

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

March 22, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Board of Trustees Meeting

Present: James Erwin, Chair; Mark Gardner, Vice Chair; Kelly Martin, Trish Riley, Lisa Eames, James Donnelly, Roger Katz, Beth Dobson, Peggy Rotundo, Irene Neal, Emily Cain, Tim Doak, David MacMahon, Sven Bartholomew, and Michael Michaud. **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **University Presidents & Law School Dean:** Glenn Cummings, Leigh Saufley, Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ray Rice, Edward Serna, Becky Wyke, and Deborah Hedeem. **Faculty & Student Representatives:** Clyde Mitchell, Kennedy Rubert-Nason, Tim Surette, Lisa Leduc, Abby Despres, Rajay Maragh, Ameya Karapurkar and Omar Abduljaleel. **System Staff:** Robert Placido, Ryan Low, Ellen Doughty, Dan Demeritt, Jeff St. John, Chip Gavin, Carol Corcoran, Rosa Redonnett, Tracy Elliott, Kim Jenkins, and James Thelen.

Absent: Pender Makin.

Monday, March 22, 2021

Trustee Erwin, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the public meeting to order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Trustee Eames, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, 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, evaluations, employment and duties.
- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-C to discuss the condition, acquisition or disposition of real property or economic development if premature disclosure of the information would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the UMS.
- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-D to discuss planning for negotiations and communications with AFUM, UMPSA, ACSUM, Police, PATFA, and Service and Maintenance Units.
- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-E to consult with its attorney concerning legal rights and duties of the university.

On a motion by Trustee Riley, which was seconded by Trustee Donnelly, 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 via Zoom and being live streamed to YouTube for the public. He explained that Governor Mills has allowed UMS to hold virtual Board meetings under the condition that roll call votes are taken for each action item. 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:

Ryan O’Leary – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Christian Geci – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Becky Dore – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Charlie Cooper – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Jessica Doherty – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Jeff Nasse – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Belu Katz – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Jordyn Miller – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Lucca Hamina – Fossil Fuel Divestment
Paul Johnson – Student Success
Lydia Savage – USM Programs

CHAIR’S REPORT

Introduction of new Trustees

Chair Erwin explained that since the January 2021 Board meeting, four new Trustees have been confirmed and were joining the meeting today. The four new Trustees along with their Board Committee assignments are as follows:

Roger Katz - Academic & Student Affairs Committee
Beth Dobson - Academic & Student Affairs Committee
Peggy Rotundo - Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee
Irene Neal, Student Trustee from UMFK - Academic & Student Affairs Committee

Chair Erwin welcomed the new Trustees and explained that he was happy to have them as Trustees to gain their individual perspectives and areas of expertise on the Board.

Appointment of James H. Page as Chancellor Emeritus

Chair Erwin explained that Board of Trustees Policy 406 – *Emeritus Status*, provides that the awarding of the title Chancellor Emeritus be reserved to the Board of Trustees. Emeritus status is generally conferred at the time of retirement to faculty, administrators and staff who have completed fifteen or more years of service. However, exceptions may be made for employees with shorter service. Dr. James H. Page retired as Chancellor of the University of Maine System on June 30, 2019. Dr. Page served as the 14th Chancellor since March 20, 2012. During his seven years of public higher education leadership and service, he restored the financial stability of the System and achieved a nation-leading commitment to affordability of Maine students and their families. The One University framework developed under his leadership to guide Maine’s public higher education reform has become a national model of engagement and strategic change. Chair Erwin stated that the information provided in the meeting materials outlined the many reasons why Dr. Page should be awarded Chancellor emeritus status. He thanked Dr. Page for his service as Chancellor and welcomed him to the meeting. Dr. Page thanked the Trustees for the opportunity to be awarded Chancellor Emeritus status. He also thanked his former colleagues for their work while he was the UMS Chancellor, including Vendean Vafiadis, who provided valuable counsel to Dr. Page during his time as Chancellor. Dr. Page stated that he has been very impressed with the way in which the Board and Chancellor Malloy have handled the pandemic situation and the process of attaining unified accreditation.

