

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees
Zoom Meeting

June 25, 2025

Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee

Present: Committee Members: Roger Katz (Chair), David MacMahon, Trish Riley, Emily Cain, Mike Michaud, Patrick Flood & Riley Worth **Other Trustees: Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy **Presidents:** Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ray Rice, Joseph McDonnell, Jenifer Cushman, Leigh Saufley, Deb Hedeon & Jacqueline Edmondson **System Staff:** Ryan Low, Carolyn Dorsey, Jeffrey St. John, Lisa Landry, Samantha Warren, Gretchen Catlin, Robert Placido & Elizabeth Stickler **Faculty Representative:** Clyde Mitchell. **Other Participants:** Jake Ward, Nicole Vinal, Justin Swift, Jenny Boyden, Chris Haley, Kevin Coughlin, Ali Robertson

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.

Boardman Hall Modernization - UM

The Boardman Hall renovation will significantly contribute to supporting the growth of engineering and computing programs across the University of Maine System (UMS), advance UMaine's R1 status, and drive positive impact across Maine. The modernization of research and classroom spaces will foster greater interdisciplinary collaborations among students, faculty, and external stakeholders, intentionally bridging research and learning, with an enhanced virtual learning capabilities that will connect students and faculty throughout UMS. The newly designed spaces will empower UMaine to launch innovative academic programs, ensuring Maine's workforce is equipped for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine (UMaine), requests authorization to expend up to \$10,040,000 (approximately 20% of the total estimated project cost) for the modernization of Boardman Hall for design services, preconstruction services, early site/building work, ordering of new building equipment with long lead times, and early construction packages.

Built in 1948 and opened in 1949, Boardman Hall is the home to the School of Engineering Technology, the School of Computing and Information Science, and the

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The building is named after Harold S. Boardman, who graduated in civil engineering at UMaine in 1895. Mr. Boardman was a devoted member of UMaine and eventually served as UMaine's seventh president from 1926 to 1934. In 1964, the university expanded the two wings of Boardman Hall, added more floors, and in 1990, built the Llewellyn Edwards wing. With the additions, Boardman Hall has an area of approximately 64,800 gross square feet. While Boardman Hall has experienced several renovations over the years, those renovations were target-based renovations to specific areas of the building, such as roof replacements, classroom renovations, office renovations, and lab renovations. Boardman Hall, in approximately seventy-six years, has not had a major renovation to address the building envelope, HVAC upgrades, electrical upgrades, and plumbing upgrades. Space utilization within the building is limited to the layout of the building and significant renovations will increase utilization while providing a welcoming building for faculty, staff, researchers, and students. The current net asset values for Boardman Hall, 5.58% for the main building and 26.9% for the Edward Wing, reinforce the need for this renovation.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by a roll call vote for all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board approval at the July 14, 2025, Board 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 University of Maine (UMaine), to expend up to \$10,040,000 for the modernization of Boardman Hall. This authorization includes funding for design and preconstruction services, early site and building work, procurement of long-lead-time equipment, and early construction packages.

Darling Marine Center Marine Culture Laboratory Renovation to Increase the Resilience of Maine's Aquaculture Industry - UM

The Darling Marine Culture Laboratory at the University of Maine reinforces the value of unified accreditation by creating shared infrastructure, research tools, and workforce development pathways across the UMS. By renovating the Marine Culture Laboratory at the Darling Marine Center to provide hatchery-grade seawater, the University of Maine is revitalizing a key aquaculture facility with a national legacy. The upgraded hatchery will serve as a research and student learning resource across multiple UMS institutions and industry partners. It addresses a critical climate vulnerability - seed supply, while supporting state and regional priorities. Results and methodologies will be shared across the System and beyond through venues such as the Northeast Aquaculture Convention and Expo and the Aquaculture in Shared Waters training program, one of the largest in the U.S.

