

Citizen Comment Written Statements

University of Maine System

Board of Trustees Meeting

May 23, 2022

BOT meeting Monday May 23rd

1 message

Anita-Ann Jerosch

To: "ums.trustees@maine.edu"

Cc: James Cook

Thu, May 19, 2022 at 7:40 PM

Dear Chairman Gardner,

I am attaching the following statement for the May 2022 UMS Board of Trustees meeting. My statement regards the failed UMA presidential search. I request that Associate Professor of Sociology James Cook be permitted to read my statement aloud on my behalf during the public comment period. Should he be unavailable during the public comment period, I request that you read the statement on my behalf.

Thank you,

Anita Jerosch, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Music and Department Coordinator

"I stand with the UMA Faculty Senate in asking the BOT to take responsibility for the failed presidential search and make reparations by: 1. Walking back the contract with the candidate who was hired fraudulently, and 2. Allowing our university to conduct a new search during this next academic year, preferably with our current interim leadership at the helm. I would also ask that the BOT communicate directly with our Faculty Senate and interim university leadership to work out an appropriate timeline for these actions. Only by legitimately addressing these concerns can confidence and trust in UMS management be restored."

Anita Jerosch, Ph.D.

(pronouns: she, her, hers)

Associate Professor of Music and Department Coordinator

Bass Trombonist, Bangor Symphony Orchestra

University of Maine at Augusta

May 20, 2022

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

I write to express my support for the University of Maine at Augusta Faculty Senate's recent votes of no confidence and to urge the Board of Trustees to take seriously the concerns expressed in the wider UMA and UMS community by taking appropriate action in response to the recent breach of ethics which occurred during the UMA presidential search.

Over the past four years I have represented UMA as a Maine Policy Scholar and Newman Civic Fellow. In these roles, I have spent a considerable amount of time discussing, researching and developing ethical leadership skills and qualities. In most, if not all, of the workshops and discussions I have attended as a Newman Civic Fellow with educators and community leaders from all over the country, two core leadership values have been repeatedly reinforced to our cohort of student leaders: mutual respect and transparency.

Last weekend, I graduated with high honors and accomplished a life-long goal of becoming the first person in my family to earn a bachelor's degree. It saddens me that my moment (and that of my fellow alumni) was tainted by the unfortunate news of the lack of transparency between system leaders and search committee members regarding pertinent details of the presidential candidate's professional record. This recent breach of ethical responsibility has cast doubt as to the motivations and competencies of our system leadership.

Please help to rebuild community trust in our system leadership and restore UMA alumni pride by taking responsibility for the oversight and allowing UMA to conduct a new presidential search.

Respectfully,

Celena Zacchai
UMA class of 2022

May 19, 2022

Dear UMS Board of Trustees:

On Wednesday, May 11, the UMA Faculty Senate met to discuss the ethical violations that arose this winter in our 2021-2022 presidential search, but which were only revealed to us in early May. As you are undoubtedly aware, essential information about the chosen candidate was disclosed to UMS leadership, but not to the rest of the search committee, including the UMA faculty, staff, and student representatives. This was a failure to uphold the requirements of the pledge signed by all search committee members, promising they would “guard against inaccuracies, carelessness, bias, and distortion made through either emphasis or omission of information.” Hence, the UMA Faculty Senate enacted a vote of no confidence in this search.

The UMA Teacher Education program stands with the UMA Senate in asking the BOT to take responsibility for this breach of ethics and make reparations by 1. Walking back the contract with the candidate who was hired unethically, and 2. Allowing our university to conduct a new search during this next academic year, preferably with our current interim leadership at the helm. We would also ask that the BOT communicate directly with our Faculty Senate and interim university leadership to work out an appropriate timeline for these actions. Only by legitimately addressing these concerns can confidence and trust in UMS management be restored.

Respectfully submitted,

The UMA Full Time Teacher Education Faculty

Cindy Dean
Associate Professor of Education
Coordinator of Teacher Education
Faculty Senate President
Vice President AFUM, Augusta campus
UMA

Citizen Comment Statement

I have taught at UMA for 15 years, and I have seen a consolidation of power at the system level during that time. It is concerning to me when decisions that used to be made at a campus level are made at the system level, from items ranging from planning events (which can now take months to coordinate with the system office, instead of a simple email) to larger personnel issues and hiring.

