UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting
hosted by the University of Maine at Fort Kent
May 17–18, 2026

Present: Trustees: Trish Riley, Chair; Lisa Marchese Eames, Vice Chair (Zoom); Barbara Alexander; Elise Baldacci (Zoom); Emily Cain (Zoom); Pat Flood; Heather Johnson; Roger Katz; William Kemler; Donna Loring (Zoom); David MacMahon; Kelly Martin; Mike Michaud; John Moore; and Riley Worth (Zoom). **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **University Presidents:** Leigh Saufley, Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ray Rice, Jenifer Cushman, Joseph McDonnell, Jacqueline Edmondson, and Deborah Hedeen. **System Staff:** Ryan Low, Jeffrey St. John, Carolyn Dorsey, Tracy Elliott, Amie Parker, Miriam White, Sam Warren, and Elizabeth Stickler.

Sunday, May 17, 2026
Chair Riley welcomed everyone and called the Executive Session to order.

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

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

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

Monday, May 18, 2026
Chair Riley called the public meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Chair Riley stated that Trustees Eames, Baldacci, Loring, Cain, and Worth were participating in the meeting by Zoom. The Chair performed a roll call of the members of the Board of Trustees participating by Zoom. Chair Riley noted that the meeting was being livestreamed to YouTube.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Public Comment is a time regularly set aside for comments from the public. No individuals spoke during the Public Comment period.

UMFK CAMPUS PRESENTATION
This presentation highlighted the Upper St. John Valley Recovery High School, scheduled to open in fall of 2026–2027 as Maine’s first recovery high school. Designed for students in grades

9–12 in recovery from substance use and/or co-occurring mental health challenges, the school combines academic instruction with recovery support to help students stay on track toward graduation. Located on the UMFK campus, the program will include a school-week residential component with up to eight students living on campus and additional day students. A dedicated team will support students through a structured, goal-oriented model focused on building healthy routines and life skills while maintaining academic progress, with emphasis on academics (including early college opportunities through UMFK), overall well-being, recovery skill-building and peer support, and family and community engagement.

This collaboration highlighted UMFK's role in supporting both educational access and community well-being across the region.

President Hedeen welcomed the Board to the University of Maine at Fort Kent and introduced Peter Caron, Coordinator of Innovative Practice and Community Outreach at the Valley Unified Education Service Center, which serves MSAD 27, MSAD 33, and the Madawaska School Department. Mr. Caron presented on the Upper St. John Valley Recovery High School, a multi-year collaborative project hosted by UMFK, with MSAD 27 serving as fiscal agent.

Mr. Caron described the project as the first Maine Recovery Council-funded initiative with an exclusive focus on youth recovery support; Maine's first recovery high school; and the only recovery high school in the United States that features a school-week-in-residence component. He noted that there are currently 46 recovery high schools across 21 states, and that the National Association of Recovery High Schools has invited the Upper St. John Valley program to serve as a pilot for other rural states and regions. The school will serve teens in grades 9–12 in recovery from substance use disorder and/or co-occurring disorders, with a minimum stay of 120 days and most students expected to enroll for one full school year. Programming moves students through four stages — foundation, framework, momentum, and maintenance — using a social network change approach focused on building recovery capital. UMFK is providing dedicated space in Hensler House and a renovated bath and shower facility funded through a grant secured by President Hedeen. Nursing, psychology, and allied health students will have internship opportunities with the program.

The project is funded at 75% of per-pupil cost through a Maine Recovery Council grant, with the remaining 25% paid by sending school units. The program has advanced to the Senate Appropriations Committee through congressionally directed spending requested through Senator King's office, which would fund three additional years for a five-year pilot. The team is also working with a local legislator on a bill for additional state funding and is pursuing a non-governmental organization contract through the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Corrections (Juvenile Community Corrections).

Following Mr. Caron's presentation, **Trustee Eames** opened the discussion, thanking Mr. Caron for his work and emphasizing how the project highlights the importance of UMFK being embedded in its community. She asked how students are accepted into the program, whether they would be drawn from around the state or only from the St. John Valley, and how many students the program would serve at full capacity. Mr. Caron explained that the program will serve a maximum of fourteen students at any one time — up to eight school-week-in-residence students and up to six school-day-only participants. Students are referred through their sending schools, with referrals also initiated or encouraged by community-based service providers working with the families. Each sending school unit is responsible for approximately 25% of the annual per-pupil cost, with the Maine Recovery Council grant covering the remaining 75%, consistent with recovery school practice nationally. The primary geographic focus is Aroostook County for school-week-in-residence seats and the St. John Valley for school-day-only seats.