Academic and Workforce Impact:

This initiative strengthens UMaine's and UMS's ability to prepare students for leadership in aquaculture. Students will engage in real-world, applied research, gain hands-on training with novel infrastructure, and participate in life cycle and techno-economic analyses that model sustainability in action. The initiative enhances experiential learning, supports faculty scholarship, and fosters collaboration with industry, embodying the goals of Standard Eight (Educational Effectiveness) and Standard Five (Students).

By investing in aquaculture systems, the University of Maine is advancing NECHE's values of integrity, effectiveness, and innovation. This initiative reflects how unified accreditation enables the System to adapt to a changing world and help shape it.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote for all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board approval at the July 14, 2025, Board 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 University of Maine (UMaine), to expend up to \$1,362,000 for the Darling Marine Center Marine Culture Laboratory Renovation to Increase the Resilience of Maine's Aquaculture Industry.

UMaine Forest Biochemicals Innovation Center, UM

The University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine (UMaine), requests authorization to expend up to \$7,425,000 to construct the Forest Biomaterials Innovation Center (FBIC). FBIC will be approximately 7,200+/- square feet, a stand-alone research building, including a new sidewalk and loading dock area.

The FBIC site is adjacent to (less than 20 feet from) the Process Development Center (PDC) and Jenness Hall on the University of Maine Campus in Orono, Maine. The Process Development Center is a 37,000-square-foot facility that houses a pilot paper machine, commercial-scale mechanical refiners, four 3,500-gallon processing tanks, and various other equipment. In addition to housing the PDC, Jenness Hall is a 3-story building with classrooms, offices, laboratories, conference rooms, and a lobby. Direct access to the FBIC, the Process Development Center, and Jenness Hall is required to accomplish the planned tasks efficiently.

The FBIC will consist of an ample, open space to accommodate new equipment that will allow innovative processing of forest fiber at a demonstration scale. The new FBIC will include a temperature and humidity-controlled room, pipe chases to deliver slurries from

the PDC to the FBIC to supply equipment within the FBIC, a wet lab for measuring and processing wood fiber slurries, and, if funding allows a conference room for hosting students and professionals for training.

Funding of \$7,425,000 is from a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) 2024 Congressionally identified construction grant secured by U.S. Senator Collins and Senator King at the request of the University of Maine System.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote for all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board approval at the July 14, 2025, Board Meeting:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee to authorize the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine (UMaine), to expend up to \$7,425,000 for the design and construction of the new Forest Biomaterials Innovation Center research facility.

Maine Agriculture and Forest Experiment Station (MAFES) Analytical Laboratory Modernization and Expansion, UM

The renovation of the Analytical Laboratory and Maine Soil Testing Service at the University of Maine aligns with the University of Maine System's mission and leverages the opportunities afforded by unified accreditation. The laboratory already has statewide reach through serving stakeholders and research related to soil and plant analyses; 2023 saw 21,000 samples analyzed by the lab across New England. The lab provides critical soil and plant analyses for research across the state and all UMS campuses. Expansion of the capacity and modernization of the equipment within the lab will enhance the research, innovation, and experiential learning that the lab currently provides. This capacity will serve students and courses by providing hands-on experiences and training. The expanded research capacity will allow the laboratory to serve a wider range of faculty across the UMS, supporting unified accreditation. In addition, the external stakeholders that the lab serves also provide critical support for the other campuses to deliver needed services to their constituents. The Analytical Laboratory and Maine Soil Testing Service modernization and expansion align directly with NECHE Standard One by creating opportunities for teaching, research, scholarship, creative activity, and outreach, which are core components of the UMS mission.

The University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine (UMaine), requests authorization to expend up to \$4,969,000 for the modernization and expansion of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station (MAFES) Analytical Laboratory and Soil Testing Services within Deering Hall.

The existing Analytical Laboratory and Soil Testing Services lab was constructed within Deering Hall in 1981 to increase the capacity to provide in-demand testing for thousands of annual users, enhance soil research, and foster hands-on student learning while supporting the sustainability and growth of Maine's natural resource economy and dependent jobs.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote for all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board approval at the July 14, 2025, Board 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 University of Maine (UMaine), to expend up to \$4,969,000 for the modernization and expansion of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station (MAFES) Analytical Laboratory and Soil Testing Services.

