, biomedical research and how it impacts people of Maine, and space related research and how it puts UMaine on the global map. Wireless Sensor Networks (WiSe-Net) laboratory was established in 2005 within Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of Maine. This 900 square foot (sqft) facility in Engineering and Science Research Building was later expanded in 2010 with addition of a 3600 sqft facility to house NASA's inflatable lunar habitat and further expanded in 2014 to include 1000 sqft in Carnegie Hall for indoor navigation research. Funding for the WiSe-Net lab has been provided through competitive federal, state, and private sector funding for a total of 47 projects with research expenditure of \$15,405,912 to date and counting. Since 2005, 4 Postdoctoral fellows, 28 doctoral and Master's students in Electrical Engineering were trained at WiSe-Net lab. All these graduates have secured high tech jobs at reputable academic institutions, industry, and government agencies. Some examples include NASA, SpaceX, Ford, Arizona State University system, Harvard, Purdue, and more. In addition, over 40 Undergraduate Researchers and several hundred high school students were trained as well. Major funders of Wise-Net Lab include National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics & Space Administration, US Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, and private companies in Maine and other states. The Wise-Net lab has assisted numerous Maine based companies with technology transfer and research and development activities in the areas of wireless broadband, aging research, biomedical devices, and antenna design. One of the biomedical initiatives comes from over a decade of collaboration between Electrical Engineering and Psychology departments at UM, which resulted in the development of new technologies for newborn infant electroencephalograph (EEG) monitoring, veteran brain injury detection, athlete concussion monitoring, and early detection of Alzheimer's. This technology was commercialized at Activas-Diagnostics. Space related projects include the Inflatable Lunar Habitat, wireless sensors on rockets, International Space Station impact localization and wireless leak detection.

Adult Degree Completion and Micro-Credential

UMS Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Credential Attainment, Rosa Redonnett provided an update for the Board of Trustees on two of its Strategic Initiatives, which are the Adult Credential and Degree Completion initiative and the UMS Micro-Credential initiative. All of the components for each will be in place by the end of July in support of an outreach campaign for adult students, which will begin in August and continue through the year and in support of the roll out of pilot micro-credential opportunities during the Fall 2020 semester. UMS has been working with an outside consulting firm to rollout a formal adult credential and degree completion outreach program beginning in August and to continue through 2020-2021. UMS has been talking with the Maine Community College System (MCCS) to develop a possible joint adult learner outreach program. UMS has also been working with the same consulting firm to develop an online hub, a single source, high quality one stop information resource website for adult learners. UMS is in the process of developing an Adult Learner Success Center

to serve pre-entry adult learners across all campuses. UMS is working with the Maine Educational Opportunity Center to provide entry counseling and support. As part of this initiative UMS will hire, train and deploy two UMS Adult Learner Success Coaches in Fall 2020. UMS has been addressing the challenges identified as part of the AL 360 Comprehensive Survey conducted on all campuses during Fall 2019 and working on expanded academic programming such as the Competency Based Education program at UMPI, completion programs at UMF and through the Academic Partnerships model. Additionally, UMS has increased scholarships and grants for adult degree seekers as well as piloting small debt forgiveness program for adult learners in Fall 2020.

The UMS Micro-Credential Project has also been progressing nicely in line with the recommendations made at the July 2019 Board of Trustees meeting. UMS has been developing a path for stackable credentials, micro credentials and meta-badges statewide. UMS has hired the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Innovation in Digital Badges and Micro Credentials and developed a steering committee to guide the micro-credential program development process, which includes representation from all 7 campuses. UMS was awarded the Lumina All Learning Counts grant to develop statewide ecosystem in September 2019. The UMS Micro-Credential team has met with the Chief Academic Officers Council (CAOC), UMS faculty & staff, and many outside businesses and experts in the micro-credentialing world. They have also begun to meet with employers to identify credentialing needs in Maine; however, many of these meetings have been delayed due to the pandemic. Other initiatives include identification of badging/micro-credential opportunities for 2020-2021, offering some innovation funding to support collaborative development of micro-credentials for Fall 2020 and developing a business model to include cost structure. The first pilot will be a series of badges leading to a micro-credential for a computer support specialist, delivered collaboratively with Maine Adult Education.

Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Update

Vice Chancellor Placido provided information about UMS enrollment data for Fall 2020. He explained that back in November UMS completed a process review of the application process and based on that information several recommendations to expedite and streamline the application process were developed and implemented. Vice Chancellor Placido stated that based on these process improvements, UMS has been able to increase the number of admitted students at a steady pace prior to the start of the Fall semester, even with dealing with the pandemic impact. Undergraduate student matriculation had decreased and stalled out during the start of the pandemic and the financial crisis in April; however, due to the increased student outreach by campuses to reassure students that UMS would reopen in the Fall, the numbers have increased and are now currently up 1% compared to last year. UMS enrollments, including graduate and undergraduate students System-wide are only 0.4% down, compared to last year. Vice Chancellor Placido stated that previous predictions based on student trends, were that UMS new student enrollment would decrease 4-5% for the Fall semester. As of today, UMS is up 2.5% in new student and transfer enrollments when compared to last year and Vice Chancellor Placido believes this is indicative of the success of the campus and System level marketing campaigns that were launched for this semester. He explained that before UMS announced their Fall reopening plans, the enrollment numbers were down about 4% and after the announcement that UMS would have some in person class options, the numbers started to turn and now are only 2.5% short compared to last year. Vice Chancellor Placido stated that due to the tremendous efforts by the Maine Graduate Center, UMS graduate enrollment is up 16.5% compared to last year.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution for Gregory G. Johnson

Admiral Gregory G. Johnson has served as a Trustee for the University of Maine System from May 11, 2011 to May 26, 2020. During his nine years of service he set a high standard for the level of involvement for a Board member. Trustee Johnson has been an outstanding mentor, colleague and friend to Trustees and staff and has exemplified commitment to the University through his unfailing commitment and presence. He completes his second and final term on the Board of Trustees on May 26, 2020. Trustee Erwin personally thanked Trustee Johnson for his exceptional service to UMS. He stated that Trustee Johnson has exemplified the definition of fiduciary responsibility and thanked him for helping to bolster his professional development in that area as well. Trustee Johnson expressed that he has greatly enjoyed his time as a UMS Trustee and said that he would miss his fellow Trustees and all of the other people he has had the pleasure to work with in the role over the last 9 years.

On a motion by Trustee Donnelly, which was seconded by Trustee Collins, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees approved the following resolution for Gregory G. Johnson:

Whereas, Gregory G. Johnson has served the University of Maine System with distinction as a Trustee for two terms from May 11, 2011 to May 26, 2020;

Whereas, Trustee Johnson has been an active voice and advocate for higher education over many years and during his nine years of service he set a high standard for the level of involvement for a Board member including service on the following committees: Executive Committee for nine years, Audit Committee, Human Resources & Labor Relations Committee, Finance/Facilities/Technology Committee for ten years, Investment Committee and Academic and Student Affairs Committee for nine years and Chair for eight years;

Whereas, he served as Vice Chair of the Board from 2013 to 2016 and was the UMS Trustee representative to the University of Maine Foundation for eight years;

Whereas, he was seen as a data siphon – he really likes data and asks many questions to aid his own understanding and that of his fellow Trustees;

Whereas, he had a great understanding of the fiduciary responsibilities of the Trustees and his desire to find reasonable and responsible solutions was appreciate by everyone;

Whereas, Trustee Johnson has exemplified unending commitment to the “sons and daughters of Maine” through his caring and concern for their success and he will be missed by those of us lucky enough to work directly with him;

Now, therefore, be it known to all that we, the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, offer our most sincere gratitude, thanks, and best wishes to Gregory G. Johnson for his outstanding contributions to the quality of higher education in Maine.

Approved on the 20th day of July 2020, by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, acting as stewards of Maine’s public universities and their nearly 30,000 students, 5,000 employees and more than 200,000 living alumni.

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Donnelly, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees confirmed the Boards of Visitors' appointments for 2020-2021, as presented.

Board of Trustees Emergency Delegation Resolution

UMS Chief of Staff (COS) and General Counsel James Thelen and UMS Risk Manager Gretchen Catlin provided information about a developing risk mitigation strategy involving the Board of Trustees. The University of Maine System is tracking enterprise-level risk and developing risk mitigation strategies. One such risk is that a Board quorum would not be readily available within the time necessary for the Board or Chancellor to take certain emergency actions that require Board approval. To mitigate this risk, it is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt an emergency delegation resolution outlining the authorization level for Board leadership and the Chancellor to take limited actions only as necessary to preserve the System's financial viability if the actions to be taken would normally require Board approval but a quorum of the Board is not obtainable within the time in which such action is required. The proposed emergency delegation resolution was provided to the Trustees for review prior to the meeting and several Trustees posed questions about the resolution to COS Thelen. COS Thelen addressed the Trustee questions and provided an example of when the emergency delegation resolution would be used and an example of a time where it would not be necessary to invoke it. The Trustees asked further questions and expressed concerns that the resolution did not clearly outline the overall guidelines in which this type of emergency delegation would be needed. The Trustees decided that the resolution was not ready for approval and requested that it be removed as an action item from this meeting to undergo further discussion and revisions at a Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee and Audit Committee meeting before resubmitting for Board approval at a later date.

