

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine
September 15-16, 2024
Board of Trustees Meeting

Present: **Trustees:** Trish Riley, Chair; Lisa Eames, Vice Chair; Roger Katz, Barbara Alexander, Patrick Flood (Zoom), Donna Loring, David MacMahon, Kelly Martin, Owen McCarthy, John Moore, Pender Makin (Zoom) and Michael Michaud. **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **University Presidents:** Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ray Rice, Jenifer Cushman, Joseph McDonnell, Leigh Saufley, Deborah Hedeem and Jacqueline Edmondson. **Faculty Representatives:** Clyde Mitchell, William Otto, Ivan Manev, Joe Staples. **Student Representatives:** Grace Hills, Tristan Mitchell, Anna McGlaughlin, Ava Ellis, Tyler Davis, Alec Brooks, and Griffin Goins. **System Staff:** Ryan Low, Jeff St. John, Paul Chan, Carolyn Dorsey, Seth Goodall, Samantha Warren, Gretchen Catlin, Robert Placido, Jason Charland, Heather Ball, Jen O’Leary, Miriam White, Tracy Elliott, and Elizabeth Stickler.

Trustees Absent: Emily Cain

Sunday, September 15, 2024

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Monday, September 16, 2024

Trustee Riley, Chair, called the public meeting to order at 8:30 am and welcomed everyone. Chair Riley recognized the first anniversary of the explosion last year in Farmington that took the life of a fire fighter with a moment of silence and reflection.

CITIZEN COMMENT

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

Meredyth Waters – UM Student; Thanking System for increasing funding for mental health resources, asked for policy for online learning, Hutchinson Center

Darrin Martone – UM Student; Conversion of Estabrooke from dorm to offices affecting availability of housing on campus.

Moe Hills, Pete Quimby, Ken Richards, Bo Morre, Zack Sneed, Gabe Swartz, Olivia Ingersoll, Chris Larrabee, Kadence Spaulding, Terry McAllister, Lou Ulrich, Steve Look, Will Kelly, Greg Whitcomb, Joe Talbot, Sherman Cram, Diane Mitru Colby, Brenda Philbrook, Dylan Harth, Steve Nickenson, Travis Huff – Calvary Chapel Belfast; Hutchinson Center RFP process.

Chair Riley thanked the speakers and clarified that the Board does not have authority over the Hutchinson Center decision, which is a University of Maine process. Chancellor Malloy provided an update that the process is not over, an appeals process was exercised, and additional steps will be announced by September 26th for an open process to consider the property's future.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FARMINGTON DISCUSSION

President McDonnell introduced the speakers who gave an overview of the UMF Teacher Education Programs.

- UMF has historically prepared undergraduates to become teachers for Maine schools
- Recent efforts include increasing graduate programs, mentoring young teachers, creating diverse pathways into the profession, and partnering with school districts and community colleges
- The education programs are leading UMF in serving adult completer populations and taking an entrepreneurial approach to expand the student body
- UMF offers 13 approved teacher education programs and one pathway through the professional studies degree
- Fall 2024 new undergraduate students in education make up 36.4% of UMF's entering class
- UMF has 61 signed transfer agreements, with 39% in education
- The university is focusing on attracting future teachers through early college programs and specialized admissions events
- Efforts to retain teachers include resilience programming and support for students
- Collaborations with school districts are helping to address teacher shortages and provide pathways for conditionally certified teachers
- UMF is developing a teacher apprenticeship program for early childhood professionals

- The New Teacher Academy supports teachers in their first three years of practice

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Riley thanked President McDonnell and UMF staff for hosting the Board meeting. She provided updates on the following:

1. Response to Previous Public Comments:

Chair Riley addressed concerns raised at the July meeting:

- Air conditioning in labs: The University of Maine is upgrading first aid kits and discussing lab upgrades as part of budget deliberations.

- Paramedicine degree program: The Chancellor has been working on this proposal.

