

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM

Board of Trustees Meeting

Hosted by the University of Maine at Fort Kent

May 19-20, 2024

Board of Trustees Meeting

Present: **Trustees:** Trish Riley, Chair; Lisa Eames, Vice Chair (Zoom); Roger Katz, Barbara Alexander, Patrick Flood, Donna Loring (Zoom), Emily Cain, David MacMahon, Kelly Martin, Owen McCarthy, John Moore, and Michael Michaud. **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **University Presidents:** Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ray Rice, Jenifer Cushman, Joseph McDonnell, Leigh Saufley, Deborah Hedeem and Jacqueline Edmondson. **Faculty Representatives:** Ivan Manev, Patrick Cheek, William Otto, Libin Thaikkatti Louis, and Joe Staples. **Student Representatives:** Camille Alipalo, Grace Hills, Alec Brooks, and Griffin Goins. **System Staff:** Ryan Low, Jeff St. John, Amon Purinton, Carolyn Dorsey, Samantha Warren, Gretchen Catlin, John Volin, Miriam White, Tracy Elliott, and Kayla Flewelling.

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Trustee Riley, Chair, 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, 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, UMPA, 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 Michaud, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees concluded the Executive Session.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FORT KENT DISCUSSION

University of Maine Fort Kent Presentation and Tour of Nursing Interactive Simulation Center

Monday, May 20, 2024

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

CITIZEN COMMENT

Citizen Comment is a time regularly set aside for comments from the public. No citizens signed up for comment at this meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Riley thanked President Hedeem and the University of Maine at Fort Kent staff for their dedicated efforts in planning and hosting the Board of Trustees Meeting. She expressed appreciation for the beautiful drive to Fort Kent and the warm welcome received by the Board.

1. Board Meeting Efficiency: Chair Riley announced that a survey would be sent to board members, presidents, the chancellor, and vice chancellors to gather input on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of board meetings. This initiative aims to align with the broader efforts of tightening belts and looking for efficiencies across the system.

2. Student Trustee Update: The Chair noted the absence of a student trustee since January, when Dhivya Singaram resigned to take an internship opportunity. She explained that the new student trustee law enacted recently has faced some challenges in implementation. As a temporary solution to ensure student voice at the table, the Board has asked student representatives to sit at the Trustees' table until official student trustees are appointed through the governor and legislature.

3. Fundraising Report: Chair Riley mentioned that a fundraising report from the Chancellor and his team has been received. She announced that this report will be added to the purview of the Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Trustee Emily Cain. The focus will be on more aggressive fundraising for the system, with particular attention to smaller campuses.

4. Recognition of Interim Clerk: The Chair recognized Kayla Flewelling, who stepped in as the interim clerk for a year. She commended Kayla for taking on this significant role and expressed the Board's deep appreciation for her contributions.

5. Chancellor's Review: Chair Riley discussed the annual Chancellor's Review process, emphasizing its importance as one of the Board's critical responsibilities. She highlighted several of Chancellor Malloy's accomplishments, including:

- Securing additional funding through the Harold Alfond Grant, now exceeding \$300 million
- Successfully implementing unified accreditation
- Increased focus on online education
- Development of the first strategic plan
- Achieving the first balanced budget since 2014

Chancellor's Contract

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 authorized the Chair and Vice Chair to finalize, no later than June 30, 2024 an employment contract extension through June 30, 2027 with the Chancellor.

Chair Riley concluded by emphasizing the exciting progress being made across the University of Maine System and the importance of continuing this momentum to address ongoing challenges and opportunities.

President's Round Table

The University presidents each provided a brief update on current initiatives for their universities.

President Rice (UMPI) highlighted the success of their summer enrollment, with over 1,200 students enrolled for the first summer session and another 1,000 expected for the second session. He noted the historically high rates of summer enrollment and the trend of students increasingly

looking to do work 12 months a year. President Rice also mentioned the recent graduation ceremony, which had over 500 graduates, the largest graduating class in the institution's history.

President Saufley (Maine Law) reported on the graduation of 85 students from the University of Maine School of Law. She highlighted that 70% of the graduating class had secured jobs before taking the bar exam, the highest number in decades. President Saufley also noted an unprecedented number of student deposits for the incoming class.