On a motion by Trustee Donnelly, which was seconded by Trustee Hustus, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees agreed to remand this resolution back to the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee and Audit Committee meetings for further discussion and revision before resubmitting to the full Board for approval at a later date.

UMS Title IX Compliance Authority

In early May 2020 the U.S. Department of Education released long-awaited final regulations governing campus sexual assault under Title IX, the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination at federally funded institutions. U.S. colleges and universities that accept federal funding, as all UMS universities do, must come into compliance with the new regulations, which have the force of law, by August 14, 2020. The new regulations, which have been the subject of national controversy and even litigation, require substantial changes to UMS Title IX investigations and conduct hearing policies and practices, including UMS Board Policy 402. UMS General Counsel, Title IX, and Student Affairs personnel have been actively studying the regulations to determine what changes are necessary to UMS Board policy and Title IX practices to be in compliance. Given the significant scope of the new regulations and potential UMS policy changes necessary, it was determined that there was insufficient time to prepare the necessary changes to UMS Board Policy 402 for this July 2020 Board meeting. However, UMS does expect to have appropriate policy changes drafted, reviewed by outside Title IX legal counsel, and ready to enforce by August 14th. The Trustees agreed that they were not ready to vote on changes to Board Policy 402 without having had the chance to review the proposed changes and requested that this agenda item be removed from the agenda and resubmitted to the Board of Trustees Executive Committee after the proposed revisions have been finalized but before the August 14th deadline. A Board Executive Committee meeting would be scheduled before August 14 to review the finalized Board Policy 402 changes and to provide temporary approval to enforce the necessary policy changes effective August 14th, with the Board to ratify the changes to Board Policy 402 at its September 28, 2020 meeting.

On a motion by Trustee Donnelly, which was seconded by Trustee Gardner, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees agreed to defer action on this agenda item and remand it to a Board Executive Committee for temporary approval, after the finalized Board Policy 402 changes have been developed and before the August 14th deadline, with ratification to occur at the September 28, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.

Proposed Board of Trustee Policy 314 UMS Academic Integrity Policy

Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Kay Kimball provided an overview of proposed new Board Policy 314 – UMS Academic Integrity Policy. The UMS has had a System-wide Student Conduct Code since 1972; however, there has not been a similar approach to academic integrity, the policies for which remain varied and at the campus level. The proposed UMS Academic Integrity Policy is an intended counterpart to the Student Conduct Code, and will provide necessary fairness, transparency, and uniformity for students, faculty, and staff in the context of unified accreditation. In 2018, the office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs convened a workgroup made up of representatives from each campus drawn from faculty, student affairs, and other relevant departments, to review existing campus Academic Integrity Policies and craft a new policy and administrative procedures for System-wide implementation. The proposed policy and procedures were shared in draft form multiple times with all campuses, their Chief Academic Officers, and their Presidents. The policy and procedures were accordingly revised based on their collective feedback. It has also been vetted through the UMS General Counsel’s Office to address any compliance and due process concerns. The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs recommends that the Board accept the proposed new policy and procedures on Academic Integrity for September 1, 2020 implementation. At the last reading of this proposed policy at the May 28, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting, USM Student Representative, Mr. Eli Rubin voiced concerns about the policy and Dr. Kimball stated that she would schedule a meeting with the Student Representatives to discuss their concerns. Since then, she has met with the Student Representatives and they provided a document stating their concerns with the policy. Dr. Kimball stated that she explained to the Student Representatives that their concerns have been noted and will be further considered in the next round of revisions to the policy. At the June 22nd Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting, UM Student Representative, Ms. Abigail Depres provided a brief overview of the document submitted to Dr. Kimball. One of the most pressing concerns was the lack of gender inclusivity in the policy. Dr. Kimball agreed that this should be revised and has since added gender neutral terms to the policy before submitting it to the Trustees for approval at this meeting.

