

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees
Zoom Meeting

February 12, 2025

Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee

Present: Committee Members: Roger Katz (Chair), David MacMahon, Trish Riley, Emily Cain, Mike Michaud, Patrick Flood, Owen McCarthy, **Other Trustees:** John Moore, Barbara Alexander

Chancellor: Dannel Malloy **Presidents:** Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ray Rice, Joseph McDonnell, Deb Hedeon, Leigh Sauflay, Jacqueline Edmondson **System Staff:** Ryan Low, Carolyn Dorsey, Robert Placido, Amon Purinton, Sam Warren, Elizabeth Stickler, Gretchen Catlin, Jeff St. John, Tracy Elliott, Seth Goodall; **Faculty Representative:** Clyde Mitchell. **Other Participants:** Kelly Sparks, Aili Robinson, Betsy Sawhill-Espe, Pam Ashby, Justin Swift, Joe Szakas, Laurie Gardner, Nicole Vinal, Jenny Boyden, Darla Reynolds, Megan Desjardins, Corey Hascall, Jeff Mills, Jake Ward, Kevin Frazier.

Committee Members Absent: Lisa Eames.

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

FY2024 ANNUAL REPORT ON GIFTS, FUND RAISING AND ENDOWMENTS

The University of Maine System (UMS) Annual Report on Gifts, Fund Raising and Endowments for the year ended June 30, 2024 was discussed. This report presents:

- Total gifts received by donor type, restriction type, purpose, and campus.
- A 5-year comparison of UMS gift balances (endowment market value, non-endowed gift balances, and pledges outstanding) as of June 30th.
- Gifts received and endowment balances for the UMS' affiliated fund raising organizations.
- The financial status of open capital campaigns.

Darla Reynolds, Director of Accounting, gave a few brief comments and was available to address any questions the Committee members may have regarding the report's contents.

All gifts received fulfill the policy requirements of the Board of Trustees and the UMS follows the intent of its donors. The UMS expresses its deep gratitude to all donors for their gifts, donations and bequests.

FY2024 PHILANTHROPY OVERVIEW

Jeffrey N. Mills, Ph.D., President/CEO of the University of Maine Foundation and Corey Hascall, President/CEO of the University of Southern Maine Foundation provided a brief presentation regarding FY2024 philanthropy.

PARKING GARAGE MAINTENANCE, USM

The University of Maine System acting through the University of Southern Maine (USM) requested authorization to expend up to Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$850,000) for repairs to the Parking Garage attached to the Abromson Center located on the Portland campus at the University of Southern Maine.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee approved the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees acting through the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee, authorizes the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Southern Maine, to expend up to Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$850,000) for repairs to the Parking Garage attached to the Abromson Center located on the Portland campus.

EXTERIOR RUSSELL HALL RENOVATIONS

The University of Maine System acting through the University of Southern Maine (USM) requested authorization to expend up to Nine Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand (\$975,000) for exterior renovations to the envelope of Russell Hall located on the Gorham campus.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee approved the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees acting through the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee, authorizes the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Southern Maine to spend up to Nine Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand (\$975,000) for exterior repairs to the envelope of Russell Hall located on the Gorham campus.

OSHER SCHOOL OF MUSIC, STEINWAY PIANO FINANCING, PROJECT AND REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZATION, USM

The University of Maine System acting through the University of Southern Maine (USM) requested authorization to finance up to Two Million, Eight Hundred Thousand dollars (\$2,800,000) in pianos and related costs procured for the Osher School of Music.

The Osher School of Music currently has 43 pianos with an average age of 51 years and all are assessed in either fair or poor condition. With the opening of the Crewe Center for the Arts in August, the time is right to replace these pianos. The Osher School of Music, which will reside within the Crewe Center for the Arts, is aspiring to become a designated All Steinway School. This designation will place the Osher School of Music within the top schools of music. This designation will also enable the Osher School of Music to be more competitive in recruiting students and faculty. A criterion to becoming a designated All Steinway School is at least 90% of the pianos must be Steinway. If the Osher School of Music becomes a designated All Steinway School this summer, it will be the 250th institution to do so. The approximate 28 pianos under this proposal include a concert grand piano for the performance hall, pianos for practice rooms, and electronic pianos for group lessons.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded to the March 10, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee and approves the Financing, Project and Reimbursement of Project Expenditures resolution to authorize the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Southern Maine, to fund pianos and related costs with a Project total up to \$2,800,000, using financing with a maximum principal amount of debt of up to \$2,800,000 and declares 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.