Trustee Michaud asked whether the program would accept students from outside Aroostook County. Mr. Caron indicated that the program would be willing to serve students from communities such as Millinocket and East Millinocket, provided that parents could support enrollment and arrange transportation for their children to and from the school on weekends and during school vacations. He emphasized that students in recovery high schools return home every night or every weekend by design — the program is recovery support meant to set students up to successfully practice recovery skills as they navigate their home communities and family lives, not to isolate them. If a student relapses, the program uses a restorative approach, returning to the student's sobriety plan to identify where the program could have better supported them.

Trustee Loring offered strong praise for the program and asked whether the project team had consulted with the Wabanaki Health and Wellness organization or the tribal court wellness program, noting that the presentation reminded her of the wellness court model and that those organizations are valuable resources. She also asked whether Native American students would be served. Mr. Caron acknowledged that those connections had not yet been made but were being pursued, with several contacts initiated and meetings hoped for soon. He confirmed that the program would absolutely serve Native American students. Trustee Loring offered her assistance in helping the project team reach the right people if a response was slow in coming; Mr. Caron accepted and indicated he would get her contact information through President Hedeen.

Trustee Katz echoed Trustee Eames's appreciation and noted that he had assumed students would be credentialed by the recovery high school but instead would return to their sending high schools. He raised two questions: first, what supports are in place for students transitioning back to their home high schools, and what happens if they fail and need to return to the recovery high school; and second, what is the long-term financial sustainability plan beyond the initial grant period.

On the first question, Mr. Caron cited a national statistic that 97% of students returning from treatment are offered access to drugs on their first day back at their sending high schools, and acknowledged that rough landings are particularly likely in small rural high schools where there is no place to hide and friendships are long-held and tight-knit. Students who relapse may be readmitted to the recovery high school. The recovery counselor will work with community-based service providers and with the sending high schools — guidance counselors, social workers, and building principals — to outline each student's progress and ongoing recovery needs, and the program will work directly with families. Mr. Caron also clarified that the program can credential students; it is a high school credit-granting entity, can customize coursework to match the standards of any sending high school, and if a student needs to be retained through graduation, the team will work to ensure the student earns a diploma from the sending high school, unless the student prefers to graduate from MSAD 27.

On the second question, Mr. Caron described a multi-pronged sustainability strategy. The project has applied for congressionally directed spending through Senator King's office, made the initial cut, and is now advancing to the Senate Appropriations Committee, with the goal of securing funding for three additional years and a total five-year pilot. The team is also working closely with a local legislator, who has drafted a bill for introduction in the upcoming legislative session that would secure an additional three years of state funding. The team has also asked the legislator to convene a meeting with the Director of Child and Family Services at the Department of Health and Human Services and her counterpart at the Department of Corrections (specifically Juvenile Community Corrections) to explore a non-governmental organization contract for at least three years and then ongoing. In exchange, the program is willing to serve as a pilot for other entities in Maine interested in opening recovery high schools, and Mr. Caron expressed his personal hope to see programs eventually established in western Maine (in partnership with the University of Maine at Farmington) and in Washington County (in partnership with the University of Maine at Machias).

President Saufley thanked Mr. Caron and described the presentation as incredible and powerful. She observed that adults dealing with substance use disorder typically cycle into recovery three to four times before achieving full success over a period of years, and that, although less is known about youth in this regard, the population the program is serving may similarly need to return. She asked whether the program is prepared for that and whether returning students would be accepted back. Mr. Caron confirmed that the program is prepared and that students would be readmitted, stating that the team has no plans to abandon students because they have relapsed — relapse is part of the process and recovery is not linear.

Chair Riley closed the discussion by thanking Mr. Caron for an informative presentation, wishing the program well, and thanking President Hedeen for making a public university the home for this work.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Riley thanked President Hedeen and the UMFK campus community for hosting the Board meeting. She thanked all of the presidents and the universities for the extraordinary work done during the spring commencement season. Chair Riley noted that Trustee Katz had attended the AGB Conference on the Board's behalf and would report at a future meeting.

