

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM  
Board of Trustees Meeting

Held at University of Maine/hosted by University of Maine at Machias  
September 14-15, 2025

Present: Trustees: Trish Riley, Chair; Lisa Eames, Vice Chair; Barbara Alexander, Patrick Flood, Donna Loring, Emily Cain, David MacMahon, Kelly Martin, Elise Baldacci, William Kemler, Riley Worth, John Moore, Michael Michaud. Chancellor: Dannel Malloy. University Presidents: Leigh Saufley, Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ray Rice, Jenifer Cushman, Joseph McDonnell, Deborah Hedeon and Jacqueline Edmondson. Faculty Representatives: Ivan Manev, Tim Surette, Clyde Mitchell, William Otto, Libin Thaikkattil Louis, Lisa Leduc, and Joe Staples. Student Representatives: Camille Alipalo, Tristan Mitchell, Kadence Dow, Isabella Bouchard, Rebekah Sanchez, Griffin Goins, Grace Hills, and Anna McLaughlin. System Staff: Ryan Low, Jeff St. John, Robert Placido, Tracy Elliott, Sam Warren, Gretchen Catlin, Amon Purinton, Carolyn Dorsey, Amie Parker, Miriam White, Gabe Paquette, and Elizabeth Stickler

**Sunday, September 14, 2025**

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 Flood, and approved by all Trustees present, 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, evaluations, employment and duties. •
- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-C to discuss the condition, acquisition or disposition of real property or economic development if premature disclosure of the information would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the UMS.
- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-D to discuss planning for negotiations and communications with AFUM, UMPSA, ACSUM, Police, PATFA, and Service and Maintenance Units.
- 1 MRSA Section 405 6-E to consult with its attorney concerning legal rights and duties of the university.

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

**Monday, September 15, 2025**

**Public Meeting**

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

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

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

Jessica Castle spoke on behalf of University Park family housing residents regarding concerns about a proposed paid parking plan. She raised safety issues for children, inadequate parking availability, and the lack of consultation with residents in the planning process.

Multiple speakers addressed divestment from companies doing business in Israel, including: Megan Sberlick (senior economics major), Willow Cunningham (alumna), Eli Podolski (senior history major), Graceland Grable (junior political science major), Naan (graduate student in physics), Mo Drama (third-year student), Nico Frago Dump (third-year computer science major), Talia Cullum (third-year education student and president of UMaine JVP), Meredith Broucai (nursing alumna), Kylie Chen (2025 alumna), Jamila Labasa (USM graduate), Asher Riceman (history master's student), and Lucas Bent (recent computer science graduate).

### **UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT MACHIAS CAMPUS PRESENTATION**

President Ferrini-Mundy and Dean Megan Walsh provided a comprehensive presentation on the University of Maine at Machias as a regional campus of the University of Maine. The presentation highlighted the campus's evolution from Washington State Normal School in 1909 to its status as an innovative regional campus.

Key highlights included: • Serves four distinct populations: residential students, online learners, graduate students from UM conducting research, and community members • 67% female student body, 53% first generation, 55% Pell grant recipients • 46% of incoming fall 2025 students are from out of state • Delivers over 10,000 student credit hours annually (nearly 10% of UM's undergraduate credit hours) • Nearly 60% of Maine students pay nothing in tuition or fees through the Down East Promise scholarship • 23% increase in student retention and 10% increase in four-year graduation rate over the past five years  
The presentation featured Kyle Pepper, Executive Director of the Down East Institute, who discussed the marine field station's role in research and workforce development, including operating the only commercial mussel hatchery on the east coast.

Academic programs focus heavily on STEM fields, with 34% of students enrolled in marine biology and integrative biology programs. The campus maintains strong internship and co-op opportunities, with 69% of students completing at least one such experience.

The presentation concluded with student Isabella Bouchard sharing her experience as a third-year marine biology student and student representative to the Board.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Riley thanked President Ferrini-Mundy, Dean Walsh, and the University of Maine at Machias staff for hosting the Board meeting. She confirmed that conflict of interest forms has been submitted, reviewed, and managed according to board policy.

### **Presidents' Round Robin**

President Edmondson reported on the spectacular new Crewe Center for the Arts with its October 3rd ribbon cutting ceremony. She highlighted the inaugural President's Recital showcasing Steinway pianos, noting USM became the 250th school to become an all-Steinway school. She reported flat overall enrollment but promising growth in visual and performing arts programs, with music growing from 15 graduates in spring to over 44 current students. The campus launched the USM Forum on American Democracy with over 400 attendees for the inaugural keynote.