If that weren't bad enough, we now can clearly see that delegating to the system does not result in better outcomes. What did we really get from hiring the consultant for \$70,000 for the UMA Presidential Search? Why couldn't some of this work happen at the campus level, where we are working with trusted colleagues and staff who can follow basic ethical procedures? We don't need to leave this up to chance.

We do not have confidence in the leadership, because it is not clear that they are acting in the best interests of our campus, on the Presidential hire or a range of other issues.

I won't delve too deeply into the broader issue of the One University, but I don't believe I understand how this will better the system. The seven campus system is incredibly unequal, with different access to resources, different pay scales for faculty and staff, etc. depending on the campus. There is no level playing field on which to build that system. Who will benefit from this system? Who gets to make those decisions?

In short, the unethical process of hiring a President for UMA is the tip of the iceberg, which is why you are seeing such a strong reaction from the campuses. Our voices have been muted for too long. We're hoping that you will hear us now and move to rectify the situation, including addressing long-term and global issues. The campuses need to regain their footing and have substantial power and control returned to them.

Chelsea Ray, Associate Professor, UMA

Statement for BOT meeting 5.23.22

1 message

Ellen Taylor

To: ums.trustees@maine.edu

Cc: Patrick Cheek

Thu, May 19, 2022 at 6:32 PM

Dear Chairman Gardner, I am attaching the following statement for the May 2022 UMS Board of Trustees meeting. I request that you read this statement aloud during the public comment period, as you offered to do in your communication to UMA Board Representative Patrick Cheek earlier this month.

Here is my statement:

UMA is a vibrant institution, born of the optimism and hope of the 1960s. Our mission, to “transform(s) the lives of students of every age and background,” to provide “excellence in student support, civic engagement, and professional and liberal arts education,” requires a president with compassion and creativity. We should be excited to greet a new president, chosen through our campus representatives, a person who will help guide us through our next chapter of development. We deserve a voice in our leadership, and we ask that the Board of Trustees honor our integrity.

Thank you,

Dr. Ellen M. Taylor

Dr. Ellen M. Taylor, she/her

Professor of English

Coordinator of Humanities

Believer in Humanity and Redemption

University of Maine at Augusta

"A lighthouse keeper's ethics:

You tend for all or none"

Adrienne Rich

Request for a statement to be read to the Board of Trustees

1 message

Gregory Fahy

To: ums.trustees@maine.edu

Thu, May 19, 2022 at 12:37 PM

Dear UMS Board Members,

Thank you for your willingness to read statements at the Board of Trustees Meeting on May 23. I am writing to request BOT chair Gardner read the following statement for me at public comment during the meeting:

As a faculty member at University of Maine at Augusta, I am upset by the ethical violations in the process for hiring a new president at our institution. I support the votes of no confidence in current system leadership and in the search process. I have seen how this issue has distracted the University of Maine System from our essential mission of the education of our students. I have read the negative publicity about the search and worry about the reputational costs to our university. I also worry about a trend in the University of Maine System that seeks to dismiss or diminish education in the humanities. Humanities helps people think and write critically, compassionately and constructively about complex issues. These are essential tools for citizens and communities.

I ask that the Board take an active role in ensuring that a new search process be instituted at UMA that can gain the confidence of our community. I ask that the board actively investigate the actions of system leadership in these areas so that we do not lose more time, treasure and reputation to the mismanagement of our institutions of higher education in Maine.

Thank you for your attention.

Greg Fahy
Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Maine at Augusta
Vice-Chair of the Maine Humanities Council

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Gregory M Fahy (he, him)
Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of Maine at Augusta



University of Maine at Augusta

AUGUSTA BANGOR ONLINE CENTERS STATEWIDE
SOCIAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

Dr. Kate Corlew
Associate Professor of Psychology
University of Maine at Augusta
Bangor Campus

5/19/2022

Members of the UMS Board of Trustees, thank you for hearing my statement. I am an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Maine at Augusta, and I wanted to speak to the negative repercussions of the ethical violation which occurred during our 2021-2022 Presidential Search. As you are well aware, critical information was withheld from members of the Search Committee, and therefore from the UMA Community. Whatever the intent or lack of intent behind this ethical violation, the process of the search was completely undermined, and there are substantial repercussions to this ethical violation that must be addressed to ensure our university is able to move forward effectively.