Presidents' Round Robin

Chair Riley asked each President to provide a brief update on activities at their respective institutions.

President Saufley (Maine Law) reported that for the second consecutive year, Maine Law is ranked in the top 100 law schools in the country. The 1L class completed its first year with a 2% attrition rate. Applications are up approximately 80% day-over-day, compared to a 12% national increase. The 2025 graduates passed the bar at 86.7%, with 84% employed in law-related jobs at 10 months out. The Maine Law clinic provided more than 18,000 pro bono hours serving over

600 low-income clients in the past year; 40% of 2025 graduates had a clinic experience before graduating.

President Rice (UMPI) reported 1,850-plus total graduates since July 1 — a record and approximately a 35% increase over the prior year — with two commencements that included approximately 500 students. Trustee Flood delivered welcoming remarks. The first graduate hooding ceremony was held for nearly 100 students. UMPI has approximately 2,500 matriculated students for summer/fall, nearly a 100% increase year-over-year. The UMPI women's softball team won its first NACC playoff game since joining NCAA Division III. UMPI ranked first in customer satisfaction within its Sodexo region.

President Edmondson (USM) reported 1,615 graduates this year, with over 1,000 walking at the Cross Insurance Arena before approximately 7,000 attendees. The class included 40 doctoral students — USM's largest doctoral class to date — graduates ranging from 19 to 79 years old, students from 37 countries, 38 states, and all 16 Maine counties. Student speaker Najmo Ahmed spoke about belonging. President Edmondson thanked Trustee Baldacci, whose brother also graduated with this class, for serving as Trustee representative. The men's baseball team won the Little East Conference championship and advanced to the NCAA tournament; the women's track and field team won its sixth consecutive LEC championship. President Edmondson noted CBS Sunday Morning's recent feature on the Osher Map Library.

President Ferrini-Mundy (UMaine and UMaine Machias) reported four commencements — graduate, two undergraduate, and the Machias ceremony — with Trustees Makin, Katz, and Loring participating; Trustee Kemler graduated from UMaine Machias. Professor Emeritus Robert Steneck was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, becoming UMaine's third NAS member. The Maine College of Engineering and Computing now ranks 97th nationally for graduate engineering programs in US News and World Report. Two faculty (Giovanna Guidoboni and Dave Neivandt) were inducted into the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering College of Fellows. Forty-one faculty received tenure and/or promotion. Ninety-five percent of UMaine student-athletes achieved a 3.0 or higher GPA — the highest among America East institutions. UMaine submitted 11 proposals to the U.S. Department of Energy Genesis mission (AI-for-science) requesting more than $7.4 million, and a $9 million NSF proposal on quantum nanotechnology in partnership with USM, Colby, Dartmouth, and Maine community colleges.

President Hedeen (UMFK) reported on the April 29 Scholar Symposium featuring Dr. Meredith McFadden of Northeastern University on AI ethics, with 54 student poster presentations. UMFK held its 144th commencement, with honorary degree recipient and commencement speaker Lisa Harvey-McPherson, the distinguished service award presented to the Fort Kent Lions Club, and senior speaker Georgia Burton (USCAA Athlete of the Year for 2024 and 2026). The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education awarded UMFK's post-graduate certificate and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs a five-year accreditation cycle without compliance concerns — the first graduate programs in UMFK's history. President Hedeen thanked the Dean of Nursing, Allied Health, and Psychology for her leadership. Approximately 40 GEAR UP eighth-grade students arrived for a 24-hour campus immersion experience.

President Cushman (UMA) reported on the rural workforce medical boot camps held at the MA Capital Center in Augusta and at the Bangor campus, the latter bringing 75 students from 12 schools in the Katahdin and Washington County regions. UMA's new undergraduate credit hours are up more than 10% year-over-year; first-time student headcount is up more than 36% and full-time students up more than 21%. As of May 8, housing applications were up approximately 17% over the comparable point last year; the campus once again anticipates above-100% occupancy and continues to work with hotel partners in Bangor and Augusta. President Cushman thanked Senators Susan Collins and Angus King for the $400,000 in congressionally directed spending that launched the rural workforce program.