On a motion by Trustee Hustus, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees approved the recommended new policy and administrative procedures on Academic Integrity as outlined by the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at its July 20, 2020 meeting to be effective on September 1, 2020.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Trustee Gardner, which was seconded by Trustee Hustus, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees as follows:

Acceptance of Minutes

April 27, 2020 – Academic & Student Affairs Committee
April 27, 2020 – Human Resources & Labor Relations Committee
April 29, 2020 – Finance, Facilities, Technology Committee
May 14, 2020 – Investment Committee

Board of Trustees Meeting
July 20, 2020

May 14, 2020 – Audit Committee
May 18, 2020 – Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees reviewed the following agenda items as forwarded by the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee to the Consent Agenda from its meeting on June 24, 2020:

Tau Kappa Epsilon Ground Lease, UM

The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee and authorized the University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine to enter a ground lease for a term as long as 30 years with the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) Housing Corporation for land located in the town of Orono, subject to review and approval of all final terms and conditions by the University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Proposed Change to Board of Trustees Policy 205 Faculty & Student Representation to the Board of Trustees

Vice Chancellor Placido provided an overview of the proposed changes to Board of Trustee Policy 205 – Faculty and Student Representation to the Board of Trustees. It is proposed that Board Policy 205 be amended to reflect the addition of a faculty and student representative from the University of Maine School of Law. This proposed change was discussed at the June 22, 2020 Academic and Student Affairs Committee. The Committee agreed to proceed with the proposed policy change and to forward the agenda item as an information item to the July 2020 Board meeting. The proposed change will then proceed as an action item for the next Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting and the September 28, 2020 Board meeting. Dean of the Maine Law School Leigh Saufly thanked the System and Trustees for making this change to the Board Policy.

Unified Accreditation Update

COS Thelen provided an update on UMS unified accreditation progress. COS Thelen explained that the System met with the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) on June 23rd to present and discuss the UMS unified accreditation request. The meeting was in virtual format, via Zoom. The substantive change application was provided to NECHE 10 days prior to the meeting. On June 26th, through a joint press release with NECHE, it was announced that unified accreditation was granted to UMS. Effective July 1, 2020 all UMS universities, Law School and recognized sites will be under unified accreditation. This does not undo the UM-UMM primary partnership agreement. As UMS has continued its engagement with the Department of Education (DOE) staff, they now believe that it is almost certain that the DOE can recognize the University of Maine System as the accredited entity without requiring any disruption or change to the university's ability to continue to manage their Title IV Federal financial aid program. This is significant because it will alleviate a tremendous administrative burden during the transition to unified accreditation. The official letter from NECHE confirming unified accreditation was received on July 17, 2020. Except as stated in the letter, no future individual university reports will be required. Associates to doctoral degrees and distance instruction are all authorized across the System; however, new Competency Based Education (CBE) programs will require specific approval. In Spring 2021 NECHE will conduct a visit to confirm UMS is acting as characterized for unified accreditation and to review several CBE programs from UMPI. UMS plans to prepare a self-study in advance of the Fall 2022 NECHE comprehensive evaluation. This self-study will consist of a substantial written report that will address UMS compliance with all NECHE standards of accreditation acting together through its universities. It will specifically address the evolution of the UMS Faculty Governance Council as part of UMS internal governance and include an emphasis on strengthening the funding model for research and increased research funding and doctoral-level education at UM as

described in NECHE's February 12, 2020 letter to UM. Next steps include updating Board Policy 308 – *Accreditation* to align with the unified accreditation model, ongoing discussion with DOE staff, self study planning work, and consideration of System-wide and university specific missions.

Chancellor Malloy thanked COS Thelen, university Presidents, faculty, System and campus staff, students, and all others who assisted in developing the unified accreditation model and request to NECHE. Chair Erwin thanked Chancellor Malloy and all others who worked to achieve UMS unified accreditation for their tremendous efforts and dedication.

Transforming Teaching while Focusing on Learning

UM President Joan Ferrini-Mundy provided an overview of the role of the public research university and the necessity of coalescing research emphases, research human capital and infrastructure in areas that matter for Maine and beyond, while drawing on examples from the COVID-19 pandemic. UM is distinctive as the only public research university and the only land-sea-space grant university. The pandemic has caused universities to rethink and even transform the delivery of instruction. There are now on-site, blended, on-line synchronous and asynchronous, hybrid, remote, face-to-face modes, and more options to choose from. Not only does using these modes require new or unfamiliar technologies, but the match among faculty members' experience, the subject matter they are teaching, and the students' needs also informs the choices that are made. In all of this the most important factor of all, is student learning. President Ferrini-Mundy provided examples of what it takes to put a focus on student learning first while pivoting to a range of instructional modalities. She also explored the topic of learning how to understand learning needs.