The withholding of critical information from the Search Committee has dealt a severe blow to the moral of our institution. Many of us feel betrayed by the UMaine System leadership for failing to uphold the ethical standards and integrity of our Presidential Search. Additionally, in the past weeks as we have asked and waited for System leadership to substantively address our concerns, we have received nothing but blame shifting and empty apologies that have made no attempt to remedy the problems we are

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currently facing due to this ethical violation. This has left many of us feeling disappointed and dismissed. The distrust, discouragement, and low moral we are experiencing was caused by System leadership; the onus of responsibility to mend this breach of trust therefore falls on the System leadership.

As reflected in the Faculty Senate's Vote of No Confidence in the Search, many of us cannot trust the outcomes of the Search since the process was fundamentally flawed. While the Chancellor has apologized for "making a mistake," we have heard nothing from System leadership acknowledging that this "mistake" then affected the rest of the process of the Presidential Search, which may then have affected the outcome. We cannot know if the outcomes of the Presidential Search were flawed, but we do know that process of the Presidential Search was flawed. The ethical violation "mistake" matters beyond the moment of its happening. The Search process was undermined. Shared governance was undermined. Transparency was undermined. Equity and Inclusion were undermined. The System leadership has yet to acknowledge any of that, let alone take responsibility for addressing or repairing any of the cascading harms that have followed.

I stand with the UMA Faculty Senate in asking the BOT to take responsibility for this breach of ethics and make reparations by: 1. Walking back the contract with the candidate who was hired fraudulently, and 2. Allowing our university to conduct a new search during this next academic year, preferably with our current interim leadership at the helm. We would also ask that the BOT communicate directly with our Faculty Senate and interim university leadership to work out an appropriate timeline for these actions. Only by legitimately addressing these concerns can confidence and trust in UMS management be restored.

Sincerely,



Kate Corlew, Ph.D.

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UNIVERSITY of MAINE *at* AUGUSTA

19 May 2022

To: The University of Maine System Board of Trustees
From: The University of Maine at Augusta Humanities Department

On Wednesday, May 11, the UMA Faculty Senate met to discuss the ethical violations that arose this winter in our 2021-2022 presidential search, but which were only revealed to us in early May. As you are undoubtedly aware, essential information about the chosen candidate was disclosed to UMS leadership, but not to the rest of the search committee, inclusive of the UMA faculty, staff, and student representatives. This was a failure to uphold the requirements of the pledge signed by all search committee members, who promised to “guard against inaccuracies, carelessness, bias, and distortion made through either emphasis or omission of information.” Due to a gross omission, the UMA Faculty Senate enacted a vote of no confidence in this search.

The UMA Humanities Department stands with our Faculty Senate in asking the BOT to take responsibility for this breach of ethics and make reparations by:

1. Walking back the contract with the candidate who was hired under fraudulent circumstances, and
2. Allowing our university to reconsider our initial pool of candidates or conduct a new search during this next academic year, preferably with our current interim leadership at the helm.

We would also ask that the BOT communicate directly with our Faculty Senate and interim university leadership to work out an appropriate timeline for these actions.

Furthermore, we wish to express our deep concern over an ongoing trajectory in the UMS that seeks to dismiss and diminish Humanities education. In Humanities courses, students learn critical reading, writing, and analytical skills that help them better make sense of current events, problem-solve issues in their communities, ask and explore complex questions, interrogate the credibility of information circulating online, and hone essential workplace communication skills. To that end, efforts to undermine the Humanities ultimately undermine the professional and personal aspirations of the people of Maine and, by extension, compromise the communities in which they work and live.

Only by legitimately addressing these concerns can confidence and trust in UMS leadership be restored.