President Edmondson (USM) acknowledged the challenges faced by USM over the past year, including budget restrictions and parking challenges. She reported on recent organizational changes, including the elimination of five positions. Despite these challenges, USM had 1,635 students cross the stage at commencement. President Edmondson also highlighted the 50-year anniversary of WMPG, the campus radio station, the School of Business's 100-year celebration, and the Department of Geography and Anthropology's 50-year anniversary.

President Hedeem (UMFK) discussed the recent Scholar Symposium with the theme "One Health" and mentioned the receipt of a Maine Economic Improvement Fund Grant. She also recognized John Martin as their 2024 Distinguished Service Award honoree and highlighted the commencement speaker, Katherine Alstead.

President Cushman (UMA) spoke about the success of their dental program, with a 100% pass rate for the Expanded Function Dental Assistant cohort. She also mentioned the UMA Faculty Institute held on May 13th, which focused on educational technologies and had 300 attendees from across the system.

President McDonnell (UMF) reported on their graduation ceremony, which saw 300 undergraduate and graduate students cross the stage. He mentioned ongoing faculty work on artificial intelligence and its use in the classroom. President McDonnell also highlighted recent fundraising successes, including a \$100,000 gift from the Lenox Foundation and scholarships from the Mariah Studio for the graduate counseling program.

President Ferrini-Mundy (UMaine) discussed the four commencement ceremonies held at UMaine, including 52 graduate degree and certificate awardees and 1,617 undergraduate students. She also mentioned the release of the Bernard Lown coin as part of the American Innovation \$1 coin series, honoring the UMaine alumnus and Nobel Peace Prize winner.

President Ferrini-Mundy highlighted two significant grants: an \$8 million EPSCoR grant over four years and a \$60,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for a sculpture project in Machias. She concluded by mentioning the unveiling of the world's largest polymer 3D printer at the Advanced Structures and Composite Center and the launch of a Strategic Reenvisioning Initiative for the university.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Malloy thanked the Presidents for their work and collaboration. He highlighted the success of the Harold Alfond Foundation grant, which has now exceeded \$300 million. The Chancellor noted progress on unified accreditation, online education, the first strategic plan, and the first balanced budget since 2014. He also commended the universities for their handling of free speech issues on campuses.

Approval of University of Maine System 2025 Honorary Degrees

Chair Riley presented the 2025 nominations for Honorary Degrees to the Board for approval. These nominations had been reviewed in executive session to maintain confidentiality.

On a motion by Trustee Katz, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the 2025 nominations for Honorary Degrees as presented.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration (VCFA) & Treasurer Ryan Low presented the FY2025 proposed operating budget and student charges for the University of Maine System.

Low highlighted several key points:

1. Total Proposed Budget: The budget includes operating expenses of approximately \$650 million.
2. Balanced Budget: This is the first balanced financial plan in over a decade, with no reliance on system reserves. Each campus has submitted a balanced budget, reflecting significant efforts to manage resources effectively and address financial challenges.
3. Tuition and Fee Adjustments: The budget includes a 3% increase in in-state undergraduate tuition. Out-of-state tuition rates have also been adjusted, with variations depending on the campus.
4. State Appropriations: The budget reflects a 4.5% increase in state appropriations, thanks to support from the governor and legislature.

5. Compensation and Benefits: A 3% increase in compensation is included, along with a one-time reduction in benefit rates for FY2025.

6. Campus-Specific Highlights:

- The University of Maine has presented a balanced budget without the use of system reserves for the first time since 2014.

- The University of Southern Maine and the University of Maine at Farmington have also shown significant improvements in their financial positions.

7. Investment Income: Low provided an update on investment performance for the Managed Investment Pool, Pension Fund, and Operating Fund.

8. FY2024 Budget Forecast: He presented the current fiscal year-to-date forecast, highlighting improvements and challenges for various campuses.

Low also discussed the importance of demonstrating to the Board the efforts made by each campus to achieve savings and tighten their belts. He mentioned that a summary highlighting these efforts would be included in the full board presentation.