President McDonnell announced a September 3rd meeting of Western Maine leaders to discuss collaborative opportunities with UMF. The university launched its first CBE program in public policy with additional programs planned for October. New first-year student enrollment increased 11% with transfer students up 29%. Residence hall return rates reached a 20-year high of 75%.

President Rice reported the university's theme for the year as "How to Train Your Dragon" chosen through a democratic process. He highlighted upcoming events including the chancellor's visit with hot wing competition and town hall, followed by homecoming. Enrollment increased 27% for fall with preliminary calculations showing 300% increase in graduates over the past three years and 68% cost reduction for students through accelerated completion.

President Saufley announced Maine Law's largest incoming class in decades at 105 students with no summer melt. She praised the Chancellor's annual kickoff address to new students about the rule of law and importance of lawyers, noting the positive impact on students during challenging times.

President Ferrini-Mundy highlighted record achievements including 15 University of Maine students awarded Gilman scholarships, with Bobby Stewart from the 1999 NCAA National Championship hockey team completing his final credit through the Finish Strong program. She noted major athletics honors and the opening of the Bot Loft workforce training facility for advanced manufacturing.

President Hedeon celebrated four consecutive years of increased enrollment at UMFK with credit hour generation at 9.6%. She announced the formation of a baseball team with 16-18 players including several from Canada. Homecoming will feature the presentation of a landmark art sculpture with three panels reading "know this land, find your path, make your mark."

President Cushman reported strong enrollment momentum at UMA with 753 new undergraduates (8.3% increase) and transfer enrollment up 11.7% overall. The new Capital Center for nursing and cyber security workforce development opened in Augusta, made possible through \$7.15 million in congressionally directed spending. She celebrated UMA's 60th birthday party with over 150 attendees.

### **First Read: Redlined Board Policies**

Trustee Alexander presented proposed changes to multiple board policies, all as first readings with no votes taken today:

Board Policy 202 - Appearances Before the Board of Trustees: Amendment to allow virtual or Zoom-based public comment at all board meetings, providing broad discretion to the chair and trustees office.

Board Policy 303 - Academic Degrees: Added phrase clarifying that faculty control course design but presidents approve official course listings.

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Board Policy 303.1 - Limit Undergraduate Degrees to 121 Credit Hours: Eliminated the exception for University of Maine at Farmington and clarified that exceptions might be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Board Policy 304 - Transfer of Academic Credit: Added "internal and external" phrases to clarify uniform processes for considering prior credits.

Board Policy 305 - Program Inventory: Added references while striking the unclear term "units."

Board Policy 305.1 - Program Approval, Review and Elimination: Added official recognition of the unified accreditation tool highlighted in the strategic plan.

Board Policy 305.2 - Brokering Academic Programs: Recommended to remain in place for rare situations requiring this process.

Trustee Alexander introduced the new Board Policy 316 - Enrollment Safeguards for 90-Credit Programs: This new policy adds the board-approved definition of adult degree completers to formal policies governing the 90-degree pilot programs.

Comments on these policies may be provided to the trustee's office before the next board meeting for final approval consideration.

### **CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Chancellor Malloy congratulated presidents for outstanding work across campuses in collaborative efforts to bring more value and depth to higher education within Maine. He highlighted great success in fall semester enrollment, noting that as of today, the system is running ahead of 2021 numbers, which had represented their high-water mark largely due to COVID-related deferrals.

He emphasized the success of focusing on working and adult learners, direct admission of high school students, and new programs responding to workforce needs. The concentration on working directly with employers to understand and develop programs meeting their needs has been particularly successful. The Chancellor noted he has begun his campus visits, having already visited Maine Law School and UMF, with plans to visit UMFK Wednesday through Friday. He expressed appreciation for both President Sauflay and President McDonnell's decisions to remain with the system.

### **Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Report**

Vice Chancellor St. John provided a preliminary enrollment update, noting that formal census date is October 15th with the official fall report coming about a week later. He offered to provide detailed analysis at the November board meeting.

The most significant achievement is running ahead of 2021 enrollment numbers by several hundred students on headcount, representing a signal accomplishment given demographic challenges. The system is up in-state enrollment across the board, defying demographic data about Maine and regional trends. While down somewhat in out-of-state and international enrollment due to competitive pressures from other states working harder to retain their students, the overall position remains strong.

Undergraduate first-time enrollment is running almost even with last year, while undergraduate transfer enrollment is up strongly across the system. The YourPace program continues significant growth with session two for fall yet to be finalized.

For the November report, trustees will see analysis using two AI products for the first time, providing additional levels of enrollment data analysis and historical comparisons that will give trustees another perspective on trends and patterns.

