

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

June 23, 2025

Zoom Meeting

Present: Committee Members: David MacMahon, Chair; Barbara Alexander, Roger Katz, Trish Riley, Emily Cain, Kelly Martin, Elise Baldacci, Riley Worth & Will Kremler **Presidents:** Joseph McDonnell, Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Leigh Saufley, Ray Rice, Deb Hedeon, Jacqueline Edmondson & Jenifer Cushman **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy **System Staff:** Jeffrey St. John, Ryan Low, Carolyn Dorsey, Jamie Ballinger, Heather Ball, Lisa Landry & Elizabeth Stickler **Student Representatives:** Michelle Dionne & Isabella Bouchard **Faculty Representatives:** Lisa Leduc & Clyde Mitchell. **Provosts:** Adam Tuchinsky, Megan Walsh, Alana Margeson, Jeffrey Maine, Katherine Yardley & Joseph Szakas **Others:** Tim Doyle

Members not attending: Donna Loring, Will Kemler, Lisa Eames,

Committee Chair MacMahon called the ASA Committee meeting to order and thanked everyone for participating. The clerk took the roll of committee members present.

Student Representative Discussion

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee invited student representatives to the Board of Trustees to bring forward discussion items relevant to their university communities and the University of Maine System.

The new graduate student representative from the University of Southern Maine, Michelle Dionne, was introduced to the group.

Vice Chancellor St. John concluded this segment by thanking all of the student representatives for their continued commitment and attendance to meetings that occur regularly prior to each committee and board committee to identify topics they feel relevant to share with the Trustees.

Faculty Discussion

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee invited faculty representatives to the Board of Trustees to bring forward discussion items relevant to their university communities and the University of Maine System.

Faculty discussion emphasized the continuing development of AI advancements in higher education and indicated excitement among all campus faculty regarding the opportunities for improvement of the use and acceptance of AI in all modalities of teaching, with specific

emphasis placed on the importance of teaching critical thinking by focusing on asking well-stated questions and formatting complex prompts to develop deeper research with the help of AI.

90 Credit Degree Programs

Discussion continued regarding the development of 90-credit degree programs, which began in 2025 and received institutional approval mid-2025. These programs target adult degree completers, with a supportive stance from the Department of Education. VC St. John discussed the continued consideration by NECHE and the Board in moving forward with these programs and how the University of Maine System would once again be paving the way in higher education for this type of program development.

Continued in this discussion was the overview of the development timeline and exploration of the 90-credit hour applied bachelor's degree programs that were started in April 2024. At this stage, approval of five programs at four universities has been completed within a year of that initial approval. Extensive discussion circulated around updating the resolution of this approval to include terms such as 'pilot' and ensuring eligibility criteria were clear for adult degree completers, as several Trustees feel that it is critical to define what an adult degree completer is and who would qualify for this specific degree path. Trustees and committee members also debated on the inclusion of a unified evaluation plan for these pilot programs that would specifically note continued exploration of this concept, student success considerations, faculty engagement, board engagement, program development, review and campus-level approvals, and the timeline of continuation of these programs past this initial 'pilot' phase.

New Academic Program – B.A in Applied Liberal Arts (90 Credit) - UMPI

The Bachelor of Arts in Applied Liberal Studies at the University of Maine at Presque Isle leverages the university's existing Liberal Arts teaching and student support capabilities and organizes the existing curriculum into a streamlined learning format designed for adult learners who seek applied professional skills. The B.A. in Applied Liberal Studies (90-credit) is fully transferable into the 120-credit full degree program (should students choose to continue beyond 90 credits).

The committee and Trustees deliberated the approval of this resolution given the prior discussion of the emphasis that these 90 credit degree programs would be considered a 'pilot' program until the Board and this committee were satisfied with the structure and efficacy of the instruction. The trustees and committee agreed to adjust this resolution and all other 90 credit degree program resolution to include the word 'pilot' as part of the title.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Alexander and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded to the agenda of the July 14, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Bachelor of Arts in Applied Liberal Studies as a 'Pilot' Degree Program (90-credit) at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

New Academic Program Proposal - B.A. in Applied Psychology (90 Credit) - UMPI

The B.A. in Applied Psychology (90-credit) at the University of Maine at Presque Isle leverages the university's existing Psychology teaching and student support capabilities and organizes the existing curriculum into a streamlined learning format designed for adult learners who seek applied professional skills. The B.A. in Applied Psychology (90-credit) is fully transferable into the 120-credit full B.A. degree program (should students choose to continue beyond 90 credits).

Enthusiastic support for this program at UMPI was acknowledged by faculty and committee members, prioritizing adult learning and continuing education in this field.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Alexander and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded to the July 14, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psychology as a 'Pilot' Degree Program (90-credit) at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

New Academic Program Proposal – B.S. in Applied Public Administration (90 Credit) - UMA

The Bachelor of Science in Applied Public Administration (90-credit) at the University of Maine at Augusta leverages the university's existing Public Administration teaching and student support capabilities and organizes the existing curriculum into a streamlined learning format designed for adult learners who seek applied professional skills. The B.S. in Applied Public Administration (90-credit) is fully transferable into the 120-credit full degree program (should students choose to continue beyond 90 credits).

After discussion from UMA President Cushman and members of UMA about the development and curation of the program for adult learners, enthusiastic support was noted towards the resolution.

On a motion by Trustee Riley, which was seconded by Trustee Alexander and approved by a roll call vote, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded to the July 14, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Bachelor of Science in Applied Public Administration as a "Pilot" Degree (90-credit) at the University of Maine at Augusta.

