**University of Maine System**
**Board of Trustees**
**Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

**October 26, 2026**

Zoom Meeting

**Present: Committee Members:** David MacMahon, Chair; Barbara Alexander; Trish Riley; Kelly Martin; Roger Katz; Elise Baldacci, Pat Flood, John Moore, Richard Rosen & Emily Cain. **Non-Voting Members**: Blake Shepherd **Chancellor**: Dannel Malloy **Presidents:** Deborah Hedeen; Ray Rice; Joseph McDonnell, Leigh Saufley, Jenifer Cushman, Jacqueline Edmondson & Joan Ferrini-Mundy. **System Staff:** Jeffrey St. John; Ryan Low; Caryoln Dorsey, Jamie Ballinger, Sam Warren, Amon Purinton, Heather Ball, Amie Parker & Elizabeth Stickler. **Student Representatives:** Isabella Bouchard, Laura Prince, Genevieve Michaud-Naranja & Carmen LaHaye **Faculty Representatives:** Clyde Mitchell, Heather Nunez-Olmstead & Michael Curran **Provosts:** Alana Margeson, Adam Tuchinsky, Jeffrey Maine, Gabe Paquette & Pamela MacRae.

Committee Chair David MacMahon called the ASA Committee meeting to order and asked the Clerk to take the roll of Committee members present.

## Executive Session

On a motion by Trustee Martin and seconded by Trustee Riley, and approved by a roll call vote of the Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee went into Executive Session under the following provision:

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

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

## PUBLIC SESSION

## Student Representatives Discussion

Vice Chancellor Jeffrey St. John invited student perspectives on artificial intelligence and campus AI policies. Laura Prince of Maine Law described differing student and faculty views, ranging from classroom prohibitions to use for studying and research. Students raised academic

integrity and environmental concerns while recognizing the need to understand AI's role in legal practice. In response to a question about Maine Law participation in ChatGPT access, staff said current participation data were tracked at the System level and had not yet been broken down by institution.

Carmen, a UMF student representative, reported that some students opposed required AI use and that a petition encouraging less classroom use was being discussed. Genevieve, a USM representative, raised privacy, sustainability, and inconsistent classroom expectations. Full names require verification.

President Leigh Saufley described a forthcoming Maine Law opportunity focused on AI in legal practice. She distinguished applications in research, writing, administration, and oral presentation practice and emphasized preserving deep learning as tools evolve.

Trustee Alexander urged Board discussion of privacy, cybersecurity, ethics, and potential System policies. Provost Adam Tuchinsky reported that USM's Faculty Senate had passed academic AI policies for the catalog, with student input planned. USM had made its AI committee permanent. He emphasized academic freedom, ethical professional preparation, faculty-led assessment of academic integrity, and student due process. He reported a 70–0 theater student vote against AI use and described USM's opposition to faculty using AI to replace assessment judgment or the relational character of education. These were reports to the Committee, not new Committee policy actions.

**Faculty Representatives Discussion**

Vice Chancellor St. John read feedback from absent USM faculty representative Adam Schmidt concerning transparency, appropriate citation, and enforceable processes when AI policy issues arise.

Provost Tuchinsky summarized feedback supporting faculty control of course AI policies, equitable access, data protection and FERPA compliance, and training that supports human-centered teaching. Concerns included academic freedom, corporate influence, intellectual labor, educational integrity, financial and environmental costs, and privacy. Trustee Cain requested the written points.

Faculty representative Heather described program-level guidance, consistent expectations across sections, support for adjunct faculty, and differentiated use as students' progress from foundational skills toward professional applications. An administrator added that permitted-use statements were being placed prominently in Brightspace course shells. Another faculty speaker described a standing campus AI committee, library resources, and the need to prepare business graduates for changing entry-level work while protecting academic freedom. The speakers' full identities and campus affiliations require confirmation.

Trustee Alexander proposed further consideration of System oversight, ethics, and complaint processes. Vice Chancellor Ryan Low said AI policy, ChatGPT rollout, and related updates would become part of his regular Board and Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee presentations beginning with the next Board meeting. Trustee Riley suggested asking AGB how

other public university boards handle AI. Trustee Katz suggested examining whether the Board's committee structure remains appropriate. No policy resolution was adopted during this discussion.

**Academic Program Proposals Review**

Vice Chancellor St. John described 12 intent-to-plan proposals in Tab 3 and their progress through provost and faculty governance review. Several originated in the prior academic year; one was being revised and two collaborative proposals had been tabled for additional conversations. A full proposal could reach the December ASA meeting if review proceeded quickly, but several were more likely to come forward in spring and summer 2027.

Trustee Alexander welcomed collaboration among three universities on AI-related programs and requested coordination with UMF on teacher education proposals. St. John explained that the two collaborative proposals had not yet gone to the Faculty Governance Council and that multi-university review takes additional time. He welcomed discussion of streamlining review while retaining faculty input. This was a preview, not program approval.

**Tenure at Time of Hire, Maine Law**

Provost Maine and President Saufley very briefly presented the Maine Tenure Time of Hire agenda item, with endorsement from Vice Chancellor St. John who described the rigorous review, strong support for the candidate and the Chancellor's support.

**TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Riley, and approved by a roll-call vote of all Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved forwarding this item to the November 16, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

> That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approves tenure at time of hire, Professor of Law at the University of Maine School of Law, with tenure to be effective September 1, 2026.

**Informational Item: Program Name Change: BS in Human Development Sciences, University of Maine**

The University of Maine College of Education and Human Development requested that the B.S. in Child Development & Family Relations be renamed the B.S. in Human Development Sciences. The prior title reflected only a small portion of the academic content and career goals of enrolled students, whereas the new title reflects changing market trends and encompasses the breadth of options available through the program's concentrations in Family & Child Sciences, Developmental & Learning Sciences, Human Movement Sciences, and Educational Sciences.

Vice Chancellor St. John explained that the B.S. in Child Development and Family Relations was being renamed the B.S. in Human Development Sciences to reflect current terminology and

improve recognition. Provost Paquette and faculty had also coordinated updated concentrations. The provosts' review raised no concerns. This was an informational item; no action was required.

## Executive Session

On a motion by Trustee Martin and seconded by Trustee Riley, and approved by a roll call vote of the Trustees present, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee went into Executive Session under the following provision:

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

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

## Adjournment

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

https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/meeting-agendas-materials/academic-and-student-affairs-committee/

Kayla Flewelling for

Elizabeth Stickler, Clerk