**New Academic Program Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science (UMA, UMPI)**

President Cushman and President Rice presented this collaborative program between UMA and UMPI providing a 100% online pathway for students with associate-level degrees in medical laboratory technology to attain bachelor's degrees. The program responds to strong demand with 90 open positions in Maine in 2023 and projected 5% national growth through 2032. Financial projections show over \$165,000 net revenue in year one, growing to more than \$734,000 annually by year five.

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science at the University of Maine at Augusta and the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

**New Academic Program Proposal: Master of Science in Homeland Security (UMFK)**

President Hedeon presented UMFK's proposed online Master of Science in Homeland Security, complementing existing criminal justice and conservation law enforcement programs. The 30-credit program prepares students for law enforcement, public safety, and emergency management positions, utilizing existing faculty expertise without requiring additional hires.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Master of Science in Homeland Security at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

**New Academic Program Proposal: Associate of Arts in Human Services (UMPI)**

President Rice presented this collaborative program between UMFK and UMPI faculty, offering a 100% online competency-based pathway for adult learners. The program leverages existing expertise between institutions and addresses 8% projected national growth in the field through 2033.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Associate of Arts in Human Services at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

**New Academic Program Proposal: Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education (UMPI)**

President Rice presented this program arising from conversations with Aroostook County coalition addressing early childhood care provider needs. The program responds to daycare provider closures due to credentialing challenges, offering a two-year associate degree through YourPace asynchronous competency-based pathways. The program allows students with community college credentials to meet certification standards necessary for operating childcare organizations.

Extensive board discussion ensued regarding coordination with University of Maine at Farmington's established early childhood education programs. Trustee Alexander expressed strong concerns about the lack of documented consultation with UMF despite their major emphasis in this field.

She noted that neither program document included any discussion of integration, consultation, potential coordination, or impact on UMF's emphasis on early childhood education programs.

Trustee Alexander explained that she had raised these concerns in committee and was assured that the internal process included input from all university provosts but felt the lack of discussion of "the elephant in the room" in the materials meant she could not support them. She requested delay to allow more coordinated unified accreditation multi-university consultation to be documented as part of the proposals but received "no traction for that idea."

Vice Chancellor St. John clarified that competency-based education invitations were extended to all presidents over two and a half years ago, with UMF and UMFK stepping forward in January 2025. President McDonnell explained that UMF faculty did not feel ready to move into all three modes (face-to-face, traditional online, and CBE) simultaneously, stating "to be able to put a quality program up in all three modes with full-time faculty, even supplemented with part-time faculty is something that takes some doing." He noted their faculty did not feel they had the resources at that time, though "maybe at a later date we would join in."

President Rice emphasized that UMPI holds regional accreditation through NECHE to offer CBE programming and clarified that his academic leadership had discussions with UMF's academic leadership and faculty, but "the faculty did not express an interest to do competency-based education with my institution."

Trustee Moore raised concerns about future coordination, stating "as every campus ramps up their online programming, how are we going to avoid cannibalizing each other's programs in the future?" He advocated for "a coordinated online approach to all of our campuses so that we don't have some of the issues that happened in the past where the in-person programs did cannibalize other campuses' in-person programs."

Trustee Loring initially voted against the proposal in committee over similar concerns but indicated continued opposition for coordination reasons.

Trustee Worth sought clarification about whether the program would exist if UMPI didn't offer it, with President Rice confirming that UMPI holds the necessary accreditation through NECHE to offer such CBE programming.

Trustee Baldacci suggested the discussion reflected a need for different criteria going forward, stating "it is a question of the standard that we're setting and that we're expecting the presidents to follow and maybe this is a time for us to take an overarching view for the future."

Trustee Johnson proposed letting the program move forward while figuring out broader coordination issues, suggesting "if figuring out the rest means we need to adjust this program two years from now, maybe we have a discussion with President Rice at that point."

Trustee Michaud supported the program, stating "There is definitely a need out there" and that while process improvements should be considered for the future, "this the program is very much needed, and I think we ought to move forward."

Trustee Cain emphasized that all academic programs come through established faculty and administrative processes, noting "100% of the academic proposals we see come through faculty and process with provost that are long established" and stressed the importance of not undermining the extensive work that goes into program development.

**Vice Chancellor St. John** stated:

"... moving forward we'll be building into each ASA meeting just a brief here's what's coming next that is always subject to change sometimes the provost will pull back a program and want to work on it more or need to consult with faculty or we'll get feedback from faculty saying this needs to be redeveloped or reworked in this way but in general because it's only eight weeks out to the next ASA we should be able to give you a sense of what's coming so trustees at least have an idea about what to expect on the next agenda."

