

Office of the Chancellor 15 Estabrooke Drive Orono, ME 04469

January 31,2020

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> Dr. Barbara Brittingham, President New England Commission of Higher Education 3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100 Burlington, MA 01803

The University of Maine

University of Maine at Augusta

Dear Dr. Brittingham,

University of Maine at Farmington

At its meeting on Monday, January 27, 2020, the University of Maine System Board of Trustees directed all UMS universities to work with me to prepare a substantive change application to transition their separate NECHE institutional accreditations into a unified accreditation for the University of Maine System.

University of Maine at Fort Kent

at Fort Kent

University of Maine at Machias

University of Maine at Presque Isle

University of

Southern Maine

Our Presidents and I look forward to working with you and your staff to develop an appropriate substantive change application to achieve unified accreditation that advances our public mission of teaching, research, and public service in Maine. We will work with you to determine an appropriate representative team for our universities and UMS to present the substantive change application to the Commission at its meeting in York Harbor, Maine on June 18-19, 2020.

Finally, we are mindful of the Commission's request, stated in its May 10, 2019 letter to former Chancellor Page, that we provide a report, by March 1,2020, of progress on multi- campus academic collaboration. We will be in touch with your office shortly about the content of that update given our Board's authorization and direction to seek unified accreditation for the University of Maine System.

Sincerely,

Chancellor

Encl: Notification of Board Actions