MAINE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL CENTER (“THE MAINE CENTER”) BUILDING RENOVATIONS

The Maine Center sought approval to spend up to \$8,500,000 from existing UMS Capital Improvement Funds (CIF) provided by the Governor Mills and Maine Legislature, Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) secured by U.S Senators Susan Collins and Angus King at the request of UMS awarded to UMS for the Maine Center, and \$250,000 from Maine Center Reserves.

The Maine Center expanded from 300 Fore Street into 7 Custom House Street at the end of 2023. Significant renovations are required at 7 Custom House Street and additional capital expenditures remain at 300 Fore Street and/or are required to connect the buildings. The requested funding is estimated to provide for renovations on two or more floors equaling approximately 20,000 square feet.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded to the March 10, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee, and authorizes the University of Maine System, acting through the Maine Center, to spend up to \$8,500,000 for renovations and capital improvements at the Maine Center in Portland, Maine.

CHADBOURNE HALL RENOVATIONS, UM

The University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine, requested authorization to spend up to \$600,000 for renovations of areas within Chadbourne Hall for the relocation of UMS Human Resources, UMaine Peace Studies, and Office of International Programs (OIP) as part of a space consolidation effort.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee approved the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees acting through the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee authorizes the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine, to spend up to \$600,000 for renovations within Chadbourne Hall.

ORCHARD TRAILS APARTMENTS LEASE, UM

The University of Maine System (UMS), acting through the University of Maine (UMaine), sought authorization to enter into a lease agreement with Orchard Trails Apartments, 4 Empire Drive, Orono, ME 04473, to meet the needs for additional housing for students in FY26.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee approved the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees acting through the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee, authorizes the University of Maine, acting through the University of Maine, to enter into a lease agreement for ten, 4-bedroom student apartments with Orchard Trails Apartments for \$410,000 in FY26.

KATZ RECORDING STUDIO RENOVATION

UMA requested permission to spend up to \$600,000 to renovate the current recording studio.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee approved the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees acting through the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee authorizes the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine at Augusta to spend up to \$600,000 to renovate the Katz Recording Studio using E&G funding.

IT PROJECT UPDATES

Chief Information Officer Robert Placido provided updates on several critical IT initiatives supporting the unified catalog project.

The IT department is actively managing these essential projects, each contributing to the enhancement of our technological infrastructure and operational efficiencies, aligning with the University's mission to foster educational excellence through technology, collaboration, and service.

Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) System Expansion

The MFA System Expansion is divided into two parts; Adoption & Integration. The adoption of the expanded Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) system was implemented on January 1, 2025. A dashboard providing detailed statistics about the MFA adoption is available [here](#) (Access Required).

As of January 15, 2025, the adoption rate for the expanded MFA system among faculty and staff stands at 80% total, with 95% of full-time faculty/staff and 51% of part-time faculty/staff enrolled respectively. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) implementation will be expanded to additional systems, prioritizing those containing restricted data, including systems such as ImageNow, for GLBA compliance. Secondary priority systems include those containing internal and confidential data. These MFA implementations support both cybersecurity insurance requirements and data protection goals.

Network Infrastructure Modernization

After serving the University of Maine System community for more than 20 years, the tempest wireless network was decommissioned on January 1, 2025. Despite being the most utilized network due to its user-friendly nature, accounting for 43.5% of campus traffic, tempest's open architecture with public IPs and unencrypted traffic posed increasing security risks and performance challenges.

The networking team executed a strategic transition plan that balanced security requirements with user needs. Key to this success was the early deployment of MaineEDU-Open, a new secure network designed specifically for residential IoT devices, coupled with a comprehensive communication campaign targeting different user segments. The university now maintains a modern, layered network infrastructure featuring eduroam for secure authentication, specialized networks for IoT devices (medev and MaineEDU-Open), and a filtered guest network (MaineEDU-Guest).

Boomi Implementation

Having established both test and production environments, the Enterprise Services team has successfully completed a comprehensive 40-hour hands-on training program with several team members having earned a Boomi Associate Developer Certification.

The team is actively working on replacement integrations for Oracle Cloud Recruiting and Jaggaer (MaineStreet Marketplace). In addition to these replacement integrations, the Boomi team is working with our developers on detailed implementation approaches for additional priority integrations. Initial core system integrations are targeted for completion in Spring 2025.