On a motion by Trustee Bartholomew, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by a

roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Human Resources and Labor Relations Committee and awarded the title of Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Maine System to Dr. James H. Page in recognition of his service and contributions.

Establishment of the Trustee Nominating Committee

Annually in May, the Board approves officers to serve one-year terms. The Chair of the Board shall appoint at least three Trustees to the Nominating Committee, one who shall be designated as Chair of that Committee. Chair Erwin has selected the following Trustees to participate in the Nominating Committee: Lisa Eames, Chair; Emily Cain, David MacMahon and Mike Michaud. The Committee for Nomination of Officers shall nominate, from members of the Board, a Chair and Vice Chair to serve for the next fiscal year. The nominations will be submitted for approval at the May 24, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting. Chair Erwin thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for dedicating their time to this matter.

Student Representative Certificates of Appreciation

Chair Erwin stated that the UMS Board of Trustees would like to thank Nathan Carlow, who has been a USM Student Representative to the Board since January 2019 and Kendra Bear-Perley, who has been a UMPI Student Representative since May 2020, for their dedication and leadership as a Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees from their respective campuses. Certificates of appreciation will be sent to them in acknowledgment of their service.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Malloy welcomed the new Trustees. He stated that he wanted them to know that he provides a weekly update to the Trustees to keep them informed on the many things he is working on. He also stated that these communications are available to view online for the Trustees to peruse if they would like to get caught up on the work that has taken place since he became Chancellor.

Chancellor Malloy explained that he believes UMS made the right decision to require weekly testing for faculty, staff, and students who will be on campus at any point during the semester. He stated that up until recently the number of positive results were extremely low but there has been a recent slight uptick in the number of positive cases across the System; however the overall numbers are still very low. There is still robust quarantine space available on all campuses.

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

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration (VCFA) & Treasurer Ryan Low provided the following update.

Investment Update

The Managed Investment Pool has a current market value of \$411 million. It experienced a loss of 0.6% for the month of January, with a fiscal year to date return of 17.3%. The Pension Plan has a current market value of \$26 million. It experienced a loss of 1.2% for the month of January, with a fiscal year to date return of 10.1%. The Operating Fund has a current market value of \$339 million. It experienced a loss of 0.1% for the month of January, with a fiscal year to date return of 5.5%. Net investment revenue stands at \$17 million for the fiscal year to date, which is nearly \$14 million over the FY2021 investment income budget.

Fiscal Year to Date Forecast to Budget Update

Vice Chancellor Low explained that the forecast report is provided to Trustees approximately 3 times a year to keep Trustees apprised of how the forecast is looking compared to the actual budget for the fiscal

year. He reminded Trustees that the FY2021 budget was approved on a much later cycle than in previous years due to unknown implications from Covid related issues and late notification of State appropriation funds. The final revised FY2021 budget was not approved until October 2020. Vice Chancellor Low explained that at the time of the FY2021 budget approval UMS was projecting a deficit of nearly \$16 million and approximately 75% of that deficit was on the auxiliary side of the budget. Due to further Covid related expenses, the FY2021 budget deficit is forecasted to increase to just over \$27 million. UMS is proposing to use slightly more than \$24 million of federally provided CARES funds to balance out the FY2021 budget. There is also potential that UMS will need to use some campus reserves and budget stabilization funds to achieve a fully balanced FY2021 budget. Vice Chancellor Low reminded the Trustees that this information is based on projections and that he will continue to keep the Board updated on any changes to the FY2021 budget as the fiscal year continues.