President McDonnell (UMF) thanked Trustee Moore for hosting graduation at his venue and thanked Chair Riley for delivering welcoming remarks. Two student speakers — an undergraduate anthropology graduate who returned to UMF after a career in engineering, and a graduate student who returned for her counseling degree — reflected the UMF tradition. Commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient was Dr. Dora Anne Mills. UMF matriculation for incoming students is up 16% year-over-year, on top of a 25% increase the prior year. UMF's College of Education received CAEP accreditation. UMF is running a series on issues facing Western Maine; the next session will focus on PreK–12 education.

Redlined Board Policies
Trustee Alexander presented five Board Policy revisions previously discussed at the March 2026 meeting, noting no comments had been received in the interim. Board Policy 307 (Admission or Readmission of Students) is proposed for elimination as duplicative; Board Policy 308 (Accreditation) is updated to reflect the NECHE-established accreditation process; Board Policy 309 (Organization & Establishment of Major Units) is amended to allow universities additional discretion on minor changes; Board Policy 311 (Intra-System Student Exchange) is amended to reflect the updated Unified Catalog; and Board Policy 312 (University Professor) is amended to add the law school to the list of eligible units.

On a motion by Trustee Alexander, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the final version of the edited Board Policies 307, 308, 309, 311, and 312 as initially presented in redlined form at the March 2026 Board Meeting and provided at the May 2026 Board Meeting materials in final form.

Confirmation of Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees
Chair Riley noted that engagement with student representatives remains an item on the Board's future agenda. Each President introduced the outgoing and incoming student representatives, with outgoing representatives Tristan Mitchell (UMF) and Grace Hills (UMA) present to receive tokens of appreciation. The Board also recognized outgoing representatives Olivia Britton (UM Undergraduate), Griffin Goins (UM Graduate), Camille Alipalo (USM), and Tyler Davis (Maine Law) for their service.

On a motion by Trustee MacMahon, which was seconded by Trustee Alexander, and approved by all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of the Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees as presented, each appointed for a two-year term from May 2026 to May 2028:

Carmen LaHaye, UMF
Scot Parlin, UMA
Genevieve Michaud-Naranja, USM
Tacie Dougan, UM
Emmanuel Ohemeng, UM Graduate
Laura Prince, Maine Law

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of Minutes

The following meeting minutes were approved as presented from prior meetings of the Board of Trustees and its committees.

The Board of Trustees reviewed the following agenda items as forwarded by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee to the Consent Agenda from its meeting on April 27, 2026:

New Academic Program Proposal: Ph.D. in Nursing, UM

The Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approved the new academic program proposal for a Ph.D. in Nursing at the University of Maine.

New Academic Program Proposal: Doctor of Nursing Practice, UM

The Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approved the new academic program proposal for a Doctor of Nursing Practice at the University of Maine.

Honorary Degree

The Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approved the awarding of an honorary degree as presented.

The Board of Trustees reviewed the following agenda items as forwarded by the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee to the Consent Agenda from its meeting on April 29, 2026:

Lease Renewal Authorization, USM – Tower Specialist (WMPG)

The Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee and approved the lease renewal authorization for the WMPG tower specialist at the University of Southern Maine.

Orchard Trails Apartments Lease Increase, UM

The Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee and approved the Orchard Trails Apartments lease increase at the University of Maine.

Naming of UMaine Machias Science Building, UMM

The Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee and approved the naming of the UMaine Machias Science Building.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Malloy thanked the Presidents for their outstanding work over the past year and the cooperative manner in which they have worked together across the System. He commented on the University of Maine at Augusta commencement, which he and Trustee MacMahon attended, and noted the oldest UMA graduate this year was 82 years old.

On enrollment, Chancellor Malloy reported the System is more than 1,000 students ahead of the prior year as measured by active matriculated status. During the past academic year, UMS awarded 7,100 credentials and degrees (baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral). He expressed hope for an eighth consecutive semester of enrollment increase. The Chancellor acknowledged the work of Vice Chancellor Low and his team on the FY2027 budget, and the contributions of Vice Chancellors Dorsey, St. John, and Ferrini-Mundy.