The Vice Chancellor addressed questions from trustees, including:

- The impact of fundraising on operational budgets
- The implications of the one-time benefit rate reduction and potential future impacts
- The context of the budget within a five or ten-year forecast

Low emphasized that while significant progress has been made, there is still work to be done to ensure sustainable financial practices across the system.

On a motion by Trustee Katz, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present and via roll call, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee, and approved the FY2025 Updated Proposed University of Maine System Operating & Capital Budget, Recommended Student Charges, and proposed transfers from Institutional Reserves.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Jeffrey St. John provided updates on the following initiatives:

1. Adult Degree Completion: St. John detailed the System's efforts to ramp up adult degree completion initiatives across universities. Key points include:

- Allocation of state-appropriated funds for adult degree completion purposes.
- Each president (except for Maine Law) submitted proposals for new adult degree completion initiatives, which were reviewed and funded.
- Initiatives include staffing, recruitment, marketing, and other support for adult learners.
- The importance of having a human point of contact for adult learners was emphasized.
- Various marketing efforts, including digital marketing campaigns and website improvements, have been implemented.
- Academic enhancements include moving towards fully online programs where possible.
- Early evidence suggests that adult learners often bring in co-workers or family members, potentially widening the pool of students.

2. Transfer Activity: St. John noted an increase in transfer activity as a result of these initiatives.

3. Success Stories: He shared anecdotes of students who have benefited from these programs, including a student at UMF who completed her degree after a 20-year gap and a nursing student at UMA who received crucial support to stay in the program.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION REPORT

Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy presented on "Preparing a Workforce for Maine: UMS Research, Development, and Innovation as a Catalyst". Key points include:

1. Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS):

- Over the last three years, the System has received 48 awards totaling \$128 million.
- For fiscal year 2024, there were 16 awards totaling \$56.66 million.
- The process for FY2025 CDS proposals is underway, with about 100 ideas submitted and 30 projects advanced.

2. Research Identity: Ferrini-Mundy has been working with presidents to discuss the research identity of each institution, recognizing the different goals and capacities across the system.

3. Collaboration: The University of Maine has engaged Cornerstone, a public government relations firm in DC, to work on systemwide research initiatives.

4. Funding Distribution: Of the \$128 million in CDS funds, \$89 million is for capital projects, \$15 million for R&D, and \$24.4 million for education and outreach.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES' REPORT

Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives Carolyn Dorsey, along with Jen O'Leary and Tory Ryden, provided updates on:

1. Leadership Searches:

- Robert Placido has been selected as the new Chief Information Officer, starting June 1st.
- The search for a Chief Human Resource Officer is ongoing.

2. Strategic Plan Implementation:

- Proposed system Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and metrics were presented under seven areas.
- These KPIs aim to provide a comprehensive view of progress towards Strategic Plan goals across the system.
- The team is working on establishing baselines for accurate progress tracking.

3. Marketing and Communications:

- Internal communications have expanded beyond HR updates to include messaging about various system projects.
- External communications include the development of the 'Say Yes' campaign, aimed at recruiting both traditional and non-traditional students.

4. Collective Bargaining Agreement:

- A tentative agreement was reached with the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #100.

ACTION ITEMS

Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) Financing, Project and Reimbursement Resolution Authorization, UM

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, 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 Financing, ESPC, Project and Reimbursement of Project Expenditures resolution to authorize the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine, to fund an ESPC project implementing Energy Conservation Measures related to approximately 61 campus buildings with a project total of up to \$2,300,000, using financing with a maximum principal amount of debt of \$2,300,000.

Tenure at Time of Hire

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Alexander, 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, Associate Professor in the Department of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences with tenure to be effective January 2, 2024.

Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement, Police/FOP

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees authorized the Chancellor to execute the collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #100, upon notice that the agreement has been ratified by the union.

Election of Board Officers

On a motion by Trustee Flood, which was seconded by Trustee Alexander, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the FY2025 nominations for Chair and Vice Chair as presented by the Nominating Committee.

Confirmation of Student Representatives

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Flood, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of the Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board of Trustees Meeting

May 19-20, 2024

On a motion by Trustee Eames, which was seconded by Trustee Martin, 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, and the items as forwarded from the May 6, 2024 Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at the University of Maine on July 14-15, 2024.

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