Update on the FY2022 Budget

Vice Chancellor Low provided an overview of the timeline used to develop the fiscal year budget. The process started in early Fall and the campuses and Vice Chancellor Low's team has been working on making numerous adjustments based on the impact of Covid related expenses and federal and state funds provided to the System. There are still many question marks about what the FY2022 budget will look like. The Finance, Facilities and Technology (FFT) Committee are meeting this Friday, March 26th to present the first reading of the proposed FY2022 budget; however, Vice Chancellor Low expects there to be further changes to those presentations before the next FFT Committee and full Board meeting approvals in May. Additionally, there may be additional supplemental budget approvals needed after the May approvals to account for changes due to unknown Covid related expenses or unknown federal funding, and state appropriation dollars.

Gordian (Sightlines) FY2020 Annual Facilities Report, UMS

Director of Capital Planning and Project Management Carolyn McDonough and Gordian (Sightlines) Account Manager, Ms. Emily Morris provided an overview of the 2020 Sightlines Annual Facilities Report. UMS Gross Square Footage (GSF) and density are commensurate with FY2019 data. Space continues to age. Over the next 10 years the UMS will face dual waves of life cycles coming due. Capital investment into existing space to keep up with these lifecycles, despite increasing in FY2020 is not able to slow the aging process of System assets. Energy consumption decreased across the UMS as campuses shuttered due to COVID-19. Service process improves with the UMS Work Order Management System AIM; however, opportunities to increase communication to customers and campus use of reporting exists. Student enrollment has decreased 11% since 2006. UMS density has decreased to 329 users per 100 thousand GSF in FY2020, which remains below the higher education public school average. UMA is only institution above Sightlines' public-school average. UMS' facilities age profile is older than other public institutions.

Over half of all UMS space this year has reached a renovation age of 50 years old or older, and UMS is on pace to see that grow to 60 percent by 2025. UMS needs to plan now for major life cycle replacements in these buildings. Residential space has the largest amount of space over 50 years old. UMPI, UM, UMM, and UMF have the highest risk based on age profile over 25 years old. The measures of condition or quality of UMS facilities such as renovation age and net asset value are not expected to measurably improve overall until and unless substantially more financial investment is consistently made in existing facilities each year. Total capital investments saw an increase of \$8.4 million in FY2020 and was at its highest level since FY2016. UMS' gap in investment against peer systems decreased to \$1.27/GSF in FY2020. UMS fell \$20.8 million short of annual investment target for FY2020. UMS is aging and will face a series of life cycles coming due. These life cycles will require investments for replacement/updates in the next 10 years and will be competing for the same resources. UMS will need \$50-\$60 million each

year to slow the aging process and mitigate deferred maintenance. UMS has an opportunity to improve customer satisfaction and reporting consistency through the work order process. Campuses facilities should work to understand what data helps tie capital needs to operational costs in a manner that is easily communicated to those outside of facilities.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS' UPDATE

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

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Erika Ziller, Assistant Professor of Public Health and Chair of Public Health at the University of Southern Maine and Dr. Brenda Joly, Professor of Public Health at the USM Muskie School of Public Service will presented information about their research on public health at USM. The USM Public Health program has 88 current students, with 32 enrolled in the bachelor's program and 56 enrolled in the master's program. The Public Health master's program has seen a 24% increase in enrollment since last year. USM has engaged with over twenty-five community partners in the classroom and with service learning projects for the Public Health program. Additionally, Public Health faculty research has brought in \$15 million in total grants since 2018. Dr. Joly explained that the program offers students valuable experiential learning through 120 hours of field experience, course based capstone projects, and research assistantships. The program has \$8.2 million in active externally funded faculty and student research. USM is collaborating with Maine Medical Center and the University of Vermont Medical School for the Northern New England Clinical & Translational Research Network initiative, which has \$20 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health. The purpose of this initiative is to build research capacity so that crucial research can take place and create research that is translatable to practice, which will ultimately improve health outcomes in the region. Research efforts include traditional and innovated non-traditional methods including profiles, evaluation briefs, success stories, and data visualizations. Dr. Ziller provided an overview of the Maine Rural Health Research Center, which is a \$3 million health initiative to inform health care policy making and rural health services delivery through applied research, policy analysis, and technical assistance on rural health issues of regional and national significance.