- Chair Riley emphasized that when the Board hears complaints, they work to resolve them and will report on progress at subsequent meetings.

. October Board Retreat:

- The previously scheduled October Board Retreat has been cancelled.

3. Restructuring of Board Meetings:

- Starting in November, board meetings will be restructured to be more concise and focused.

- Sunday night executive sessions will be shorter.

- Monday sessions will be full-day working meetings to allow for more in-depth discussions among presidents, the chancellor, vice chancellors, and the board on key issues.

4. Committee Updates:

- The Strategic Planning Committee will now meet annually instead of more frequently.

- Two new ad hoc committees have been created:

- a. Fundraising Committee

- b. AI/Technology Committee

- Trustee McCarthy provided an update on the AI working group, which will be a 12-month effort focused on board-level responsibilities related to AI policy, guidance, and funding.

5. Student Trustee Policy:

- Following new legislation, a student trustee policy is being developed.

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- Current Student Representatives to the Board have been involved in drafting the policy.
- The policy will detail the process for selecting student members of the Board.
- A UMS Student Trustee Selection Council (SCST) will be formed, including all campus Student Government Presidents and Student Representatives.
- The first meeting of the SCST is scheduled for December, with the goal of seating the first Student Trustee in July 2024.

PRESIDENTS' ROUND TABLE

Chair Riley invited each university president to provide a brief update on recent developments at their institutions. Highlights included:

- UMaine: President Ferrini-Mundy reported on increased retention rates and growth in engineering and computing enrollments.
- USM: President Edmondson discussed new public safety initiatives and art exhibits on campus.
- UMPI: President Rice highlighted enrollment growth, particularly in the YourPace program.
- UMA: President Cushman reported on the growth of the aviation program and housing initiatives.
- UMFK: President Hedeem shared updates on convocation and homecoming events.
- UMF: President McDonnell discussed shifts in academic programs to better serve workforce needs.
- Maine Law: Dean Saufley reported on increased enrollment and bar passage rates.

BOARD POLICY UPDATES

Redlined Board Policy First Read

Trustee Alexander presented the proposed first reading of changes to Section 204.1 President Evaluation Process. She explained that the purpose of these changes is to clarify the Board's role with respect to changing, amending, or extending contracts with university presidents. The proposed changes aim to make the Board's role clear in these processes.

Trustee Alexander invited comments from other Board members and noted that any feedback received before the next Board meeting would be considered. The final version of this policy will be presented for adoption at the next Board meeting.

Redlined Board Policies

Trustee Alexander presented two items for final approval: Board Policy 213 on Honorary Degrees and Board Policy 416 on Search and Hiring. She noted that these policies appeared in the meeting materials in July in redlined form and that there have been no changes since that time.

On a motion by Trustee Alexander, which was seconded by Trustee Katz, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the final version of the edited Board Policies 213 and 416 as initially presented in redlined form at the July 2024 Board Meeting and provided at the September 2024 Board Meeting materials in final form.

Chair Riley thanked Trustee Alexander and the Policy Review Committee for their thorough work in updating these important policies.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Malloy provided a comprehensive update on several key areas:

- Strong enrollment numbers across the System
- Successful move-in days and homecoming events at campuses
- Participation in a Lumina Foundation conference on Maine's workforce initiatives
- Appointment of two new faculty members to the UMaine Board of Agriculture

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee McCarthy, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the following two research faculty appointments to the UMaine Board of Agriculture: Dr. Stephanie Burnett for a five-year term beginning 2023 and Dr. Philip Fanning for a five-year term beginning 2024.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES REPORT

Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives Carolyn Dorsey provided an update on Title IX regulations and policies:

Recent Changes and Implementation Delay:

- The Department of Education recently put forth changes to Title IX regulations that were intended to be implemented in 2024.
- Due to an injunction, the DOE is not able to enforce all of the states using the new 2024 regulations.
- The University of Maine System, along with the state of Maine, was listed in the injunction.