College of the Atlantic Lease, UM

Maine Sea Grant upholds the University's Sea Grant mission to serve the entire coast of Maine. The program's administrative, research, and communications staff are on the UMaine campus in Orono and in a satellite office in Brunswick. A team of extension specialists is geographically distributed across the 3,500-mile coast. This team is known as the Marine Extension Team (MET), and Maine Sea Grant's extension capacity is supported through a formal partnership with UMaine Cooperative Extension. MET offices are located at Cooperative Extension County offices, UMaine research facilities, municipal offices, educational institutions, and nonprofit partner organizations in the coastal communities they serve. In Bar Harbor, Maine Sea Grant staff serves mid-coast to Downeast communities by providing a direct connection to UMS administration and researchers through the extension professional in a full-time office at the College of the Atlantic, a close local partner institution, enabling connection to the diverse coastal community of Bar Harbor, central to Maine's coast, this extension profession is our Extension Program leader. The staff members at this location provide supervision and academic advisory services for UMS undergraduate and graduate students working in mid-coast Maine, as well as periodic interns and part-time professionals working on Sea Grant-supported projects, enabling richer educational programs and workforce training opportunities. The Extension Leader provides leadership and coordination for statewide partnerships and collaborations and regional and national Sea Grant working waterfront, tourism, and coastal resilience initiatives, as appropriate to geographic issues.

The University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine (UMaine), requests authorization to enter into a lease agreement with the College of the Atlantic

located at 105 Eden St, Bar Harbor, Maine for office space effective November 1, 2025, for one year with renewal terms of four additional one-year terms for an annual cost of \$4,500 with a total cost across all terms of \$22,500 with final terms and conditions subject to review and approval by the University of Maine Treasurer and General Counsel. The current lease expires on October 31, 2025, with no renewals remaining.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote for all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board approval at the July 14, 2025, Board Meeting:

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 enter into a lease agreement with College of Atlantic with all final terms and conditions subject to review and approval by the University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

Eastport Port Authority Lease, UM

Maine Sea Grant upholds the University's Sea Grant mission to serve the entire coast of Maine. The program's administrative, research, and communications staff are on the UMaine campus in Orono and in a satellite office in Brunswick. A team of extension specialists is geographically distributed across the 3,500-mile coast. This team is known as the Marine Extension Team (MET), Maine Sea Grant's extension capacity is supported through a formal partnership with UMaine Cooperative Extension. MET offices are located at Cooperative Extension County offices, UMaine research facilities, municipal offices, educational institutions, and nonprofit partner organizations in the coastal communities they serve. In Eastport, Maine, Sea Grant staff serve Downeast communities by providing a direct connection to UMS administration and researchers through the extension professional in a full-time office at the Eastport Port Authority, a close local partner, enabling connection to the diverse coastal community of Eastport and much of Downeast Maine. The staff member at this location provides supervision and academic advisory services for UMS undergraduate and graduate students working in Downeast Maine, as well as periodic interns and part-time professionals working on Sea Grant-supported projects, enabling richer educational programs and workforce training opportunities. The Extension Professional provides leadership and coordination for statewide partnerships and collaborations, as well as for regional and national Sea Grant aquaculture initiatives as appropriate to geographic issues. International collaborations will also be supported and aligned with the mission, state, and national priorities.

The University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine (UMaine), requests authorization to enter into a lease agreement with the Eastport Port Authority

located at 141 Water St, Eastport, Maine for office space effective October 1, 2025, for one year with renewal terms of four additional one-year terms for an annual cost of \$8,475 with a total cost across all terms of \$42,375 with final terms and conditions subject to review and approval by the University of Maine Treasurer and General Counsel. The current lease expires on September 30, 2025, with no renewals remaining.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote for all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board approval at the July 14, 2025, Board Meeting:

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 enter into a lease agreement with Eastport Port Authority with all final terms and conditions subject to review and approval by the University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

Orchard Trails Apartments Lease Increase, UM

The University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine (UMaine), seeks authorization to amend the authorized lease agreement from ten 4-bedroom student apartments for \$410,000 to twelve 4-bedroom student apartments for \$492,480 with Orchard Trails Apartments.