Lisa Botshon
Professor of English
UMA

Chaos at UMS

1 message

loraine lowell

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 10:49 AM

To: "ums.trustees@maine.edu" <ums.trustees@maine.edu>

I graduated from USM when it still had a vibrant liberal arts program, to include but not limited to a fabulous Music Department, as well as Theater, Philosophy, History, English. When I graduated from USM in 1987, UMF was then noted for its stellar Liberal Arts program, and had continued to be nationally noted for its solid program until . . . when? What is going on? Why are faculty being fired? Where's the transparency?

I worked for UMS as a library assistant, an hourly wage earner's position, for 32 years. When I retired--my last work date was January 2, 2021--my wages when adjusted for inflation were undoubtedly worth less than my start rate in 1988.

For those 32 years at the University of Southern Maine, I haven't seen this kind of chaos or lack of transparency. The Chancellor is not serving the State of Maine well. Nor is the Board of Trustees.

The Chancellor should resign, as should at least one member of the BOT. If transparency and honesty can't be restored, and an inclusive spirit of governance be found, the entire BOT should then consider resigning.

In closing, I designate Dr. Susan Feiner as the reader of this email.

Respectfully, Loraine Lowell



May 22, 2022

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System,

My name is Lorien Lake-Corral and I am an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Maine at Augusta. I regret that I cannot share my statement in person today, but due to the ongoing global pandemic and extremely high community transmission rates in Maine, I feel an in-person event is inadvisable.

I am writing today to express my solidarity with the UMA, USM, and UMF resolutions (of 5/12, 5/13, and 5/18/22, respectively). Over the last two weeks, longstanding structural problems regarding secrecy, exclusion, centralization of power, and resource inequality within the University of Maine system have been brought into sharp focus by the revelation of unethical practices in the UMA presidential search, development of curricular programming at USM without proper faculty oversight and in clear violation of shared governance, and the abrupt retrenchment of popular and productive faculty in critical divisions at UMF. This breakdown of shared governance in the System has led to a breakdown of trust and community.

Although the Board of Trustees has rightfully acted on UMA's first resolution, the second, along with the resolutions from USM and UMF, is still outstanding. UMS faculty across the system feel dismissed, disrespected, and disregarded, and I hope the BOT will take decisive action to begin repairing the relationships that have been damaged this year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Dr. Lorien Lake-Corral
Associate Professor of Sociology
University of Maine at Augusta



Citizen Comment 5.23.22

Lorrayne Carroll

I address you as an alumna, mother of an alumna, and retired faculty member. Here, I will not reiterate the **long list of missteps, ethical violations, and poor administrative decisions by System leadership**. As Trustees, you have read the compelling evidence of failure in the votes of no confidence from three different campuses as well as in the scathing *Portland Press Herald* editorial.

These revelations demand a considered, collaborative response to remedy the ongoing problems. **However, the current top-heavy, insular leadership model ignores the crucial role of shared governance in creating and maintaining a robust, efficient educational institution.** Rather than acknowledging its mistakes, leadership at the System responded by characterizing faculty statements as “anxiety” and “reacting to very difficult decisions.” These deliberate misreadings of informed, rational concerns reveal a model of leadership that disdains and demeans the faculty and staff who do the direct work of educating Maine students while side-stepping its own mistakes.

Leadership’s actions have destroyed confidence in its ability to administer the System, not just for faculty and staff but for all Maine citizens. **This situation is so dire that the legislature has taken the extraordinary step of convening the Joint Committee on Education to investigate these very public failures.** Philanthropic donations, hiring of well-qualified faculty and staff, but most importantly, the promise of a good education for students at *all* of the System’s campuses depends on your decisions during this emergency. **As Trustees, you must act with purpose and clarity to strengthen the System by removing the current leadership.** The Board must then recruit a truly effective administration, one that rejects unilateral, secretive, and disdainful models of leadership and returns to the successful model of truly shared governance.

May 20, 2022

Dear UMS Board of Trustees,

I am writing in support of the vote of no-confidence submitted by UMA as well as those of other colleges in the system. The failure to uphold the requirements of the pledge signed by all search committee members, promising they would “guard against inaccuracies, carelessness, bias, and distortion made through either emphasis or omission of information” is grievous in nature and simple apologies do not sufficiently address the issue. I believe that this omission of information should not be minimized since we now know that critical information about the chosen candidate was omitted from consideration by the majority of the committee. The process lacked integrity and transparency and, as a result, there can be no confidence in the decision made.