Current Status:

- The UMS is postponing the update to the new 2024 regulations.
- The System will continue to follow the current 2020 regulations until further advised about next steps.

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Importance of Title IX:

- Dorsey emphasized that the System, universities, and law school take Title IX and these regulations and policies very seriously.

Request for Board Policy Review:

- Dorsey requested that as the Board Policy Review Committee looks at updating policies, they pay particular attention to Policy 402, which covers most of Title IX content.

- Over the years, elements that are process or procedure-related, including specific contact information, have been included in the policy.

- These details change quickly and may be better housed in an Administrative Practice Letter (APL) rather than in Board policy.

Proposed Next Steps:

- Dorsey suggested moving the procedural details from Policy 402 to an APL, which would allow for easier updates as needed.

- Trustee Alexander noted that Section 12 of the document, which summarizes free speech and academic freedom requirements, may need revision.

- She suggested that instead of trying to summarize these complex topics, the section should simply reference the existing academic freedom and free speech policies.

- Trustee Alexander agreed to take up this task with the policy subgroup.

- She indicated that the working group would review the suggestions promptly and report back to the Board.

VC Dorsey reiterated the System's commitment to maintaining compliance with Title IX regulations while also implementing best practices in addressing sex discrimination and sexual misconduct in educational programs.

Dorsey committed to keeping the Board informed of any significant developments or changes in Title IX regulations that may impact UMS policies and procedures.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) Discussion:

Vice Chancellor Jeffrey St. John presented on the development of Key Performance Indicators for the UMS Strategic Plan:

- Seven KPIs have been identified to reflect major content areas of the plan's goals

- Metrics have been attached to each KPI, with efforts underway to identify target values or projections

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- Recent positive developments in enrollment growth, transfer activity, retention, research success, and fiscal responsibility have impacted the development of target values
- The team has used both empirical projections based on iPEDS data and accounted for various factors affecting growth and performance
- In some cases, a range rather than a single target number has been provided to reflect potential variability
- The KPIs will be brought back to the Board in November for a final vote
- Trustees provided feedback on making the KPI document more accessible and understandable to the public
- It was clarified that these seven KPIs are for Board-level monitoring, while more detailed aspects of the Strategic Plan will be reviewed by committees

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

Vice Chancellor Ryan Low provided a comprehensive update on the financial status of the University of Maine System:

Investment Results:

- Managed Investment Pool (MIP):
 - * Market value of \$373 million at the close of July
 - * Gain of 1.5% for the month of July
 - * Estimated gain of 1.8% for August based on index returns
- Pension Fund:
 - * Market value of \$17.5 million in July
 - * Gain of 1.2% for July
 - * Estimated gain of 1.5% for August
- Operating Fund:
 - * July market value of \$261 million
 - * Gain of 1.1% for July, resulting in a return of about \$3 million
 - * Estimated gain of approximately 1% for August

Low noted that while the start of the fiscal year has been good, markets remain volatile day-to-day.

New Financial Tools:

Low introduced two new tools recently created with the CIO's help:

Administrative Practice Letter (APL) Chatbot:

- * Available on the APL webpage to assist in navigating policies
- * Focused on returning results consistent with uploaded information
- * Designed to be precise rather than expansive in its responses
- * Success rate of about 95% in providing accurate information

Board Policy Manual Chatbot:

- * Similar concept to the APL chatbot but for Board policies
- * Allows users to quickly find specific policy information

Low demonstrated these tools live, showing their capabilities and potential uses across the UMS.