Vote to Approve President's Contract

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Johnson, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees authorized Chancellor Malloy to conclude negotiations and extend the contract for President of the University of Maine at Augusta through June 30, 2027.

Vote to Approve Presidential Compensation

On a motion by Trustee Alexander, which was seconded by Trustee Katz, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees authorized Chancellor Malloy to conclude negotiations and finalize presidential contract terms and compensation consistent with the discussions held in executive session.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION REPORT

Vice Chancellor Ferrini-Mundy presented on the UMS research ecosystem, beginning with a federal relations update. The Federal Action Stakeholder Team (FAST) is tracking congressionally directed spending across both FY2026 awards and FY2027 requests, federal spend rates at agencies as the federal fiscal year closes, and program eligibility changes. She introduced a research compliance task force co-chaired with Vice Chancellor St. John.
Vice Chancellor Ferrini-Mundy presented the FY2026 Maine Economic Improvement Fund (MEIF) Small Campus Initiative awards across the eligible institutions, including Maine Maritime Academy. The MEIF goals — research capabilities and capacity, workforce development, economic development partnerships, and technology licensing and commercialization — remain stable across the seven technology sectors. The 2026 MEIF awards span winter tick management, farm-raised mussels, digital twin development, and other research areas.

For the UMFK Spotlight, Vice Chancellor Ferrini-Mundy invited President Hedeen and Dr. Ned Rupert-Nason to present on UMFK research. Research areas at UMFK include artificial intelligence, border identity, environment, music, nursing, and wildlife. Dr. Stephanie Landry leads a wood-tick management study to protect Maine's moose population, and Dr. Neil

Thompson has secured more than $235,000 through the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit for spruce budworm research. Dr. Rupert-Nason described approximately $400,000 in research funding over several years, including a biochar container garden study with Drs. Landry, Thompson, and Lewen Lewis examining biochar as a soil amendment for poplars, sugar maple, white spruce, and Norway spruce. Dr. Kelly White, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, secured $885,000 in FY2026 congressionally directed spending to establish a working computer systems administration laboratory at UMFK to support transfer pathways from community colleges. Vice Chancellor Ferrini-Mundy emphasized the importance of undergraduate research engagement on smaller campuses.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR FINANCE AND STRATEGIC AI INTEGRATION REPORT
Vice Chancellor Low presented investment results and the final FY2026 budget forecast. For March 2026, the Managed Investment Pool had a market value of $400 million, losing 5.6% for the month but up 2.5% fiscal year to date, with an estimated additional 6.5% gain in April. The Pension Fund had a March market value of $14.7 million, losing 3.7% for the month, up 8% fiscal year to date, with an estimated additional 4% gain in April. The Operating Fund had a March market value of $263 million, losing 1.2% for the month and up 4.5% fiscal year to date; net of fees, $8.5 million up fiscal year to date through March, exceeding the $2.8 million annual budget contribution by approximately $5.7 million. An estimated additional 2% gain in April brings fiscal year to date performance to approximately $11.2 million.

On the final FY2026 budget forecast, Vice Chancellor Low reported the system overall bottom line remains largely unchanged from February at approximately a $1.6 million operating deficit, approximately $65,000 better than February. E&G is strengthening across campuses; the major challenge continues to be auxiliaries, particularly at USM (occupancy at 86% in spring versus a 90% projection), UMA (hotel occupancies and Sodexo staffing/pricing pressures), and UMPI (where the gap appears to have stabilized). USM made substantial progress on E&G, swinging approximately $2 million from an initial projected deficit. Vice Chancellor Low committed to focused work on auxiliary and residential projections with the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee chair over the summer.

FY2027 Updated Proposed University and System Office Operating Budget and Student Charges
Vice Chancellor Low presented the FY2027 operating budget, the fifth time the Board has discussed it during this cycle. He thanked the Chair, presidents, chief business officers, and campus communities for the extensive engagement throughout the cycle.