UMA Prisoner Education Program

UMA President Rebecca Wyke; Randall Liberty, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Corrections; Greg Fahy, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Deborah Meehan, Director of UMA Centers; and Brandon Brown, UMA graduate presented information about the UMA's Prisoner Education Program. Prisoner education programs offer many benefits to the prisoner population and provide more opportunities once participants have been released. Participants in education programs are more likely to be employed after their release, as most jobs now require a postsecondary credential. Additionally, participants in college programs are 48% less likely to recidivate than those who do not enroll in prison. Since UMA began its Prisoner Education program in 2006, they have helped 140 participants to graduate with a recidivism rate of only 5%. UMA has been a Second Chance Pell experimental site since 2016. The UMA Prisoner Education program is offered at all Maine Department of Correction adult facilities across the state. Spring enrollment for the program is 100 male and female students. The Andrew W. Mellon foundation awarded UMA a 2 year grant of \$950,000 in December 2020 and in 2019 the Sunshine Lady Foundation granted UMA \$500,000 to create the Doris Buffett Higher Education Center at the Maine State Prison. UMA has coordinated with the Ken Burns documentary film team to develop a series of "College Behind Bars" documentary films surrounding the UMA Prisoner Education program experience from several different viewpoints.

Commissioner Liberty provided his perspective and support for the success of the UMA Prisoner Education program. He explained how beneficial the program is for residents in the institutions care, but also for the participant's families. Mr. Brown provided an overview of his personal experience in the UMA Prisoner Education program. He explained that he received his associate's degree in 2013 and his bachelor's degree in 2017. Mr. Brown went on to receive his master's degree in conflict analysis and resolution George Mason University in 2020 and is currently in his first year of his doctoral degree. Mr. Brown stated that the classwork provided a sense of freedom even while being incarcerated and expressed gratitude for the personal growth and opportunities that the UMA Prisoner Education Program have provided for him. Trustees thanked UMA for their vigilance in moving this important program forward and thanked Commissioner Liberty and Mr. Brown for sharing their person experiences with the UMA Prisoner Program.

Spring Enrollment Update

VCAA Placido provided a brief update on enrollment and application status. He stated that currently credit hours are approximately 2% down from last year this time. The UMS graduate program had a 20% increase this Spring. The Fall enrollments are also down about 2% when compared to last year. UMS is still performing better than expected considering that nationally on average higher education enrollments are on a 4% decline. Dr. Placido explained that this is in large part due to the behind the scenes action happening to try to bring UMS enrollments back up to meet or exceed last year's figures, including work surrounding student debt and outreach. Undergraduate applications for Fall 2021 are almost even compared to last year at this time. One possible explanation for the decline is the idea that high school advisors were delayed in meeting with students due to the pandemic; therefore, delaying submission of college applications. The applications that have been submitted to UMS are being processed faster than in past years and because of that, admissions figures are even when compared to the same time last year. Something UMS has been focusing on is getting students to commit to attending college at UMS. These initiatives are paying off because UMS undergraduate matriculations are up 56% from last year.

ACTION ITEMS

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Steering Committee Reinvigoration

Chair Erwin stated that the Board had a presentation concerning the UMS Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) initiative at the January 2021 Board meeting and the March 1st Human Resources & Labor Relations (HR/LR) Committee meeting. At the HR/LR Committee meeting, the presentation centered around the recommendation to reinstate a UMS DEI Steering Committee to provide leadership commitment and further develop best practices to accelerate meaningful System-wide DEI progress. The HR/LR Committee agreed to forward this item to the March 22, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting for consideration. Chair Erwin stated that while the Board agrees that this initiative is needed, that the resolution that was submitted to the HR/LR Committee was not in line with the accountability for the initiative that the Board envisioned. The Board recommended that the DEI Steering Committee should not be a Board Committee. The Board proposed an amended resolution that would keep in line with overall Board governance structure and have the proposed DEI Steering Committee report to the Chancellor. Trustee Gardner proposed the following amended resolution:

That the Board of Trustees approves the Chancellor establishing a System-wide leadership Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, which will report to the Chancellor and provide periodic updates to the Board of Trustees Human Resources and Labor Relations Committee and the full Board of Trustees as appropriate.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Riley, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees approved the resolution as amended.