FY2025 Budget Timeline:

- Low reminded the Board that budget development is an ongoing process throughout the year
- The current focus is on addressing any budget gaps created after the initial budget approval in May
- Campuses are working on enrollment projections and credit hour calculations
- Budget memos are expected to be submitted in October
- An update will be provided at the upcoming Finance, Facilities and Technology (FFT) committee meeting
- The full budget materials will be posted for action at the November Board meeting

Five-Year Capital Plan:

Low, along with Nate Harris, Associate Director of Capital Planning, presented an overview of the UMS Five-Year Capital Plan:

- The plan is described as "aspirational" and subject to change based on funding and needs
- Development of the plan began in February with input from campuses and presidents

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- The plan is built around E&G (Education & General) and auxiliary funds
- It sustains a value of \$1.2 billion to support over 400 projects valued at over \$1.5 billion
- The plan has direct ties to Unified Accreditation and the Strategic Plan
- Charts and graphs were presented to show the allocations of funding across various project types and campuses

Discussion:

- Trustees asked for clarification on specific aspects of the financial reports and new tools
- There was particular interest in how the chatbots could be used to improve accessibility of information for students and staff
- Discussion ensued about the long-term financial sustainability of various initiatives and how they align with the System's strategic goals

Low concluded by emphasizing the importance of financial transparency and the ongoing efforts to improve financial management across the UMS.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Robert Placido, Chief Information Officer, gave an update on the Unified Catalog and MaineStreet modernization project:

- The Unified Catalog project consists of 18 major projects, some completed and others ongoing
- Recent progress includes implementing a tool for degree audit cleanup across campuses
- The next phase involves implementing a course and degree auditing tool, expected to be ready by spring
- The final phase will provide students with a universal core search and intuitive degree planning capabilities
- The project aims to support traditional students as well as transfer and adult learners
- Challenges include ensuring clean and accurate data across all campuses
- The goal is to launch the student-facing aspects of the Unified Catalog by fall 2025, with some components potentially available earlier
- Trustees expressed appreciation for the progress made and emphasized the importance of this initiative for student success and transfer pathways

These expanded and additional sections provide more detail on the KPIs, Maine Center, and Unified Catalog discussions. They can be incorporated into the full minutes in their appropriate chronological positions.

MAINE MOBILE BIOLAB PRESENTATION

Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives Carolyn Dorsey introduced Jason Judd, Executive Director of Educate Maine, and Kate Howell, Director of Workforce Partnerships at Educate Maine, to present on the Maine Mobile BIOLAB program.

1. Introduction and Background:

- Jason Judd explained that the idea for the mobile STEM laboratory came from educators across the state who expressed a need for more support in rural classrooms.
- The initiative aims to address the shortage of STEM-qualified teachers and provide access to cutting-edge equipment and curriculum in rural areas.
- The project was made possible through a Congressionally Directed Spending request supported by Senators Collins and King.

2. BIOLAB Specifications:

- The BIOLAB is a 52-foot mobile laboratory built and developed over the last 12 months.
- It is designed to travel to different middle schools each week, partnering with local STEM teachers.

3. Economic Impact and Rationale:

- Judd highlighted the growing importance of life sciences jobs in Maine's economy:
 - * Over 9,000 current life science jobs in Maine across 450 different companies
 - * Life science jobs have a six to one multiplier effect on job creation

4. Program Focus and Goals:

- The project primarily targets rural schools and middle school students.
- Aims to build the STEM pipeline by engaging students during a critical period when they often decide whether to pursue STEM occupations.
- Provides high-quality, hands-on lessons to middle school students, supporting local teachers.

5. Curriculum and Lessons:

Kate Howell provided details on the curriculum:

- All lessons are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Maine Learning Results.
- Lessons cover various areas and integrate across STEM disciplines.

6. Program Reach and Impact:

- The BIOLAB visited 12 schools during its pilot term and expanded to additional communities during the summer.
- Plans to visit 29 schools in the upcoming academic year, nearly tripling the reach of the pilot program.
- Received overwhelmingly positive feedback and requests for return visits.

7. Funding and Support:

- Judd acknowledged the crucial funding from the University of Maine System that has made the program possible.
- Emphasized the need for continued support to expand the program's reach and impact.