On February 12, 2025, at the Finance, Facilities, and Technology meeting, the Board of Trustees acting through the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee authorized 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.

The students staying at Orchard Trails will pay a rental fee as if they are on campus. Per our projections, roughly \$443,808 would be received from rental fees, leaving approximately a \$48,000 variance paid from the Auxiliary Housing operational budget. Additionally, the University can reduce the approximately \$48,000 variance through students that occupy the rentals for 12 months versus the 10-month rental fee.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote for all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board approval at the July 14, 2025, Board Meeting:

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 amend the authorized lease agreement from ten, 4-bedroom student apartments for \$410,000 to twelve, 4-bedroom student apartments for \$492,480 with Orchard Trails Apartments in FY26.

Additional Residential Housing in Hallowell, UMA

The University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine at Augusta requests authorization to enter a new lease with Mastway Development LLC (also known as SC-One LLC) to add as many as 62 additional beds for student housing, in addition to a fully functioning dining hall in a new leased building located at 9 Coos Lane, Hallowell, Maine.

The request is pursuant to Board of Trustees Policy 801 – Acquisition of Real Property, which requires leases with a total value of \$100,000 or more or a term of five (5) years or more to be considered by the Board of Trustees or the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee. The proposed duration of the lease is fifteen (15) years at an annual rate of **\$907,236** with no inflationary adjustments. The estimated total cost of the lease is **\$13,608,540**.

Annual lease fees will be funded in part through a combination of student room and board revenue, conferencing and event fees, and budgeted auxiliary funds. By integrating dining with housing, we will significantly expand our capacity to house students while also enabling the hosting of camps and conferences that are currently not feasible without this facility. Once operational, the new unit is expected to drive a substantial increase in activity and utilization in that area.

Demand for student housing at the University of Maine at Augusta continues to grow, particularly for students participating in specialized in-person degree programs like Architecture, Aviation, Nursing, and Cybersecurity that attract traditional-aged students from Maine and beyond. This demand continues to outpace the current capacity of 103 beds. UMA has partnered with a local hotel to accommodate the overflow for the short term while we develop a long-term solution that meets student housing needs and provides a quality of student life that aligns with the UMS strategic plan.

The leased housing units in Hallowell have consistently maintained or exceeded 100% occupancy. During the Fall 2024 semester, up to 20 students were housed at the hotel. As of May 29, 2025, UMA received 149 housing applications—92 from new students and 57 from returning students - representing a 5% increase over last year's total. UMA anticipates receiving approximately 30 additional applications in the coming months, which would bring the total to 179 and mark a 27% overall increase in demand year-over-year.

The primary metric of success for this project will be growth in enrollment, particularly within specialized programs like Architecture, Aviation, Nursing, and Cybersecurity and other in-person degree programs. These programs have seen record growth; however, the absence of additional housing has been a limiting factor. Adding a new student housing unit to complement our existing leases will empower UMA to continue to grow its enrollment among students from other regions and outside Maine who are looking for a more traditional college and residential experience and those who wish to pursue specific in-person programs.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote for all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board approval at the July 14, 2025, Board Meeting:

That the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee and authorizes the University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine at Augusta to enter into a lease agreement for an approximately 17,910 square feet student residential housing space with Mastway Development LLC (also known as SC-One LLC) or its successor organization for fifteen (15) years and a cost up to \$13,608,540; with all final terms and conditions subject to review and approval of the University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

University of Maine School of Law Comprehensive Campaign

Funding through this campaign will improve Maine Law's capacity to collaborate across the System with expanded faculty and inter-university programming. Additional funding will augment current collaborative efforts: Maine Law is actively involved in interdisciplinary efforts with other UMS Universities, in many instances through the catalyst of the Maine Center's work, including collaborative course development with the UM MBA, USM's graduate policy programming, and soon the Maine College of Engineering and Computing (MCEC). In addition, Maine Law is also collaborating with USM related to environmental education and UM related to complex problem solving.

