

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

Zoom Meeting
November 4, 2021

Finance/Facilities/Technology Committee

Present: Committee Members: Trish Riley, Chair; Peggy Rotundo, David MacMahon, James Donnelly, Roger Katz, Emily Cain, Timothy Doak and Kelly Martin. **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **Presidents & Dean of the Law School:** Leigh Saufley, Joan Ferrini-Mundy, and Glenn Cummings. **Faculty Representative:** Michael Scott. **System Staff:** Ryan Low, Ellen Doughty, Miriam White, Tracy Elliott, Chip Gavin, Jeff St. John, and David Demers. **Other Participants:** Joanne Yestramski, Carolyn McDonough, Betsey Sawhill, Alan Kaschub, Alec Porteous, Jeff Letourneau and Ainsley Wallace.

Committee Members Absent: Mark Gardner and Jim Erwin.

Trustee Riley, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The Clerk performed a roll call of the Committee members present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Rotundo, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee agreed to go into Executive Session under the provision of:

- 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.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Donnelly, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Committee concluded Executive Session.

Following the Executive Session, Chair Riley reconvened the public meeting. The following items were discussed:

Increase Authorization, USM Center for the Arts

USM President Glenn Cummings, USM Chief Business Officer Alec Porteous, USM Foundation President & CEO Ainsley Wallace and USM Director of the School of Music Alan Kaschub provided an overview of the authorization request to spend up to \$3.2 million of additional existing philanthropic funds to advance the University's Center for the Arts (CFA) project.

In 2017 the Board approved an \$80 million comprehensive campaign for USM that included a \$65 million for the CFA on the Portland campus. The Board authorized \$1,000,000 at the January 2018 meeting for Phase I for the conceptual and schematic design. In 2019 the Board approved the USM Master Plan which included the CFA in Portland. The USM Foundation launched a comprehensive campaign in 2020 in a quiet phase with an adjusted campaign goal of \$6 million, including a \$15 million CFA philanthropic goal. In 2021 the CFA Phase I has been completed and the USM Foundation has raised \$17.1 million for the CFA in 15 months. The current authorization would bring the total to

\$4,200,000. This authorization will be for the CFA Phase II for design development and construction documents using philanthropic dollars in hand.

USM's proposed CFA is a long-planned project with considerable donor support that would relocate the Dr. Alfred and D. Suzi Osher School of Music from its current Gorham campus home in Corthell Hall to a newly constructed, state-of-the-art music building on USM's Portland campus.

In the proposing the new facility, USM envisions the following key developments. A short-term growth of Osher School of Music enrollment of approximately 30 percent, representing an increase of approximately 40 students over the current 140-student enrollment. Music majors already have a high retention rate, and the Music Department expects that the new building would drive recruitment and retention, with a longer-term enrollment goal of 232 students. Replacement of the inadequate facility that is a detriment to recruitment and retention with a new, intentionally designed facility that would draw renewed attention to USM's exceptional music program. The new facility will allow for repurposing of Corthell Hall, a significant historic asset for the University but not a suitable home for a modern school of music. While the building is not suited to housing the Osher School of Music, repurposing Corthell would enable USM to add another lecture hall on its Gorham campus, a dance studio, classrooms and administrative space into which the University would likely transition Art and Theatre Department faculty offices.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Rotundo, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee agreed to forward this item to the November 15, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee, and authorizes the University of Southern Maine acting through the University of Maine System to expend up to an additional \$3,200,000 to complete the design development and construction documents phases of the proposed Center for the Arts on the University of Southern Maine's Portland campus. With the current request, the total authorized for this project will be \$4,200,000. The funding source will be existing philanthropic funds dedicated to creation of the Center for the Arts. In advancing to the design development and construction documents phases of the Center for the Arts project, USM will continue to review alternative design options and value engineering measures that may produce cost savings. As the project advances, USM and the USM Foundation will continue its robust fundraising efforts to support further advancement of the project, with the understanding that USM anticipates a portion of the project costs will be funded by the combination of USM E&G resources and the issuance of UMS debt, with debt service funded by USM.

Campus Network Equipment Refresh

Chief Information Officer David Demers requested authorization to expend \$3,000,000 on the replacement of campus network equipment. The focus of this effort is a 1 for 1 replacement of unsupported network equipment (wireless access points and controllers, building-level network access switches, and uninterruptible power supplies) that has been in service 12 years on average including 4 to 10 years beyond the end of support dates set by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM). By doing so we are attempting to reduce the cybersecurity, business continuity, and academic disruption risks associated with having the campus networks consisting of nearly 25% of unsupported, antiquated network equipment. These one-time funds will establish a minimum threshold for a refresh cycle that removes network equipment from service before, or at least soon after, it is no longer supported by

its OEM. This effort is not intended or expected to expand wireless coverage or increase network availability in any significant way.

Roughly 10% of the budget is being allocated to cover the cost of professional services and any electrical or other facilities work that will be required. The urgency of approval of this request is due to the significant cost increases that have been announced by the manufacturer of our wireless equipment. Delayed action on approving the purchase of the new equipment will result in a 7% price penalty and thereby a 7% reduction in number of access points that we will be able to replace using these dollars. Funding for the project has been secured by temporary investment income and is available immediately to support this effort.

On a motion by Trustee Donnelly, which was seconded by Trustee Katz, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee agreed to forward this item to the November 15, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee, and authorizes the University of Maine System to expend \$3,000,000 for the replacement of unsupported equipment not included in the 2015 bond initiative. The funding source will be previously earned temporary investment income.

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

<https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/meeting-agendas-materials/finance-facilities-technology/>

Adjournment.

Heather A. Massey for
Ellen N. Doughty, Clerk