8. Future Plans:

- The team plans to visit every county in Maine over the academic year.
- They are working on creating a schedule that will allow Board members and other stakeholders to visit the BIOLAB at various locations.

9. Interactive Demonstration:

- The presenters invited the Board members to tour the BIOLAB, which was parked on campus.
- They offered to provide a quick demonstration of the type of activities students experience in the lab.

10. Questions and Discussion:

- Trustees asked about the long-term sustainability of the program and its potential impact on STEM education in Maine.
- There was discussion about how to measure the program's success in encouraging students to pursue STEM careers.
- Board members expressed enthusiasm for the initiative and its potential to address educational disparities in rural areas.

Chair Riley thanked Jason Judd and Kate Howell for their presentation and encouraged Board members to take the opportunity to tour the BIOLAB. She emphasized the importance of such initiatives in advancing STEM education and workforce development in Maine.

ACTION ITEMS

1. E-Sports Arena Construction Budget Increase, USM

On a motion by Trustee Katz, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, 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 Southern Maine to increase the budget from \$750,000 to \$1,625,000 to be funded through a UMS loan of up to \$875,000 for the renovation of the lower area of the Brooks Dining Area for an E-Sports Arena located on the Gorham campus of the University of Southern Maine.

2. Kelley Commons Boiler Replacement, UMPI

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Katz, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, 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 at Presque Isle to spend up to \$1.5 million to replace two boilers in Kelley Commons.

3. Mallett Hall Restroom Budget Increase, UMF

On a motion by Trustee Katz, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, 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 at Farmington to increase the construction budget up to \$500,000 making the total project budget \$3,200,000 to renovate the restrooms and replace the failing plumbing infrastructure at Mallett Hall.

4. Sustainable Aquaculture Workforce and Innovation Center (SAWIC), UMaine

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Katz, and approved by Trustees present with an abstention by Trustee Loring, and by roll call vote, 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 increase the authorization to expend an additional \$9,565,000 for a total expenditure of up to \$11,065,000 for the construction and completion of an approximately 14,200 square foot facility to house Sustainable Aquaculture Workforce and Innovation Center (SAWIC).

MAINE CENTER PRESENTATION

CEO Seth Goodall provided an overview and update on the Maine Center initiative:

- The Maine Center focuses on four main areas: interdisciplinary graduate degrees, professional development, entrepreneurship and innovation, and knowledge sharing

- Current programs include the University of Maine School of Law, Maine Graduate School of Business, USM's Musky School of Public Service, and collaboration with the Maine College of Engineering and Computing

- Plans for executive education and professional development courses are being developed
- The Center aims to be a hub for entrepreneurship and innovation, including small business counseling and a business law clinic
- Renovations are planned for the 7 Custom House building, with design work underway
- Funding sources were discussed, including the Harold Alfond Foundation grant and matching requirements
- Future considerations include sustainability of faculty positions and programming after grant funding ends
- Trustees discussed the importance of demonstrating the Center's success and its potential impact on Maine's economy

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee and authorized the University of Maine System, acting through the Maine Center, to expend \$650,000 for design, planning and limited renovations and capital improvements at the Maine Center in Portland, Maine.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

VC St John presented two resolutions for tenure at time of hire.

Tenure at Time of Hire, UMaine

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approved tenure at the time of hire, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Maine, effective June 1, 2024.

Tenure at Time of Hire, USM

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approved tenure at the time of hire, Associate Professor in the Osher School of Music at the University of Southern Maine, effective September 1, 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Trustee Eames, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Acceptance of minutes from previous meetings
- Authorization of space reduction and construction of a new facilities management building at UMF

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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- 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, UMPA, 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 Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Marting, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees concluded the Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:40 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17-18, 2024 at the University of Maine.

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/>

Adjournment

Elizabeth Stickler, Clerk