This incident highlights the recent approach to enacting or forcing changes on the system without sincere engagement of stakeholders. The University of Maine system is being rapidly reshaped by retrenchments as opposed to engaging in the democratic process of shared governance. The aggressive, top-down approach to making changes leaves faculty feeling dismissed, disrespected, and disregarded. Further impacts of this leadership are hurting other colleges in the system, and I stand in solidarity with the University of Southern Maine and University of Maine Farmington, both of which have issued important statements articulating concerns with UMS management in recent weeks. Ultimately, these rapid and aggressive changes impact students and the important role they have in building Maine.

I stand with the UMA Faculty Senate in asking the BOT to take responsibility for this breach of ethics and make reparations by a) walking back the contract with the candidate who was hired fraudulently, and b) allowing our university to conduct a new search during this next academic year, preferably with our current interim leadership at the helm. We would also ask that the BOT communicate directly with our Faculty Senate and interim university leadership to work out an appropriate timeline for these actions. Only by legitimately addressing these concerns can confidence and trust in UMS management begin to be restored. Additionally, there must be follow-up conversations on how to rebuild confidence in the system leadership and they must be democratic and system-wide.

Sincerely,

Margaret Wheeler
Adjunct Faculty, UMA

Citizen Comment for BOT meeting

1 message

Melinda Plastas

To: ums.trustees@maine.edu

Thu, May 19, 2022 at 5:39 PM

Dear Members of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees,

I write as the chair of the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies (GSS) at Bates to express deep concern over the retrenchment of nine faculty members in the humanities and social sciences at the University of Maine at Farmington. The University of Maine system in tandem with other educational institutions in Maine provides vital opportunities, resources, and leadership for furthering the educational needs and desires of Maine people. The humanities and social sciences must remain central to the mission of higher education. I stand in solidarity with Women's and Gender Studies at UMF and all the retrenched UMF faculty.

Sincerely,

Melinda Plastas, PhD

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Melinda Plastas, Chair
Program in Gender and Sexualities Studies
Bates

[she/her/hers]

5/19/2022

Dear Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System.

Thank you for hearing my concerns around events and the process during the system search for a President at UMA. I am a senior faculty member with 22 years of service to the University of Maine at Augusta and a member of the faculty Senate. I am concerned that the omissions of pertinent information during the search committee review of applicants have not only compromised the recent search for our future president but damaged the University of Maine System's reputation. It is important that leadership maintain the same ethical and procedural standards that they require of their employees and stakeholders for leadership to be successful and the institutions to progress with the support of the people of Maine.

While I have questions about other actions on different campuses that appear not to have followed standard procedures, I believe (and am overwhelmingly supported by UMA Faculty) that rectifying the issue around the UMA presidential search is paramount as well time sensitive. Therefore, I have written to respectfully ask you to please 1) Declare the contract awarded the current candidate null and void. 2) Maintain the current interim president at UMA for one more year. 3) Allow another search to be conducted for this important position during the 2022/2023 academic year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Peter Milligan

Professor of Biology

University of Maine at Augusta

Dear Chairman Gardner,

I am attaching the following statement for the May 2022 UMS Board of Trustees meeting. My statement regards system processes and policies regarding ethical standards for transparency, the legitimate level of System Support for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives and the profound impact of the search on UMA stakeholders, particularly the search committee members.

I request that **Associate Professor of Sociology James Cook** be permitted to read my statement aloud on my behalf during the public comment period. Should he be unavailable during the public comment period, I request that you read the statement on my behalf.

