

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

at the University of Maine
November 17-18, 2024

Present: **Trustees:** Trish Riley, Chair; Lisa Eames, Vice Chair; Roger Katz, Barbara Alexander, Patrick Flood, Emily Cain, Donna Loring (Zoom), Elise Baldacci, William Kemler, Philip Hussey (Zoom), David MacMahon, Kelly Martin, Owen McCarthy, John Moore, and Michael Michaud. **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **University Presidents:** Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ray Rice, Jenifer Cushman, Joseph McDonnell, Leigh Saufley, Deborah Hedeon and Jacqueline Edmondson (Zoom). **Faculty Representatives:** Timothy Surette, Libin Louis, Clyde Mitchell, William Otto, Ivan Manev, Joe Staples. **Student Representatives:** Grace Hills, Alec Brooks, Olivia Britton, Camille Alipalo, and Griffin Goins. **System Staff:** Ryan Low, Jeff St. John, Paul Chan, Carolyn Dorsey, Samantha Warren, Gretchen Catlin, Robert Placido, Jason Charland, Heather Ball, Jen O’Leary, Miriam White, Tracy Elliott, and Elizabeth Stickler.

Trustees Absent: Pender Makin

Sunday, November 17, 2024

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Monday, November 18, 2024

Trustee Riley, Chair, called the public meeting to order at 8:00 am and welcomed everyone.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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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, 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 Michaud, 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.

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

CITIZEN COMMENT

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

James Cook - UMA Associate Professor of Sociology; Student Worker Pay Report

Derek Demello - UM History PhD Student; Board Policy 214

James Fields - Former UM Student; Divestment

Emma Terrara Jones - USM Alumni; Academic Freedom and Divestment

Abigail Fuller - USM Faculty; Divestment and Free Speech Policy

Jamila Levasseur - USM Alumni; Board Policies and Divestment

Kaia De Bries - UM Graduate Student; Free Speech Policy

Lucas Bent - UM Senior; University Investments

Asher Reisman - UM Staff; Divestment

Ashley Hebert - UM Graduate Student; Divestment

Meredyth Waters - Liberal Arts Funding

Gracelyn Gebel - UM Student; Free Speech Policy and Divestment

Noah Charney - UM Faculty; Jerusalem Declaration

Talia Cullum - UM Student; Jewish Voice for Peace

Kevin Roberge - UM Faculty; Jewish Voice for Peace

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Willow Cunningham - UM Graduate Student; Divestment

Eleanor Allan-Rahill - UM Student; Divestment

Megan Sauberlich - UM Student; Divestment

Tamra Benson - UM Alumni; Divestment

Zach Campbell - UM Teacher; Divestment

Beau Michaud - UM Student; Liberal Arts Funding

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Riley welcomed new board members at their first official board meeting: Elise Baldacci, Philip Hussey (Zoom), and William Kemler, student trustee from the University of Maine at Machias. She also welcomed Charles Stuller Jr., new Staff Associate for Board Operations.

Chair Riley congratulated President Ferrini-Mundy on two recent appointments:

- Named to the National Science Board by President Biden
- Selected as chair of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities

Chair Riley addressed materials received from various groups regarding:

- Middle East concerns
- Personnel issues
- University of Maine study on worker compensation

She noted that in spring 2024, she met with the president of Jewish Voice for Peace student club and concerned students from the University of Maine Law School regarding divestment and Middle East issues. A full listing of UMS investments in Israel was provided at that time and remains available.

Chair Riley also noted that Board Policies 212 and 214 are currently in draft form and have been reviewed by stakeholders including students.

Resolution for Trustee Valerie Landry

Chair Riley presented the following resolution:

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Valerie Landry served as a dedicated member of the Board of Trustees for the University of Maine System from 2023 to 2024. She has been a respected and engaged Board member including service on the following standing committees: Human Resources & Labor Relations Committee and Strategic Planning Committee. Valerie Landry's insightful perspectives on the value of public higher education in a time of profound change and the need for transformational leadership provided impactful guidance beyond the length of her term. Throughout her time as a Trustee, Valerie consistently demonstrated judicial temperament that contributed to thoughtful and meticulous deliberations on all matters brought before the Board of Trustees and addressed at the Committee level. Valerie also made significant contributions to the University of Maine System by stimulating and actively participating in efforts to advance AI and contemplate its impact on higher education. In addition, Valerie exhibited exemplary leadership through her collegiality and represented UMS effectively at the Association of Governing Boards' annual conference where her persistent and charming outreach to peers across the country led to important relationships and new information from other institutions to inform the Board's deliberations.

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 approved the resolution.