Chair Riley reminded all that , while there may be a robust internal review process, the Board is required to approve new programs and this is the first time the full Board has seen this proposal and that the Board must look at proposals through a System lens. She concluded that the proposal had raised important policy issues about "who does what" that would need to be addressed as a broader policy issue,. She noted that Vice Chancellor St John proposes a process to allow early review by Trustees so questions can be raised early in the internal review process and that ASA should work with the Vice Chancellor to develop that process.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, with four trustees opposed and one abstention, the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

#### **New Academic Program Proposal: Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education (UMPI)**

President Rice presented this four-year degree providing both traditional on-campus and online competency-based pathways for PK-3 teaching careers. The program developed through two years of conversation with Northern Maine Community College faculty and responds to specific needs in Aroostook County. All courses were already developed and offered, representing packaging of existing offerings into a direct four-year degree pathway.

Similar board discussion occurred regarding coordination with UMF's programs in this area, with the same concerns raised about documentation of inter-campus consultation and potential competition. President Rice left the meeting due to travel commitments before this vote.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, with two trustees opposed and one abstention, the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

#### **New Academic Program Proposal: Master of Arts in American Studies (UMPI)**

This program provides an online competency-based pathway for adult learners, particularly those completing history and political science undergraduate degrees. The program originated from student requests for next-step education opportunities and leveraged expertise of UMPI history faculty who hold doctorates from the University of Maine and maintain strong connections with UM faculty.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approves the Master of Arts in American Studies at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

### **Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives Report**

**Marketing and Communications Update:** The office is working with marketing firm Blaze Partners to update the University of Maine System's identity, brand, materials, and website to better serve as "Maine's public universities." The comprehensive project will create a more welcoming and informative landing space for prospective students, families, and employers while highlighting unique strengths of each university and maintaining system cohesion. The website redesign prioritizes user-friendly design, accessibility, and clear navigation. A new logo selection is very close to completion, with preview expected by next week and full presentation at the November meeting.

**Small Campus Fundraising Initiative:** Through the chancellor's strategic initiative fund, \$750,000 was awarded to campuses without formal foundation offices (UMPI, Machias, Augusta, Farmington, and Maine Law). All universities submitted proposals and received funding for initiatives including staffing, software, database management, and specific giving campaigns. Recipients must provide 20% match and report progress at 6, 12, and 18 months, with first reports due in October.

### **Vice Chancellor for Finance and Strategic AI Integration Report**

Investment results showed the managed investment pool gained 0.1% in July with estimated 2% gain in August. The pension fund lost 0.5% in July but gained an estimated 1.5% in August. The operating fund gained 0.4% in July, exceeding the monthly budget of \$414,000 with net return of \$650,000, and estimated positive 1.1% return in August.

**AI Task Force Report:** The task force, with representation from trustees, campus leadership, faculty, staff, and students, conducted comprehensive assessment of AI integration across universities. The report focuses on three key areas:

*Philosophy of Local Control and Campus Autonomy:* The cornerstone approach emphasizes stewardship rather than gatekeeping, providing guidance and resources while maintaining campus autonomy. Faculty retain authority over AI use, campuses adapt principles to their contexts, and innovations emerge locally. This preserves academic freedom while ensuring responsible AI adoption.

*Equitable Access:* The most urgent concern identified was ensuring equal AI access for students and employees. Currently, individuals and departments with premium AI subscriptions have advantages over those without, creating uneven opportunities. Free trial offers worsen inequity by expiring mid-program and excluding institutional support.

*Systemwide Gemini Deployment:* The task force recommends systemwide deployment of Google's Gemini AI platform through a credit hour fee. Gemini was selected for favorable data security agreements, seamless Google Workspace integration, enterprise privacy protections, and cost-effective



scaling. Spring 2026 would be ideal for adoption, allowing infrastructure development over summer, with full implementation by fall 2026.

The model would deliver equitable AI access, enhanced research capacity, faculty and staff support, training integration, and operational efficiency improvements. Detailed budget discussions will occur at FFT committee meetings due to impact on budget planning.

Governance would include extending the current working group's charge to include implementation and developing flexible AI policy frameworks.

The task force extensively used AI tools in their own work, including research, agenda preparation, draft generation, and meeting analysis to identify gaps and build comprehensive recommendations.

Multiple trustees engaged in extensive discussion about AI's impact on careers, with particular focus on translation services, computer science jobs, and accounting positions. Vice Chancellor Low emphasized that while some jobs may disappear, AI typically enhances rather than replaces skilled professionals, creating new opportunities and changing job requirements rather than eliminating entire fields.