Thank you,

Peter Precourt

Professor of Art, University of Maine at Augusta

Facts:

- The UMaine system has instituted much needed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies. The UMA website specifically states:
"We will seek to actively and positively create learning communities that are inclusive of sex, gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, age, and income differences and actively understand and promote the benefits of DEI across our entire community."
- On October 15th, at a presidential search forum at UMA, the system rep. and consultant group were specifically asked by a concerned UMA faculty member about a previous withholding of information regarding a Vote of No Confidence (VONC) at University of Wisconsin. The consultant was asked, "How do we avoid another UW debacle?" The UMA community was told "to trust the professionals." The UMA faculty member's public statement clearly presented the UMA community's concerns about information regarding a VONC being withheld during the search, but despite those expressed concerns, the pattern of withholding VONC information from search committees continued.
- The two highest ranking members of system leadership involved in the search, who share the same gender, sex, and who have similar high income levels, learned of Faculty Senate and Student no-confidence votes in a potential candidate—who also shares the same gender, sex and has a similar income level—and did not share information with the diverse 14-member search committee, hampering University DEI efforts.
- When the VONC came to light, a UMaine Chancellor/BOT spokesperson initially stated, "The BOT search committee chair "did not intentionally withhold the information from the committee," despite the fact that the campus community had specifically voiced concerns about this issue.

Questions:

- Does the UMaine system stand by the statement that the non-disclosure of crucial information was not intentional? If so, can the BOT explain how one unintentionally withholds critical information?
- How does the BOT reconcile its support for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion when all of the search committee members who were diverse in sex, gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, age, and income differences were denied information that would inform their

search? It seems that both the spirit and letter of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at every metric were disregarded in this process.

- Is the BOT prepared to conduct a new search that follows their/our own DEI initiatives and ethic of shared governance?
- There is talk about putting new rules in place regarding searches. We had previous rules that were ignored by those in power; how can we believe new ones will be followed when previous ones were ignored?
- How will the BOT make things right with the search committee members, at least two of whom have shared with me that they feel shamed and betrayed by this process?

Thank you for your time and for your thoughtful consideration. I ask that you implement all of the UMA Faculty Senate recommendations. While I am not a member of the UMA faculty senate, they have thoughtfully and precisely expressed my thoughts and very deep concerns.

[Peter Precourt](#), Professor of Art, UMA

Friday, May 20, 2022

Dear UMS Board of Trustees,

The University of Maine at Augusta Professional Employees Assembly (PEA) asserts the following points regarding the recent events surrounding the UMA Presidential Search and UMS Chancellor's Office leadership in response to discovering new details about the incoming UMA President.

- A. The UMA PEA is concerned about the information concerning the SUNY Delhi votes of no confidence against the UMA President Elect which was not brought forward during the UMA Presidential search.
- B. The UMA Faculty Senate meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 1) was not clearly indicative in messaging to the broader UMA community that the meeting was open to non-faculty members with enough time for staff to widely participate; 2) the length of the meeting limited staff members' ability to listen and participate in the entirety of the meeting, given other previously scheduled engagements and daily tasks that they were not released from to be able to participate; and 3) prioritized, understandably, faculty questions and commentary resulting in the lack of voice given to non-faculty members.
- C. In response to the consequences of the UMA Faculty Senate meeting on 5/11/22, the PEA, in collaboration with the Classified Employees Assembly (CEA), worked to schedule a listening session with the UMA President Elect as well as the Chancellor's Office open to staff and students. The UMA President Elect agreed to attend and worked with PEA's Senate Chair to schedule a time that aligned with his schedule. The Chancellor's Office did not respond to the invitation. This meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2022 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. The PEA was notified by the Chancellor's Office of the meeting's cancellation in the late afternoon on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 with only the brief explanation that UMA President Elect was not available. No further explanation or rescheduling requests have been answered.
- D. There has been a great deal of segmented internal communication in addition to public media accounts detailing the events that have occurred since the Faculty Senate's vote of no confidence in both the Chancellor's Office leadership as well as the UMA Presidential Search. It is the PEA's assertion that UMA staff were not in good faith given 1) equitable or timely access to information; 2) voice; nor 3) the opportunity to participate in similar proceedings that have been afforded to the faculty. Furthermore, the PEA would like to acknowledge our respect for the concerns shared and resolutions passed by the UMA Faculty Senate. We also assert that the Faculty Senate's viewpoints regarding these matters do not, and cannot, at this time, be seen as a representative voice of the entire UMA community. In order to determine the true voice and will of the full community, reasonable efforts to equitably include staff in such proceedings needed to be made. At this time, this requirement has not been met and the PEA has yet to be

afforded the opportunity to meet with our membership to determine if a vote or resolution of any kind would be made on our unit's behalf.