UMS Safe Return Planning

UMS Chief General Services Officer Chip Gavin explained that Maine is experiencing relatively low numbers of positive COVID-19 tests, in comparison to other states and has the lowest transmission rate in the nation. Although Maine has low numbers of COVID-19, Mr. Gavin stated that this in no way means that people should become more lax or declare victory over the pandemic. He stated that as the Scientific Advisory Board develops recommendations for the Fall Safe Return Plan, the goal is to prevent the disease from gaining an invisible foothold on any of the UMS campuses, minimize the opportunity for the disease to spread if it does arrive, and to prepare action plans in case it does arrive. Some of the initiatives include smaller classroom capacities, suspension of large group gatherings, remote learning modalities, increased sanitization of surfaces, and face mask requirements. COVID-19 testing is required for all out-of-state students, specific cohorts as necessary and all residential students regardless of home location. The first set of testing will happen later this week on students arriving on campus early, with the bulk of the testing to occur at the end of August as most students arrive for the Fall Semester. While UMS is working to remain COVID-19 free, they are preparing for the possibility of positive tests and how to handle isolating the student(s) and any of their close contacts who might be on campus as well.

UM President and Co- Chair of the UMS Scientific Advisory Board Joan Ferrini-Mundy, stated that the establishment of the Scientific Advisory Board by the Chancellor, has been invaluable in ensuring that science has been the guiding factor in developing the UMS Fall Safe Return Plan. The Scientific Advisory Board consists of several scientists within the UMS, who have been researching and tapping into their network of colleagues across the nation to develop the best plan forward for UMS to offer a safe return for students amidst the pandemic.

UM Assistant Professor of Microbiology and lead member of the UMS Scientific Advisory Board Melissa Maginnis stated that the UMS Scientific Advisory Board was charged with focusing on the latest scientific publications and developments on COVID-19 research. They have been researching

transmission and mitigation practices, testing, public health responses, vaccines, and treatments. The current guidance on COVID-19 management is to test, trace, and isolate, based on procedures that have been successful in flattening the curve around the globe. UMS will test and identify any positive COVID-19 cases. Once a positive case has been identified the positive person will have to report anyone they have been in close contact with and from there, the positive person and any of their close contacts will have to isolate for 14 days. This 14-day quarantine keeps individuals from transmitting the disease during the known period of incubation. Because people can be asymptomatic for part or all of the incubation period, UMS will be testing for COVID-19 among symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals upon arrival to campus. Additionally, UMS will be continuing surveillance testing throughout the semester to identify, mitigate, and contain any possible outbreaks.

Vice Chancellor Placido thanked Mr. Gavin, the UMS Scientific Advisory Board, UMS faculty, and all System and Campus Staff for all of the tremendous work that has been accomplished to not only make a quick transition to remote learning and work in March but also for developing a detailed plan so that UMS students can make a safe return this Fall. On July 1, the University of Maine System announced Together for Maine principles that will guide System universities and their communities to safely resume in-person teaching, learning, and working on System campuses this Fall. Vice Chancellor Placido outlined the reasons why returning to in person classes is important and explained how UMS plans to work together throughout the System and State of Maine to develop a plan to ensure students will have the opportunity for a safe return to classes.

Roux Institute Update

UM President Joan Ferrini-Mundy and USM President Glenn Cummings provided an update on the partnership between the Roux Institute and the University of Maine System. The Roux Institute at Northeastern University, to be launched in Portland this fall, is designed to educate generations of talent for the digital and life sciences sectors, and drive sustained economic growth in Portland, the state of Maine, and northern New England. The Roux Institute announced partnerships with leading employers in Maine and across the United States, and its graduate degree and certificate programs are expected to focus on the practical application of artificial intelligence and machine learning in the digital and life sciences to prepare people for high-demand jobs and drive research that meets industry needs. The Roux Institute will not offer undergraduate degrees. UM and USM have worked with the Roux Institute to develop several 4+1 graduate degree agreements. Additionally, UM has been collaborating with Northeastern University on research and seed funding, and USM has agreed to grant Roux Institute students access to their facilities and student support services.

University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center Update

UM President Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Dean of the Maine Law School Leigh Saufley, and USM President Glenn Cummings provided an update on Maine Center programs. The MaineMBA program has grown nearly 300 percent in 5 years to become the University's largest graduate program. This growth has been possible because of investments in capacity-building resources, innovative System-wide collaborations and building UMS's impact regionally and nationally. The MaineMBA online is now ranked 47th by U.S. News & World Report. The MaineMBA has an incoming class of over 150 new MBAs expected Fall 2020 from regional, national and international corporations and total Fall enrollment is expected to top 300, which is an 85.6 percent growth in 18 months. Seventy-four percent of students enrolled in the Fall will be enrolled in the online MBA program.

Additional information about the meeting can be found on the Board of Trustees website:

<https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2020/07/MtgMat-BOT-July2020-rev071720.pdf>

Board of Trustees Meeting
July 20, 2020

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on September 28, 2020, via Zoom.

Adjournment
Heather A. Massey for
Ellen N. Doughty, Clerk