Trustees also discussed faculty authority over AI use in classrooms, implementation timelines, equitable access issues, and governance structures for systemwide deployment.

#### **Alfond Stadium CELLCO Partnership Lease Renewal**

Authorization for University of Maine to enter five-year lease with CELLCO Partnership (Verizon Wireless) with option for four additional five-year renewals for cellular infrastructure, generating up to approximately \$604,000 over 25 years.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present, 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, to enter into a five-year lease with CELLCO Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless with the option for four additional five-year renewals for space located at Alfond Stadium, with all final terms and conditions subject to review and approval by the University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

#### **Memorial Gym Roof Replacement**

Authorization to spend up to \$1 million for replacement of failed roof sections above basketball court and administrative offices, covering approximately 33,000 square feet, funded through E&G.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present, 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, to spend up to \$1,000,000 for the replacement of two sections of the roof of the Memorial Gym.

#### **Powers Hall Building Envelope Repairs**

Authorization to spend up to \$1.8 million for repairs to UMM Powers Hall building envelope to mitigate water infiltration through masonry walls above the performing arts center. Funding from 2018 bond, state small campus appropriations, and capital reserves.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present, 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, to spend up to \$1,800,000 for the repairs to the Powers Hall building envelope.

### **Maine Graduate and Professional Center Building Renovations**

Seth Goodall requested authorization to increase renovation budget from \$8.5 million to \$9.6 million due to additional philanthropy and pledged funding. The increase includes approximately \$300,000 in pledges, with construction planned to begin around November 1st.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present, 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 \$9,600,000 for renovations and capital improvements at the Maine Center in Portland, Maine.

### **Renaming the Maine Graduate and Professional Center**

Seth Goodall presented the proposal to rename the Maine Graduate and Professional Center as the "Alfond Exchange," recognizing the Alfond Foundation's generosity and vision while creating a distinctive name that encompasses entrepreneurship and workforce development activities. The University of Maine System will be prominently displayed in all branding and signage.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee, including an exception to the UMS Board of Trustees Policy Section 803 to allow the Maine Center Executive Director to make the formal renaming request, and authorizes the renaming of the Maine Center as the Alfond Exchange.

### **Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Report**

Vice Chancellor Ferrini-Mundy provided updates on research and development activities across four key areas:

**Federal Context:** The ever-evolving federal landscape requires daily attention through established organizational structures. The system has two key committees: FAST (Federal Action Stakeholder Team) meeting weekly to assess developments and plan responses, and a Grant Review Task Force meeting daily to address specific issues facing PIs and grantees. Areas of focus include the reconciliation bill implementation, F&A rates, immigration and visa issues, student financial aid, and Pell programs. The system is expanding effectiveness in corporate and private foundation funding as federal opportunities change, working to put alternative funding sources before faculty whose federal grant sources may be less prevalent.

**Congressionally Directed Spending:** The system has benefited from nearly 50 CDS projects totaling nearly \$130 million over fiscal years 2022-2024, enabling transformative investments across campuses. Nearly 70% of CDS funding facilitates capital improvements, renovating and modernizing facilities for student training in R&D settings. Key workforce sectors supported include nursing and education, traditional heritage industries (farming, fisheries, forestry), and engineering and computing.

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Recent examples include the Bot Loft advanced manufacturing facility with robotics at its core and the Capitol Center for Nursing and Cyber Security, both providing cutting-edge workforce development opportunities.

**AI and R&D:** Faculty across the system are using AI to change how R&D is conducted, working in fields from advanced manufacturing to special education to security and medical diagnosis. Maine faculty are both using AI and studying AI development in their research.

**Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan:** The state investment has yielded significant workforce impact with more than 5,300 Mainers receiving career development or job training opportunities through MJRP efforts and nearly 2,000 student internships. Projects like the Aroostook Farm modernization with potato breeding equipment are making meaningful differences for the state's economy.

The board's strategic plan includes five research actions to advance R&D in Maine, with continued work by the research leaders group meeting quarterly to review actions, deliverables, and updates.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Trustee Eames, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by all Trustees present, the items on the Consent Agenda were approved by the Board of Trustees as follows:

*Acceptance of Minutes*

*Proposed Exception to Board Policy 406, Section 7 - Emerita Status*

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at the University of Maine at Farmington on November 16-17, 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/board-of-trustees/>

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Trustee Worth, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees meeting went into Executive Session under the provisions of 1 MRSA Section 405 6-E to consult with its attorney concerning legal rights and duties of the university.

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

Adjournment

Kayla Flewelling for  
Elizabeth Stickler, Clerk