The UMA Professional Employees Assembly is eager to move forward, find resolutions, and rebuild relationships within our institution so we may continue to focus on the education of our students and the betterment of our community.

Sincerely,

The UMA Professional Employees Assembly Senate

Shelley Taylor-Chair & Representative to the President's Cabinet

Christine Knight-Vice Chair

Alissa Gervais-Secretary

Ben Bucklin-Treasurer

Joe Demotta-Senator & SGA Representative

Cynthia Young-Senator & CEA Representative

Laurie Grant-Senator & Professional Development Funds Chair

Lynett Kelly-Senator at Large

Jonathan Church-Senator at Large



May 20, 2022

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System,

The UMA Social Science program faculty is writing to the Board today in order to express its agreement with the two votes of no confidence of the UMA Faculty Senate, the vote of no confidence by the USM Faculty Senate, the vote of no confidence by the UMF Faculty Senate, the statement issued by students during the UMF 24-hour sit-in, the statement of the University of Maine Faculty Senate executive committee, and the statement of the University of Maine at Machias Faculty Senate.

Over the last two weeks, longstanding structural problems regarding secrecy, exclusion, centralization of power, and resource inequality within the University of Maine system have been brought into sharp focus by the abrupt retrenchment of popular and productive faculty at UMF and the revelation of unethical practices in the UMA presidential search. Make no mistake: as the many voices you hear today make clear, these are not the totality of the problems facing the University of Maine System. They are the straws that have broken the camel's back, revealing in public what we have heretofore recognized privately: that the breakdown of shared governance in the system has led to a breakdown of trust and community.

The UMA Social Science program stands not only with the UMA Faculty Senate but with our colleagues and students across the system who are voicing discontent with the processes that exclude critical voices and lead to tragically flawed outcomes. Regarding UMA in particular, we ask system leadership, including the Board of Trustees, to take public responsibility for this breach of ethics and to begin a new search during the next academic year in a process grounded in system transparency, centering UMA community members, and listening to UMA voices. More generally, we call for a new era of shared governance that demonstrates through transparency and distributed decision-making a respect for the diverse knowledge, expertise, cultures, and needs of the students, staff and faculty at the seven universities of the University of Maine System.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Lorien Lake-Corral, Coordinator
On behalf of the UMA Social Science Program



public comment for BOT meeting May 20, 2022

1 message

Wendy Chapkis

Thu, May 19, 2022 at 11:29 PM

To: "ums.trustees@maine.edu" <ums.trustees@maine.edu>

To the UMS Board of Trustees,

I have been on the Faculty at the University of Southern Maine for more than 25 years. I have rarely experienced such a profound sense of alienation among faculty from the System and the Board of Trustees. The responsibility for that problem lies squarely with System leadership.

Recently, in the aftermath of the decision by the Chancellor, and the Board of Trustees' representative, to withhold crucial information from the Presidential hiring committee at University of Maine Augusta, the faculty at that campus voted No Confidence in the Chancellor. In response, Mr. Malloy acknowledged that "shared governance and faculty voice are absolutely critical in a healthy relationship between faculty and university and System leaders."

Indeed.

Yet, when the University of Southern Maine faculty also voted No Confidence in the Chancellor, Mr. Malloy simply suggested that faculty are "anxious" about change, thus entirely ignoring each of the very real and specific issues that inspired our vote.

When, most recently, the University of Maine Farmington faculty also voted No Confidence in the Chancellor, Mr. Malloy once again suggested that faculty are just emotional. He said they were "reacting to very difficult decisions and challenges facing UMF," once again ignoring legitimate and important concerns about the financial choices the System is making – including the decision to spend \$13.5 million dollars on renting and renovating a new law school building in the Old Port to serve no more than 200 students.

In order to rebuild a relationship of trust by the faculty in the University of Maine System and its Board of Trustees, not only is new leadership at the top absolutely essential but also greater transparency on the part of the Board of Trustees in future decision-making and hiring.

Sincerely,
Dr. Wendy Chapkis

Chair and Professor of Sociology

Professor of Women & Gender Studies

University of Southern Maine