Chair Riley acknowledged Rosa Redonnett's retirement with these remarks:

Rosa Redonnett is retiring from her position as Associate Vice Chancellor after 37 years with the system. While she was unable to attend the meeting due to being at a conference, both Chair Riley and Chancellor Malloy offered remarks on her service:

Chair Riley noted:

"When I first was appointed to the board I had a call from a high-ranking good friend in the community college system who said meet Rosa, she's great to work with and I learned that is certainly true. She's had a terrific career working with us. She's worked with the students on the board and she will be missed and we wish her all the very very best in retirement."

Chancellor Malloy added:

"It has been a privilege to work with her, particularly in onboarding me she was extremely helpful. 37 years within the system is quite remarkable. She helped oversee the relationship with the community colleges and had a counterpart who I think the two of them actually negotiated the deals between us for years. She really did fantastic work and she will be missed."

Rosa Redonnett will be retiring in December 2024.

AI Work Group Update

Trustee McCarthy provided an update on the AI work group, which he chairs with Vice Chancellor Low as co-chair. The group includes:

- Trustee Kelly Martin

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- Vice Chancellor/President Joan Ferrini-Mundy

- CIO Robert Placido

- President Ray Rice

- Paloma Shelton (UMF student)

- James Sullivan (USM faculty)

The work group's charge focuses on three areas:

1. Board responsibilities regarding AI policies, frameworks, and funding requests
2. Promoting ethical and strategic use of AI across institutions
3. Providing recommendations on AI's long-term impact on higher education

Confirmation of Faculty Representative

President Cushman introduced Dr. Timothy Surette as the new Faculty Representative from UMA to replace Patrick Cheek who resigned. Dr. Surette is an Associate Professor of Education at UMA who previously taught science at a public middle school and served as an elementary and middle school assistant principal in Maine. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine and is in his third term on the Bangor School Committee.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of the Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees as presented.

Board Policy Updates

Trustee Alexander presented proposed the latest changes to Board Policies, now referencing 212 and 214 for first reading:

Policy 212 - Free Speech, Academic Freedom and Civility:

- Extensive reviews conducted with student representatives, faculty representatives, and legal counsel prior to redline changes
- Emphasized there was no intent to restrict current rights and remedies of students or faculty
- Clarified that board policy provides high-level guidance, with implementation details developed at university level

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- Presidents can develop more detailed policies for their campuses while adhering to board policy framework

Policy 214 - Institutional Authority on Political Matters:

- Changes focused on eliminating board's attempt to control speech of certain system employees
- Removed detailed oversight requirements to provide more flexibility
- Aimed at freeing up policy from overly prescriptive language
- Maintains core principles while allowing appropriate campus-level implementation

Trustee Alexander noted that:

- These are redline drafts that will continue to receive comment
- She will work to communicate with the public and understand concerns raised during public comment
- The working group will review feedback over next several weeks before the January meeting
- Intent is to protect, not restrict, free speech and academic freedom
- Implementation details are best managed at campus level while maintaining system-wide principles

In response to concerns raised during public comment, Chair Riley noted that Trustee Alexander would reach out to student groups to clarify the intent of the policy changes.

Trustee Alexander also presented Board Policy 204.1 for final approval.

On a motion by Trustee Alexander, which was seconded by Trustee Eames, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the final version of the edited Board Policy 204.1 as initially presented in redlined form at the September 2024 Board Meeting and provided at the November 2024 Board Meeting materials in final form.

PRESIDENTS' ROUND TABLE

Chair Riley invited each president to provide brief updates:

President Rice (UMPI) highlighted:

- Return of UMPI Diversity Dialogues
- Screening of "Mary and Molly" film with Trustee Loring

President McDonnell (UMF) reported:

- Cross country team won North Atlantic Conference championship
- Success of Learning Commons peer tutoring program
- Strong student participation in tutoring programs showing improved outcomes

President Saufley (Maine Law) discussed:

- Environmental program achievements
- Student participation in international climate conference
- Clinical programs outreach
- Professor Charles H. Norchi honored by Royal Asiatic Society

President Edmondson (USM) reported:

- Attending American Association of State Colleges and Universities conference
- 1.9% increase in credit hours at census
- Largest percentage of undergraduate students identifying as non-white
- 44% increase in students transferring from Maine Community College System
- 50% of in-state students graduating without debt
- Grand opening of Adult Student Success Center
- Women's Soccer Team won Little East Championship

President Hedeem (UMFK) highlighted:

- Business breakfast focused on hiring international students
- Veterans Day ceremony in newly established Veterans Square
- Student leadership dinner focusing on DEI components

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- Monthly open mic nights showcasing student talent

President Cushman (UMA) reported:

- Rankings achievements in US News & World Report
- #1 in Maine for "Best for Vets" by Military Times
- Growth in athletics programs
- Faculty research featured on New Hampshire PBS

President Ferrini-Mundy (UM) discussed:

- Strategic Reenvisioning Initiative progress
- Green Engineering and Materials building groundbreaking
- Versant Astronomy Center 70th anniversary
- New nursing pathway with UMaine Augusta for Washington County
- FAFSA pilot program with US Department of Education
- Women's soccer America East Conference championship

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Malloy highlighted:

- Strong initial semester across the system
- Successful campus visits completed
- Collaborative work among presidents and vice chancellors
- Significant improvements in enrollment and retention
- Partnerships with community colleges

Vice Chancellor St. John Provided an Enrollment Update:

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Undergraduate headcount enrollment and credit hours are up, graduate headcount enrollment and credit hours are up systemwide. In aggregate, headcount enrollment is up 3.1% for fall overall 23 to 24 and credit hours are up 4.2% fall to fall 23 to 24.

University of Maine:

- Incoming class of degree and certificate seeking students at 2,019 students
- Increase of 206 students or 11.4% over fall of 23
- Noted significance of surpassing 2,000 students benchmark

University of Maine at Machias:

- Credit hours up 8% over fall 2023
- Attributed to students taking fuller course loads

University of Maine at Augusta:

- Full-time first-time class increased by 8.1% over last fall
- Graduate enrollment up 35.6% over last fall, approaching 100 graduate students

University of Maine at Farmington:

- Graduate headcount enrollment up 22.6%
- First-time full-time undergraduate students up 16.5% over last fall
- Undergraduate transfers up 47% after converting from four credit to three credit degree system

University of Maine at Fort Kent:

- Overall enrollment up 4.1% compared to fall 2023
- Graduate enrollment doubled, reaching 98 students

University of Maine at Presque Isle:

- Overall enrollment up 662 students year-over-year, a 44% increase
- Entering transfer undergraduates up 377 students

University of Southern Maine:

- Entering transfer undergraduates up 11.8% over last year

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- Graduate student headcount up 3.4% over last year

University of Maine School of Law:

- Student enrollment up 4.1%
- Credit hours up 4.8% fall to fall 23 to 24

He also highlighted retention gains:

- Historic one-year increase in retention at University of Maine
- Significant increases at USM and Farmington
- System-wide return rate for fall 2024 at 75.7%, highest recorded in 20 years of data collection

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES' REPORT

Vice Chancellor Dorsey and Vice Chancellor St. John presented a resolution on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the UMS Strategic Plan KPIs and Metrics as presented and will receive updates on KPI status at future Board meetings.

Collective Bargaining Agreements

Two tentative agreements were presented for approval:

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees authorized the Chancellor to execute the collective bargaining agreement with the Universities of Maine Professional Staff Association (MEA/NEA) (UMPSA), upon notice that the agreement has been ratified.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees authorized the Chancellor to execute the collective bargaining agreement with the Associated COLT Staff of the Universities of Maine (MEA/NEA) (ACSUM), upon notice that the agreement has been ratified.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION & TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chancellor Low provided updates on:

Investment Results:

- Managed Investment Pool (MIP): Market value of \$383 million at close of September, gain of 1.8% for the month

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- Pension Fund: Market value of \$18.3 million in September, gain of 0.9%
- Operating Fund: Market value of \$312 million, gain of 0.9% for September

Budget Forecast:

- First time in seven years without substantial budget revisions needed at November meeting
- Strong enrollment and retention contributing to improved financial position
- Campuses managing budgets effectively despite ongoing challenges
- Detailed review of individual campus performances provided

Reimbursement Resolution

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee and declared official intent for System reimbursement from the proceeds of tax-exempt obligations for certain capital expenditures funded by the system prior to the issuance of such tax-exempt obligations.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION'S REPORT

Vice Chancellor Ferrini-Mundy presented updates focused on fostering system-wide research development and innovation:

Strategic Focus Areas:

- Growing R&D and Innovation Enterprise system-wide
- Supporting student engagement in research
- Addressing state of Maine needs
- Building knowledge base and expanding technologies

Research Leaders Group (RLG):

- Meeting quarterly with representatives from all campuses
- Working to define research identity of individual institutions
- Focus on place-based nature of universities and research opportunities

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- Emphasis on research integrated with teaching and classroom activities

State-Focused Research Initiatives:

- Rural Issues Symposium recently held on Orono campus
- Strong participation and partnerships including:
 - Maine Arts Commission
 - Maine USDA
 - Maine CDC
 - Island Institute
 - Outdoor Sport Institute
 - MDIBL
 - Rural Futures Fund

MEIF Small Campus Initiatives:

- Broadened participation across system campuses
- Notable projects include:
 - Drone Workforce and Community Economic Development at UMA
 - Heavy metals remediation in contaminated wastewater

System-wide Resource Sharing:

- UMaine System Grants Academy providing grant writing support
- EMPOWER mentoring program connecting faculty with mentors
- Research and Innovation Speakers Series with over 700 attendees since 2022

Recent Grant Awards:

- Projects engaging students in research across multiple campuses
- Focus on marine sciences and environmental research
- S-STEM project through National Science Foundation supporting marine science education

- Northern States Research Cooperative work on DNA gathering

Federal Engagement:

- Enhanced partnership through Cornerstone for federal government activity
- Annual University of Maine System call for ideas
- Support for congressionally directed spending requests
- Gratitude expressed to Maine's congressional delegation for continued support

Vice Chancellor Ferrini-Mundy emphasized that while research activities are growing across the system, continued support is needed for faculty to have time and resources for research engagement, particularly at smaller campuses. She noted the importance of research activities in supporting student retention and success while addressing state needs.

Tenure Credit Award at Time of Hire - Exception for Board Policy 310

Vice Chancellor St. John explained that a scholar nationally known for Robert Frost studies came to UMaine as part of spousal hiring accommodation. Had a tenure stream line been available at the time of hire, this would have been a tenure at time of hire request. The university is requesting four years of credit toward tenure instead of the normal three years since a tenure line is now available.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, 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 an exception to BOT policy 310.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Dr. Robert Placido, CIO, provided a comprehensive update on the Unified Catalog initiative and related projects:

Unified Catalog Update

- Initiative consists of approximately 18 major projects
- Highlighted as significant case study for higher education in addressing system-wide technology integration
- Added new Course Auditor tool to identify gaps in degree audit system

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- Implementing tools to help manage student data and improve degree progress tracking
- Software installation approximately 60% complete
- Additional vendor training provided to campus teams

Brightspace Implementation

- Project initiated summer 2024 under President Rice's guidance
- Completed November 1st
- First phase focused on CBE program analytics
- Platform provides better insight into learning experiences across campuses
- Project completed ahead of schedule despite late summer start

Parchment Implementation

- New system for transcript and diploma delivery
- Project 70% complete with expected delivery December 10th
- Focused on improving efficiency of diploma delivery from campuses

Boomi Integration Project

- Identified as solution for addressing data integration gaps
- Will connect 50-60 critical systems for improved data flow
- Enables real-time data synchronization between systems
- Training began November 1st with two weeks of intensive staff preparation
- Expected to improve processes including admissions by reducing data sync delays from days to real-time

Unified Core Search

- Final phase focusing on system-wide course search capabilities
- Enables students to search academic opportunities across the entire system
- Initial phases underway with vendor
- Expected delivery spring 2024

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, 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 to spend \$2,499,583.49 over a 5-year period to purchase and implement the Boomi Integration Platform.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chancellor St. John provided context about the UMA A.S. in Cybersecurity program just before the consent agenda vote:

VC St. John noted two good questions from trustees from the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting about one of the two Academic Program proposals on the consent agenda: the A.S. degree in Cyber Security at UMA.

The first question was what the fit of this program is within the system's broader set of programs and the second question was how will it help provide additional opportunity for students across our system.

This program fills an explicit gap in programming across the system and at UMA. UMA offers a Bachelor's of Science in cyber security and a Masters of Science Program. Having an associates degree completes the trifecta and allows students to come in at any point and earn courses toward that program. It will also be the only Associate of Science degree in cyber security anywhere in our system so it's an opportunity for students coming from any Maine Community College or any other external Community College student or other transfer student to come in and start at the AS level if a student would like to do so.

It will help provide additional opportunity because the faculty and provost developed this program to be entirely online so any student can access these courses from anywhere in the system or from outside of they system. All of the courses already exist within the bachelor's program. UMA has taken an existing set of faculty resources and existing set of courses and created a new credential. This plugs a gap and helps students develop a progression toward higher levels of training and education in cyber security.

Because the program is online it's accessible to a much greater extent not only for adult learners or adult transfers but of course UMA's existing population which is heavily adult and has quite a few students who take courses primarily online. Because there are similar programs in cyber security at the bachelor's level at UMPI and Fort Kent and a graduate program in cyber security at UMA and USM, there's an

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opportunity for students who want to earn this degree and then either stay at UMA or go elsewhere and progress toward Master's Level Training in the system to do so because this first step is now being provided by UMA.

On a motion by Trustee Eames, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the items on the Consent Agenda were approved as follows:

- Acceptance of Minutes
- New Academic Program Proposal: A.S. in Cybersecurity, UMA
- New Academic Program Proposal: B.S. in Computer Science and Business, UM
- Capital Center Space Renovation Project Budget Increase, UMA
- Ground Lease Authorization, UM, Sigma Chi Fraternity
- Greenhouse Renovation through Replacement, UMFK
- Awarding of Academic Degrees

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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

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for January 12 -13, 2025 at the University of Southern Maine.

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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