Budget pressures include personnel and benefits up approximately 5% systemwide; expense growth outpacing revenue (a 4% E&G collective bargaining increase is approximately $17 million while a 4% appropriation increase is approximately $9 million); continued tightening of the traditional in-state undergraduate pipeline (on-campus credit hours down 1.5%); federal research funding uncertainty; and continued auxiliary pressure. Notwithstanding these pressures, momentum is strong, with USM closing its budget, UMA reserves over $10 million, growing Maine Law strength, the Your Pace program, and ongoing shared services reform.
The FY2027 budget rolls up to approximately $1.9 million positive after a single one-time reserve transfer at UMaine. UMF, UMFK, USM, UMaine Machias, and governance are all balanced or slightly net positive. Maine Law is approximately $1.4 million positive. UMaine

requires a one-time campus reserve transfer of approximately $5.5 million to reach balance. The budget includes $13.29 million in attrition savings — larger than the state appropriation — which captures expected natural turnover.

Vice Chancellor Low described the shared services structure (316 positions systemwide), the recent transfer of campus-specific finance and HR positions back to the campuses (net neutral but improving transparency), and the chargeback allocation methodology. The university services budget is down approximately 3.9% year-over-year. Governance (the chancellor's office, 25 total positions) is up approximately $260,000, driven by a $237,697 placeholder target carried in FY2026 and not repeated in FY2027. University services unallocated, approximately $19.3 million, includes legislative pass-throughs, Maine Center support, system-wide marketing, capital planning support, and the Strategic Investment Fund, including the UMaine research reinvestment fund and the $850,000 annual demolition allocation. Outside counsel costs run approximately $2.5 million annually outside the budget framework, the majority research-related at UMaine.

Trustee Katz, as Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee Chair, commended the budget process. Trustee MacMahon asked whether the vacancy factor had been reviewed in light of current employment conditions; Vice Chancellor Low confirmed the figures are reviewed annually for budget building and monitored continuously by the chief business officers throughout the year.

On a motion by Trustee Katz, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee, and approved the FY2027 Proposed University of Maine System Operating & Capital Budget and Recommended Student Charges.

Interim Financing Request, Crewe Center for the Arts, USM
President Edmondson presented the request for a system internal loan of up to $1.6 million for the Crewe Center for the Arts capital project on the Portland campus. USM is actively fundraising for the project and intends to repay the loan through gifts to the USM Foundation; she thanked Dan Crewe, who continues to support fundraising.

On a motion by Trustee MacMahon, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee and authorized the issuance of a System internal loan to the University of Southern Maine for up to $1.6 million, as determined by the Treasurer, for the purpose of funding capital project expenditures for the Crewe Center for the Arts on the Portland campus, with debt service to be paid from philanthropy or other University of Southern Maine resources.

Maine Graduate and Professional Center Renovation Budget and Interim Financing
The Chief Executive Officer of the Maine Center presented the request for a $2 million increase to the Maine Center renovation budget and accompanying interim financing. He recapped the September 2025 $9.6 million authorization for the two-floor renovation, and the November 2025 receipt of a higher guaranteed maximum bid price. The Harold Alfond Foundation, through the co-principal investigator structure with Vice Chancellor Dorsey and President Ferrini-Mundy,

approved use of $2 million in additional funds; revenue from building acquisitions this calendar year will support debt service over the life of the grants. Repayment is anticipated through FY2034. Vice President for Finance and Administration Jenny Bodine will support the financial work in her new role at the University of Maine.

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Katz, and approved by all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee and authorized the University of Maine System, acting through the Maine Center, to increase spending by $2,000,000 for a total of up to $11,600,000 for renovations and capital improvements at the Maine Center, and authorized the issuance of an internal loan to the Maine Center for up to $2,000,000, as determined by the Treasurer, for the purpose of funding the current phase of renovations at the Maine Center, with debt service to be paid from the Harold Alfond Foundation's UMS TRANSFORMS grant and revenue generated from leases, space use, and program fees at the Maine Center.

University of Maine Energy Center (UMEC) Budget Increase, Financing, Project, and Reimbursement Resolution Authorization, UM

President Ferrini-Mundy presented the request to increase the authorized spend by $101.3 million for a total of $110 million for design and construction of a new University of Maine Energy Center, to be located south of the current plant on College Avenue. Project goals are reliability, renewability, low cost, and stable cost. In response to a question from Trustee MacMahon, President Ferrini-Mundy reported a conservative estimated annual budget savings of approximately $300,000 per year. Vice President for Finance and Administration Jenny Bodine indicated that design work would continue immediately, with a 24-to-36-month design and construction process to follow.