Dean and President Leigh Saufley, Chief Business Officer Nicole Vinal, and Chief Development Officer Chris Haley provided an overview of the campaign plan, which includes funds for:

- Student Success: including scholarships, fellowships, and externships
 - o (Goal: \$2 million)
- Faculty Support: including endowed chairs, professorships, and travel funds
 - o (Goal: \$2 million)

- Capital Projects/Facility: Collaboration with the Maine Center to renovate new spaces at 7 Custom House, update spaces at 300 Fore Street, and complete external improvements to air exchange, envelope sealing, and signage. Launch naming of spaces within the Maine Center
 - o (Goal: \$2 million)
- The Clinics at Maine Law: include endowing clinical programs and providing critical operating funds for all clinics.
 - o (Goal: \$2 million)
- Enhanced Annual Fund Contributions: including increased support for all operational and compensation needs within Maine Law.
 - o (Goal: \$2 million)

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote for all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board approval at the July 14, 2025, Board Meeting:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee and approves the University of Maine School of Law's "Comprehensive Campaign" plan as presented by President and Dean Leigh Saufley at its June 25, 2025, meeting.

Lease Renewal Authorization – New Cingular Wireless (AT&T), USM

The University of Maine System acting through the University of Southern Maine requests the authorization to extend the existing lease with New Cingular Wireless (AT&T) for space on the rooftop located at 246 Deering Avenue in Portland for a cell tower when the current lease expires on July 31, 2026.

New Cingular Wireless has had a cell site located on the rooftop of 246 Deering in Portland and has leased space since February 2000. The rooftop of 246 Deering Ave. has two other cell tower sites located on the exterior.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote for all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board approval at the July 14, 2025, Board 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 University of Southern Maine to extend the lease with New Cingular Wireless for space located at 246 Deering Avenue in Portland for a cell tower when the current lease expires on July 31, 2026 with all final terms and

conditions subject to review and approval of the University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

USM Capital Plan Briefing

President Edmondson and Chief Business Officer Justin Swift presented the USM Capital Plan to Trustees and the FFT Committee. This presentation highlighted rising financial needs due to enrollment shifts and building renovations, necessitating a range of investments from \$15 Million to \$24 Million annually. The plan, covering \$252 Million for 94 ongoing and planned projects, to include the Crew Center for the Arts, Bailey Hall renovation and HVAC upgrades. Most of all renovation projects addresses deferred maintenance, demolition plans and fire suppression systems. Proposals discussed in the Capital Plan aims to increase the capital budget in order to address deferred maintenance and inflationary pressures by leveraging external funding opportunities to improve net asset value and revenue growth through academic programming and facility improvements. However, as true with many campuses, even with the proposed five-year investment plan presented, deferred maintenance will continue to grow unless additional funding challenges and state support is increased and provided.

The committee and trustees discussed presenting possible strategies for addressing larger-scale demolition projects at future FFT Committee meetings, as USM is working to find the investment to demolish Dickey Wood Hall and the old law buildings. Another discussion within the committee recognized the need for further consideration and review of system-wide demolition and funding alternatives by the board as the last report that focused on these costs is now several years old.

Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (BLBA) Information Security Report, UMS

Dr. Robert Placido, Chief Information Officer, submits the annual Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA) Information Security Report concerning UMS Financial Aid systems and data. The report fulfills the federal requirement for higher education institutions to annually assess and report on the security posture of systems that process or store financial aid information.

As required by the Federal Trade Commission's Safeguards Rule revisions (effective December 2022), the University of Maine System's Information Security Office (ISO), led by Chief Information Security Officer John Forker, has performed a thorough evaluation of the administrative, technical, and physical safeguards in place to protect student financial information.