Formal Acceptance and Administration of Harold Alfond Foundation Grants

Chancellor Malloy and Harold Alfond Foundation (HAF) grant co-Principal Investigators UM President/Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Joan Ferrini-Mundy and UMS Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Legal Officer James Thelen provided an update on progress and management of the HAF grant funded initiatives. In October 2020 the University of Maine System and the Harold Alfond Foundation announced together that \$240 million of these grant investments would be awarded to UMS, constituting the largest gift ever to a public institution of higher education in New England and, at the time, the 8th largest gift ever made to a U.S. public institution of higher education. The University of Maine System is challenged to leverage the Harold Alfond Foundation's transformative gift to secure an additional \$170 million in matching funds over the next 10 years from private, state and federal sources, resulting in \$410 million total investment in Maine's public university system over that time. Chancellor Malloy explained that the acceptance of the HAF grant requires that the System raise a significant amount of matching funds and those fundraising efforts are already underway. He stated that UMS matching funds will not only include traditional fundraising but can also include research and capital investments that are applicable to one of the four major grant initiatives. He stated that UMS would be able to raise the needed matching funds over the allocated twelve-year period.

The money received from the HAF grant is dedicated to four initiatives across the System. Black Bear athletics will receive \$90 million in HAF grant funds, with a \$20 million match from UMS needed. Student Success & Retention will receive \$20 million in HAF grant funds, with a \$25 million match from UMS needed. Maine College of Engineering, Computing, & Information Science will receive \$75 million in HAF grant funds, with a \$75 million match from UMS needed. Maine Graduate & Professional Center will receive \$55 million in HAF grant funds, with a \$50 million match from UMS needed. An Executive Leadership Group has been developed to oversee grant funds and fundraising for match funds. Members of the group include Chancellor Malloy, Vice Chancellor Thelen, Vice Chancellor/President Ferrini-Mundy, UM Vice President & Chief of Staff Kimberly Whitehead, and Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration and Treasurer Ryan Low. The Executive Leadership Group is working with two larger groups of key individuals across the System, with one team focused on project initiatives and the other on project operations. The presenters provided an overview of the key activities to date that have occurred. Some highlights include submission of CY2021 benchmarks to HAF in December 2020, establishment of the five UMS Transforms principles, announcement of UM Athletics facilities plans, match planning with UMaine Foundation and consultants, development of InfoReady grant tracking tool, VOX Global engagement on communication and regional/national messaging strategy, and many other meetings and workshops. Next steps include confirming CY2021 initiative work plans; assessing budgetary and staffing support needs; continuing development of matching fund plans; launching the Registry tool to track external grant matching prospects; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion HAF forum; and System-wide engagement with faculty concerning the UMS Transforms initiative.

Chair Erwin thanked Chancellor Malloy, UM President/Vice Chancellor Ferrini-Mundy and Vice Chancellor Thelen for working with System stakeholders and putting together such an impressive structure to implement and track the grants over the next twelve years.

On a motion by Trustee Donnelly, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees approved the following resolution:
IT IS RESOLVED:

1. With deep gratitude on behalf of the State of Maine in its role as fiduciary of the University of Maine System, and pursuant to its Policy 706, the Board of Trustees accepts

the Harold Alfond Foundation's \$240 million grants to the University of Maine System on the terms further set forth in this Resolution.