HighPoint Course Auditor (Simulation Mode)

Campus reports were completed November 2024. Data analysis is ongoing, with internal and external campus engagement meetings beginning January 13, 2025 and ending February 2025. Next phase: developing campus-specific data cleanup training with additional assistance offered by HighPoint. The system-wide data cleanup associated with this effort is projected to be completed by spring, with UMF's 4-3 credit DRPs continuing into the summer. Back-office Course Auditor implementation is not included in current project scope and requires future planning.

Unified Course Search

UMS:IT reconvened with HighPoint on January 16, 2025, this time including campus registrars for their first review of the project's design and engineering specifications. During this meeting, the registrars provided feedback on functionality improvements and student usability features, which HighPoint will incorporate into their engineering development process. The design review and engineering feedback phase will conclude in February, followed by further development and prototyping in March and April. The project is targeted for completion in Spring 2025.

Maine Law: Separate Business Unit

Maine Law's separation into a distinct MaineStreet business unit continues to progress. A planning meeting between Maine Law leadership and the Associate CIO for Enterprise Services is scheduled for January 22, 2025. This session will review critical business processes, both current and future, required to advance the technical implementation plan.

Raptor Enhancements

The Raptor Enhancements project is on track for February 2025 delivery. Progress on three key enhancements is as follows: ACE/Credly document type implementation is complete and validated; export script for campus-specific transcript association is near completion, with testing planned for late January 2025; dashboard display and data integration updates will follow the export script testing.

eRez Life

The eRezLife Implementation project is on track. Campus vendor training is complete, and the phased rollout continues as planned. IT is coordinating with residence teams on training, data migration, and systems integration. Next milestone: Go-live at UMA and UMFK on January 15, 2025, with no current risks identified. Final phases will focus on student financials integration and testing. Legacy Mercury system retirement is planned for 2025.

Parchment Transcripts & Diploma

The University of Maine System has received confirmation from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) regarding their March 7, 2025 service deactivation. This planned deactivation is the final step needed to implement Parchment Transcript and Diploma services across UMS campuses in early March. The technical implementation work for Parchment was completed in December 2024. NSC will provide detailed transition instructions on February 21, 2025, two weeks before the deactivation date, ensuring a coordinated switchover to the new Parchment service.

UMS IT Communications Project

The "UMS IT Communications" project is focused on assessing existing technologies and communication strategies to enhance IT communication and better engage end users. Current efforts include evaluating the effectiveness of existing communication methods, benchmarking against higher education best practices, and developing refreshed messaging approaches. A key milestone in this phase is the introduction of the newly styled communication featuring the Zoom AI Companion, which exemplifies the project's commitment to delivering clear and engaging IT updates. This work directly supports the University of Maine System's 2023–2028 strategic goals of enhancing employee effectiveness and fostering effective organizational communication. By prioritizing these foundational improvements, the project will position IT to better meet user needs.

STRATEGIC PLAN TRACKING UPDATE

Vice Chancellor Low and Gretchen Catlin, Chief Facilities & General Services Officer, reviewed progress on initiatives assigned to the FFT Committee.

Ryan Low first addressed budget-related items, noting that:

- Institutions are currently finalizing their FY26 budgets
- Budget presentations are due now
- Public presentations will be held on March 19th via YouTube
- The committee will meet in work session in mid-April
- Budget approval will come in late April/early May

He also referenced ongoing mental health initiatives, noting this was also discussed in other committee meetings.

Gretchen Catlin provided updates on two specific areas:

1. Energy management and cost control (FS 3.3):

- Q2 report showed \$885,000 in savings from net energy billing
- This brings cumulative savings to \$7.6 million since joining the program
- They expect higher electricity costs from CMP going forward

- However, they anticipate lower natural gas expenses to help offset electricity increases

2. Strategic real estate and instructional site review (EIP 1.2):

- Quarterly real estate reviews continue with each campus
- These reviews ensure alignment on property acquisitions, dispositions, and leases
- The reviews help keep the offsite campus location report updated
- This ongoing process allows for continuous evaluation and "right-sizing" of the real estate portfolio

During the Q&A, there was discussion about time-of-day electricity pricing. Ms. Catlin mentioned they're working with CES to gather data on time-of-day usage patterns to make informed decisions. Trustee Alexander noted that time-of-use pricing is typically directed at residential customers rather than large commercial entities like the university.

Trustee Katz emphasized the importance of these regular updates in keeping the strategic plan a "living document" rather than something that "sits on a shelf gathering dust."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee 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 and
- 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 a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Committee concluded the Executive Session.

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

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

Adjournment.

Elizabeth Stickler, Clerk