Key Highlights from the 2025 Assessment:

- **GLBA Compliance:** The Information Security Program meets or exceeds all major regulatory requirements. Safeguards are aligned with NIST standards, and risk assessments are conducted annually.
- **Security Controls:** Access control policies, system monitoring, and encryption practices are in place and effective. Two Financial Aid systems requiring Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) are scheduled for upgrade or retirement in 2025 to achieve full compliance.
- **Service Provider Oversight:** Over 50 contractors were reviewed for GLBA-related compliance. Contracts now include specific provisions on data protection responsibilities.
- **Training and Staffing:** UMS continues to invest in awareness training and professional development for ISO staff. The program is supported by certified security professionals and interns.
- **Incident Response:** No GLBA-related security incidents were reported in 2024. An up-to-date incident response plan is in place and maintained.
- **Cyber Liability Insurance:** UMS currently self-insures due to rising commercial policy costs. The administration is reevaluating coverage options with brokers in 2025.

Summary:

The annual GLBA assessment confirms that the UMS Information Security Program is functioning effectively with respect to safeguarding financial aid data. Other than expanding MFA coverage and considering enhanced breach response services, no material changes are recommended at this time. This information-only item ensures that the Board remains informed of UMS's compliance posture and risk management practices concerning federally protected financial aid data.

UMS CDR Vision

The CDR Vision (phone record management system) project directly supports unified accreditation by enabling centralized telecommunications management across all University of Maine System campuses. By providing a unified view of telecommunications infrastructure, usage patterns, and quality metrics, the system facilitates standardized service delivery and resource allocation across all UMS institutions. This alignment of telecommunications services and data-driven decision-making supports the unified accreditation goal of ensuring consistent quality and operational efficiency across the entire system.

The CDR Vision project was developed to address critical gaps in our telecommunications management capabilities. Prior to this implementation, the University of Maine System lacked comprehensive visibility into telecommunications resource utilization, call quality metrics, and device performance. Dr. Placido discussed the history of telecommunications management within the state of Maine (with some emphasis on different types of state expenditures and revenue generated from this service and structure), and how the progression of AI is quickly changing these types of systems throughout the nation, with particular interest in K-12 and higher education agencies and their use of these new systems.

The system being presented by Dr. Placido provides analytics on call connection rates and identified the low use of desk phones across the system that costs the system approximately \$100,000 a month. This new system generates business intelligence to inform IT on decisions regarding phone system management, addressing phone utilization and cost effectiveness. Questions were raised about what would occur should those phones be taken and services terminated to the efficacy of work across UMS, with a proposal set to explore private cell phone use expansion options in environmentally certified buildings to improve these telecommunication challenges.

Strategic Plan Tracking Update

Strategic Plan tracking updates for FFT were provided by Vice Chancellor Ryan Low, with fiscal oversight tools and budget approvals taking precedence. FFT anticipates future budgets and master planning processes addressing infrastructure needs due to demographic changes. State support increases were positively received despite national declines.

The FY26 budget was presented and approved on April 30, 2025, with subsequent approval by the full board on May 19, 2025, therefore triggering the preparation of the FY27 budget.

Chief Facilities & General Services Officer, Gretchen Catlin provided an update on the goal of addressing system-wide physical plan needs under the Effective Infrastructure Portfolio portion of the Strategic Plan, there are ongoing discussions about right-sizing physical infrastructure in response to changing enrollment and demographics. The FFT committee is developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a master planning process covering a phased approach across campuses, aligned with system goals. Gretchen was able to clarify for trustees the difference between a master plan (long-term vision over 10-20 years) and a capital plan (short-term funding priorities over 5 years).

Additional Strategic Plan updates regarding FFT items will be presented at the October 29, 2025, committee meeting.

Executive Session

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

- 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 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.

Kayla Flewelling, for
Elizabeth Stickler, Clerk