2. System and university leadership will manage the \$240 million grants for student success and retention; Engineering, Computing, and Information Science; the Maine Center; and Division 1 athletics pursuant to the terms of the Harold Alfond Foundation grant agreements and all Board Policies that apply to the acceptance, implementation, administration, and reporting of such grants and the work undertaken to achieve the funded outcomes.
3. The \$150 million in grants for student success and retention; Engineering, Computing, and Information Science; and the Maine Center will be further administered by the principal investigator model established by System and university leadership to manage the grants and track and report work undertaken for them. The Board of Trustees charges the Principal Investigators to execute the work, including through project leads and leadership teams, described in the Harold Alfond Foundation grant agreements according to the terms of this Resolution.
4. UMS will implement the funded initiatives to best serve students, advance the University of Maine System's existing strategic priorities and outcomes, and enhance UMS's role in improving civic and economic life in Maine through its teaching, research, and public service missions.
5. UMS will emphasize and prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of implementing and scaling the funded initiatives.
6. Including through opportunities provided by unified accreditation, System leadership and the Principal Investigators will implement the funded initiatives so as to scale them and provide meaningful participation by all UMS universities and in all regions of the state as soon as practical.
7. In compliance with the University of Maine System's existing capital project planning and approval, financial, and budgetary policies, System and university leaders and the funded initiatives' Principal Investigators and leadership teams will coordinate annual project planning and funding and staffing needs with the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration to ensure cash flow, debt service and debt load undertaken in support of the funded initiatives align with existing and future budget procedures and priorities and ensure UMS fiscal stability.
8. System and university leaders will provide appropriate updates to the Board of Trustees at least semi-annually on funded project outcomes, benchmarks, and progress toward match requirements.

Proposed Changes to Board of Trustees Policy 803 – Naming of Physical Facilities

Trustee Mark Gardner provided a brief update on the status of the proposed changes to Board of Trustees Policy 803 – *Naming of Physical Facilities*. After discussion of the C.C. Little Hall name change at the September 2020 Board meeting, Chair Erwin appointed an Ad Hoc Working Group for the Naming of Physical Facilities and charged them with drafting a change to Board of Trustee Policy 803 or developing a new policy to provide guidance and consistency for new naming opportunities or removal of names.

Members of the Ad Hoc Group are Trustee Mark Gardner, as Chair; Trustee Emily Cain; Ainsley Wallace, USM Foundation President & CEO; Liam Riordan, UM Professor; and Ellen Doughty, Clerk of the Board. The Ad Hoc Group met several times to review the current policy, discuss the Little Hall Task Force Report, and examine naming policies from other university systems. The Ad Hoc Group developed a revised draft Policy 803 and distributed it to key stakeholders for feedback, including Presidents, General Counsel's Office, and UM and USM Foundation and Development staff members. The feedback received has been incorporated into the proposed Policy. The proposed changes were presented at the January 6th Finance, Facilities, & Technology (FFT) meeting and the January 25th Board of Trustees meeting as an information item. The proposed changes to Board Policy 803 were presented for action at the March 3rd FFT Committee meeting, where the Committee agreed to forward it to the March 22nd Board of Trustees meeting for final approval.

On a motion by Trustee Gardner, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee and approved the proposed changes to Board of Trustees Policy 803 *Naming of Physical Facilities*, as presented.

UMS 2021 Tenure Nominations

Chair Erwin stated that annually campus tenure nominations are submitted to the Board for approval at the March Board of Trustees meeting. The tenure candidate submissions were reviewed with the Academic and Student Affairs Committee at their March 1st meeting, where the Committee agreed to forward the nominations to full Board for approval at the March 22, 2021 meeting.

On a motion by Trustee Riley, which was seconded by Trustee Donnelly, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approved the recommendations for tenure submitted by the Universities of the University of Maine System. Approvals will take effect September 1, 2021 for faculty with academic year appointments and on July 1, 2021 for faculty with fiscal year appointments.