On a motion by Trustee Katz, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee and authorized the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine, to increase the authorized spend of $8.7 million by $101.3 million for a total of $110 million for the design and construction of a new University of Maine Energy Center; and accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee, and approved the Financing and Project Authorization resolution for the University of Maine Energy Center project on the Orono campus with a maximum principal amount of debt of $104,000,000.

Jenness Hall Renovations, UM

President Ferrini-Mundy presented the request for authorization to expend up to $4 million for renovations to Jenness Hall to support relocation of the School of Computing and Information Sciences as well as existing occupants. The building was constructed 56 years ago, with additions in 1985, 1996, and 2009. Funding will come from the Harold Alfond Foundation UMS TRANSFORMS award and matching contributions. The project is an enabling project for the upcoming renovation of Boardman Hall.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee and authorized the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine, to expend up to $4 million for renovations within Jenness Hall.

UMaine Forest Biomaterials Innovation Center, Authorization to Increase Project Budget, UM

President Ferrini-Mundy presented the request for a $2 million increase, from $7.425 million to $9.425 million, for the continued design and construction of the Forest Biomaterials Innovation Center, which will include an active learning classroom, a connector to Genesis Hall, and additional support space. The base funding is from a NIST award (a congressionally identified commission grant secured by Senators Collins and King); the additional $2 million will come from the UMS TRANSFORMS initiative.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee to authorize the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine, to increase spending from $7,425,000 to $9,425,000 for the design and construction of the new Forest Biomaterials Innovation Center research facility.

UMaine Request for Increase in Expenditure for the Darling Marine Center Marine Culture Laboratory Renovation, UM

President Ferrini-Mundy presented the request to increase the approved expenditure from $1.362 million to $1.612 million for the Darling Marine Center Marine Culture Laboratory renovation, which includes a backup power generator. Base funding is an SBA 2024 congressionally directed spending grant secured by Senators Collins and King; UMaine will provide the additional $250,000 through a gift account.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee and authorized the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine, to increase the approved expenditure from $1,362,000 to $1,612,000 for the Darling Marine Center Marine Culture Laboratory Renovation to Increase the Resilience of Maine's Aquaculture Industry.

Health and Life Sciences Complex, UM

President Ferrini-Mundy presented the request for authorization to expend up to $4.5 million to advance and finalize the programmatic framework, site, total project budget, and early design services for the new Health and Life Sciences Complex. The first wave of funding for the larger project is a $45 million congressionally directed spending award secured by Senator Susan Collins — noted as the largest CDS award ever secured in the state of Maine — anticipated as a FY2026 award through NIST. Additional funding plans for the full project will return to the Board.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee and authorized the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine, to expend up to $4,500,000 to initiate and finalize the building programmatic elements, site location, total project budget, and early design services for a new Health & Life Sciences Complex.

Trustee Katz noted, for the benefit of new student and faculty representatives, that the major expenditure items had been fully vetted and unanimously reported out of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee, where the deeper discussion occurs.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Off-cycle Tenure Request, UMFK
Vice Chancellor St. John reported strong support from the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and Executive Session for the off-cycle tenure request at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approved off-cycle tenure, Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, to be effective September 1, 2026.

Tenure at the Time of Hire, USM
On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approved tenure at time of hire, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Southern Maine, to be effective September 1, 2025.

Tenure at the Time of Hire, UM
On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approved tenure at time of hire, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Maine, to be effective September 1, 2026.

Summer–Fall 2026 Enrollment Update
Vice Chancellor St. John reported that summer/fall applications were up over 9%, admissions up over 11%, and active matriculated students up over 19% as of the meeting date, with headcount up by over 1,000 year-over-year. Summer headcount enrollment was up 11%; fall headcount enrollment was approximately even, with first-year students largely not yet registered. Active matriculated population is essentially even with last year at UMaine and UMaine Machias, slightly up at USM, up at UMA and UMF, and significantly up at UMPI. On application aging — an initiative led by Chancellor Malloy since 2022 — the average application turnaround time has dropped from 19 days at the start of the initiative to just over four days, with at least two institutions at one day or under. Vice Chancellor St. John indicated, given the need to await the August 15 summer census and the fall add-drop period, he would not deliver an enrollment report at the July Board meeting but would return at the September meeting in Presque Isle with firmer numbers.