New Academic Program Proposal – B.S. in Applied Business Management (90 Credit) - UMFK

The Bachelor of Applied College Studies (90-credit) at the University of Maine at Machias leverages the university's existing College Studies teaching and student support capabilities and organizes the existing curriculum into a streamlined learning format designed for adult learners who seek applied professional skills. The Bachelor of Applied College Studies (90-credit) is fully

transferable into the 120-credit full degree program (should students choose to continue beyond 90 credits).

The committee discussed the development of this program as essential in building educational pathways for adult degree students living in the region, and aligning with campus related long-term educational goals in terms of supporting this resolution.

On a motion by Trustee Alexander, which was seconded by Trustee Cain and approved by a roll call vote, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded to the July 14, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Bachelor of Science in Applied Business Management as a “pilot” Degree Program(90-credit) at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

New Academic Program Proposal – Master of Education, UMF

The Master of Education at the University of Maine at Farmington aims to equip educators and education professionals with advanced knowledge in instruction, curriculum, policy, and advocacy. It targets current and aspiring educators seeking to deepen their content and pedagogical knowledge through inquiry, policy understanding, and advocacy.

Discussion of the program focused on the strategic development taken to attract enrollment by avoiding duplication of other system and campus programs while leveraging collaborative strengths to provide opportunities for shared curriculum and resources. The program’s infrastructure will utilize existing faculty and adjuncts without requiring new facilities or equipment.

This program aims to retain teachers, create alternative pathways to certification, develop educational leaders, and strengthen PreK through 12 schools while generating sustainable revenue with existing resources. This new master’s degree is a 30-credit program with a 12-credit common core and two specialization tracks specifically designed to address shortages in Maine and enhance existing certificate programs. Program accessibility is enhanced by offering core course online and certificates with low residency requirements, which targets UMF graduates and degree completers such as Ed Techs.

This proposal also emphasized the programs market advantage over private colleges due to lower tuition costs with the opportunity to offer expanded graduate enrollment and course offerings.

This proposal moves forward with the support of faculty and administrators from the University of Maine, the University of Maine at Augusta, and the University of Southern Maine. Discussions with representatives from each unit revealed pathways for future collaboration.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Katz and approved by a roll call vote, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded to the July 14, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Master of Education at the University of Maine at Farmington.

UMS Academic Calendars of AY 2029-2030 and AY 2030-2031

Advance development of academic calendars ensures continuity of academic and co-curricular planning and course delivery while supporting effective communication and collaboration across UMS.

These academic calendars are planned 5 years in advance to support external program reviews, major academic conferences, research trips, and expeditions. Contracts related to the future academic years are already being developed which underscores the importance and necessity of long-term planning.

VC St. John discussed how campus and system registrars have worked collaboratively on summer and winter session calendars, establishing the earliest start and latest end dates without compromising session offerings. Acknowledgements were made to those registrars and members of the office staff for their work in the development of these calendars. Trustees discussed a possible policy update regarding academic year calendars which would incorporate updated language reflecting the new process of bringing future year calendars to the trustees in an improved proposal process.

Criminal Justice Collaboration Update

Upon their November 2024 approval of the University of Maine's (UM) undergraduate program in Criminal Justice, the trustees requested a future update on ongoing collaboration between UM and the University of Maine at Presque Isle. UMPI Provost Alana Margeson and UM Senior Associate Provost Gabe Paquette have summarized that work in the document provided in meeting materials.

Representatives from UM and UMPI and Vice Chancellor St. John updated the committee and trustees on collaboration between the UM and UMPI Criminal Justice programs. Meetings occurred in the Spring between Senior Associate Provost at Orono and Provost at UMPI which identified collaboration opportunities between the two programs which also offering programs that are specific to each institution. Flyers directed to students are being used to advertise for courses and serve as advising support. Ongoing communication is planned to identify further collaboration opportunities for additional cross-campus collaboration with regular reviews already planned throughout the next academic year.

Draft 2025-2026 ASA Committee Work Plan

The Academic and Student Affairs Work Plan aligns the priorities and tasks of the Committee with the goals of the 2023-28 University of Maine System Strategic Plan, ensuring consistency of purpose and process and maximizing outcomes for our students.

VC St. John reviewed the draft of the work plan with the committee, which includes updates on 90 Credit Degree Programs throughout the year and aligns with reports from the Strategic Plan.

Trustees suggested keeping the multi-university program update as an annual report in line with Strategic Plan initiatives, and desired identification of strategic plan related objectives to be added to the plan. Direct Admit updates will also be included with broader enrollment report updates that provide better context in future meetings throughout the year.

Based on trustee feedback, the plan will be updated and shared as a proposed final document ahead of the August ASA meeting.

Executive Session

On a motion by Trustee Cain which was seconded by Trustee Riley, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Executive Committee meeting went into Executive Session under the following provisions:

- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-A to discuss the evaluation of personnel and the consideration of appointments, evaluations, employment and duties.

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

Public Session

Off-Cycle Tenure Request - UMFK

The University of Maine at Fort Kent recommends that tenure be awarded at the rank of Professor in the Department of Forestry at the University of Maine, effective September 1, 2025, in accordance with Board of Trustee Policy 310.

On a motion by Trustee Riley, which was seconded by Trustee Baldacci, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approves the following resolution to be forwarded for Board of Trustee approval at the July 14, 2025, Board meeting.

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the tenure in the Department of Forestry at the University of Maine at Fort Kent effective September 1, 2025.

Additional information about the meeting can be found on the Board of Trustees website:
<https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/meeting-agendas-materials/academic-and-student-affairs-committee/>

Adjournment

Kayla Flewelling, for
Elizabeth Stickler, Clerk