Approval of the 2020 Maine Economic Investment Fund (MEIF) Report

UM President/Vice Chancellor Ferrini-Mundy provided an overview of the FY2020 Maine Economic Improvement Fund (MEIF) Annual Report. Maine statute requires the University of Maine System to provide an annual report to the Governor and Legislature each year. In addition to listing the annual financial data, we also include an assessment of the achievement of the annual goals and objectives, and a summary of the research and development projects that have been funded. In FY2020, the State's \$17.35 million MEIF investment was leveraged at a rate of 5.3 to 1 by UMS campuses for an additional \$92.4 million in federal and private-sector grants and contracts in the seven sectors. MEIF funds and leveraged external grants and contracts funded the work of 575 researchers and technicians, and 1,221 graduate and undergraduate students. These grants and contracts provide funds to purchase major equipment to upgrade and outfit university laboratories. Maine's public universities secured 11 new US patents and 65 associated foreign patents, worked on development projects with large and small businesses and start-ups, and provided R&D support to 324 companies and individuals. UM Vice President for Innovation and Economic Development Jake Ward explained that as 2021 begins, the availability of effective COVID-19 vaccines developed with previously unheard of speed and coordination between government, private enterprise, and the academy is a powerful reminder of the importance of sustained investment in science and research capacity. But even with vaccines rolling out, the pandemic's financial toll continues to reverberate through our economy. Here in Maine, public universities will play a central role in accelerating economic recovery and long-term resiliency by expanding the human capital and innovation

that will catalyze recovery, growth, and greater prosperity for the people of this state. Increasing investment in research through public sources like MEIF and federal grants and contracts also creates opportunity to leverage up to \$150 million in private grants awarded to UMS in October 2020 by the Harold Alfond Foundation. Unlocking these additional transformational investments will be critical to realizing the System's full potential for Maine, including the incredible impact of the UMS research enterprise.

On a motion by Trustee Donnelly, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee and approved the 2020 Maine Economic Improvement Fund Annual Report as presented.

Approval of the Board Meeting Calendar for FY2022 & FY2023

In accordance with the University System's Charter and the Board's By-laws, the proposed calendar is submitted for approval annually. In order to allow as much flexibility as possible in planning schedules, the proposed calendar has been developed on a 2-year cycle based on the fiscal year (July to June). The proposed meeting calendar for FY2022 and FY2023 was provided to the Trustees prior to the meeting for review.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Gardner, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees approved the Board of Trustees meeting calendar for FY2022 and FY2023, as presented.

Confirmation of Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees

UMPI President Ray Rice, UMF President Edward Serna, and USM President Glenn Cummings provided a brief introduction for their proposed candidates for Student Representatives to the Board as follows:
Miranda Cole, UMPI – appointed for a one year term – March 2021 to March 2022
David Ballard, UMF – reappointed for a one year term – March 2021 to March 2022
Omar Abduljaleel, USM – appointed for a two year term – March 2021 to March 2023

On a motion by Trustee Riley, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees approves the appointments of the Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Trustee Gardner, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, 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

January 6, 2021 – Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee meeting
January 25, 2021 – Board of Trustees meeting
February 24, 2021 – Special Board of Trustees meeting
March 1, 2021 – Human Resources and Labor Relations Committee meeting
March 4, 2021 – Investment Committee 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 March 3, 2021:

Neville Hall Renovations, UM

The Board of Trustees, accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee, and authorized the University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine to expend up to \$1,500,000 of State Bond funds on the Neville Hall Renovations.

Interim Financing Resolution

The Board of Trustees, accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee, and authorized the University of Maine System to finalize negotiations with and to execute a loan agreement with TDBank for short term capital financing needs.

Financing Project Resolution, UM Ferland Engineering, Education & Design

The Board of Trustees, accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee, and approved the Financing and Project Authorization resolution for the University of Maine Ferland Engineering, Education and Design Center project on the Orono campus with a maximum principal amount of debt of \$45,000,000.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Unified Accreditation Update

Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives Jeff St. John provided an update on UMS unified accreditation progress. Dr. St. John stated that there are over 100 faculty, staff, and UMS stakeholders, representing all seven UMS campuses and the Maine Law School teaming up to draft sections of the self-study document that will need to be provided to the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) in the Fall of 2022. There are nine drafting teams, one for each of the NECHE accreditation standards. The drafting teams are on target to complete their drafts by their target date of May 31st and over the Summer, UMS will stitch together the nine drafts into one initial complete draft document.