Elimination of the Master of Arts in Teaching Spanish, UM
Vice Chancellor St. John explained that under Section 305 of the policy manual, eliminations come to the Board for approval by vote while suspensions come to the Board through the

Chancellor for notification. President Ferrini-Mundy reported that the Department of Modern Languages, Classics, and Comparative Literature has proposed the elimination of the Master of Arts in Teaching Spanish, with the approvals at the college level, the Senate's Program Creation, Review, and Reorganization Committee, and at the Vice Chancellor and Presidential levels. The program primarily served certified teachers seeking enhanced language and pedagogical training, but enrollment has declined due to scheduling and staffing difficulties. Spanish instruction otherwise continues at the University of Maine.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation to eliminate the Master of Arts in Teaching Spanish at the University of Maine.

Suspension of the Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science, UM (Notification)
Vice Chancellor St. John reported the suspension of the Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science at the University of Maine, noting that the University proceeded in good faith but its healthcare practicum partner was no longer able to deliver its end of the partnership, which was the primary reason for the discontinuation at this time. President Ferrini-Mundy had nothing to add. The Board received the notification.

Formation of the College of Education, USM
Vice Chancellor St. John framed the proposal as the second of two steps by USM to reposition prominent academic programs out of their existing colleges, establish them as their own colleges, and install discipline-aligned deans, the first step earlier this year being the College of Nursing. President Edmondson described an external visioning process that produced the recommendation, USM's historical role as a teachers' college dating back to the normal school and Gorham State Teachers' College, and the expectation that the move will elevate academic leadership, support external funding, expand enrollment pathways, innovate curriculum, enhance philanthropy, and support research and policy work.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the formation of the College of Education at the University of Southern Maine to strengthen the university's capacity to educate and prepare teachers, educational leaders, and mental health professionals; support innovative instruction and research; and advance the University of Maine System's efforts to address Maine's critical educator and behavioral health workforce needs.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution for Trustee Eames
Chair Riley introduced the resolution honoring Trustee Lisa Marchese Eames for nine years of service since 2017, including service as Vice Chair.

A resolution was presented at the May 17-18, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting for Board approval.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Alexander, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the resolution.

Trustee Eames offered remarks of thanks and reflected on the cohesion and quality of the current group of presidents and System leadership.

Resolution for Trustee Kemler
A resolution was presented at the May 17-18, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting for Board approval.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the resolution.

Trustee Kemler was presented with a commemorative item as a token of appreciation.

Resolution for Trustee Worth
A resolution was presented at the May 17-18, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting for Board approval.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the resolution.

Resolution for Chair Riley
Trustee Eames presented the resolution honoring Chair Trish Riley for her service as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

A resolution was presented at the May 17-18, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting for Board approval.

On a motion by Trustee Alexander, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the resolution.

Chair Riley offered brief remarks of thanks, describing her chairmanship as an "accidental" one following the departure of the assumed incoming Chair, and expressed her gratitude for the privilege of serving.

Election of Board Officers
Trustee MacMahon reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee, which included Trustees Eames, Flood, and MacMahon, and met on April 6, 2026. Trustees were notified by email dated March 17, 2026 that the closing date for nominations for Board Chair and Vice Chair was April 3, 2026. No self-nominations were received. Three Trustees nominated Roger Katz for Chair and two nominated Elise Baldacci for Vice Chair, assuming each was willing to serve; no other nominations were received. Following discussion, the Nominating Committee voted unanimously to recommend Trustee Katz for a first term as Chair and Trustee Baldacci for a first term as Vice Chair.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Alexander, and approved by all Trustees present, the Board of Trustees approved the FY2027 nominations for Chair and Vice Chair as presented by the Nominating Committee — Trustee Roger Katz as Chair and Trustee Elise Baldacci as Vice Chair.

Chair-elect Katz thanked the Board for its confidence, congratulated Vice Chair-elect Baldacci, recognized the departing Trustees, and offered remarks of appreciation for Chair Riley's leadership.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on July 13, 2026 at the University of Maine.

Additional information about the meeting can be found on the Board of Trustees website: https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/meeting-agendas-materials/board-of-trustees/

Adjournment

Elizabeth Stickler, Clerk