The Spring NECHE Confirming visit has been scheduled for May 11-12, 2021. This will be a virtual 2 day meeting with a 2 person team appointed by NECHE. The NECHE team members are President of Plymouth State University Donald Birx and Assistant Vice Chancellor of University of Georgia Myk Garn. The visit will focus on the System's unified accreditation process and will also include a check in with UMPI concerning their three new Competency Based Education (CBE) academic programs. The visit will include open meetings with UMS faculty, staff, and students with respect to unified accreditation. Additionally, the NECHE team will meet with the Chancellor and the System Leadership team, the UMS Presidents Council with the addition of campus Provosts, the campus Chief Business Officers, the campus NECHE accreditation officers, the System-wide Faculty Governance Council, and a meeting for faculty members who are involved in multi-campus academic programs. Prior to the Confirming visit, UMS will send NECHE a 15 page report outlining the progress on unified accreditation and information about the three UMPI CBE programs. Recently, UMS launched an updated unified accreditation website that includes far more detail about the current unified accreditation process. The website will feature monthly updates on all facets of the unified accreditation progress. Following the Chancellor's visit to UMA and town hall, Dr. St. John and Vice Chancellor Placido met with the UMA Faculty Senate and had a very beneficial and positive discussion with the UMA Faculty senate concerning issues such as shared governance and the proposed unified catalog. Dr. St. John, Vice Chancellor Placido and the unified accreditation team plan to continue the path of a transparent and communicative process for developing the faculty shared governance structure under unified accreditation, with many meetings with faculty members from all campuses.

University of Maine New England Aqua Ventures Offshore Wind Project Update

UM President/Vice Chancellor Ferrini-Mundy and UM Vice President for Innovation and Economic Development Jake Ward provided an overview and update of the University of Maine New England Aqua Ventures Offshore Wind Project. The University of Maine has established itself as a national and international leader for its research, development and innovation in floating offshore wind turbine design and engineering for electric power generation. For the last decade, the U.S. Department of Energy has funded UMaine Offshore Wind (OSW) R&D. The state of Maine has established goals for Gulf of Maine floating offshore wind to help meet Maine's renewable energy goals. It began with the single turbine demonstration project in waters off Monhegan Island and now is progressing with the recently announced state-led research array in federal waters, as well as economic development strategies for manufacturing, supply-chain, and workforce development. This is a US Department of Energy (DOE) project and the only Floating Offshore Wind Project in the US DOE's Advanced Technology Demonstration Program. The US DOE has awarded UM over 13 grants with a total of over \$20 million with several more grants pending. An additional \$37 million of US DOE funds has been approved for construction of the Monhegan project. This project is in line with the Climate Control Goals developed by the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office. The offshore wind industry represents a nearly \$70 billion revenue opportunity in the next decade. Mr. Ward thanked the continuous leadership and support from the UM President, UM Research Department, System Leadership, and the State of Maine Delegation.

UM Green Engineering & Materials (GEM) Laboratory Factory of the Future

Additionally, UM Professor of Civil Engineering Dr. Habib Dagher provided a very brief informational update on its proposed Green Engineering & Materials ("GEM") Laboratory Factory of the Future Industry 4.0. The proposed GEM Laboratory would house the Factory of the Future, where AI-enabled arrays of printers and sensors would manufacture and test new products from wood-derived cellulose and other advanced bio-based materials, collaborate with industry, and train the next-generation manufacturing workforce, including undergraduates, graduate students and working professionals.

Additional information about the meeting can be found on the Board of Trustees website:
<https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/meeting-agendas-materials/board-of-trustees/>

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on May 24, 2021, via Zoom.

Adjournment

Heather A. Massey for
Ellen N. Doughty, Clerk