

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees
Zoom Meeting

August 28, 2024

Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee

Present: Committee Members: Roger Katz (Chair), David MacMahon, Trish Riley, Emily Cain, Mike Michaud, Patrick Flood, Owen McCarthy, Other Trustees: John Moore, Barbara Alexander

Chancellor: Dannel Malloy - Presidents: Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ray Rice, Jennifer Cushman, Joseph McDonnell, Deb Hedeon, Jacqueline Edmondson System Staff: Ryan Low, Robert Placido, Paul Chan, Sam Warren, Elizabeth Stickler, Gretchen Catlin, Jeff St. John, Miriam White, Tracy Elliott

Other Participants: Kelly Sparks, Seth Goodall, Aili Robinson, Betsy Sawhill-Espe, John Forker, Pam Ashby, Kody Varahramyan, John Volin, Laurie Gardner, Justin Swift, Keenan Farwell, Jake Ward

Committee Members Absent: Lisa Eames.

Chair Katz called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The Clerk performed a roll call of the Committee members present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Trustee Riley, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee went into Executive Session under the following provisions:

- 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.

On a motion by Trustee Flood, which was seconded by Trustee McCarthy, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Committee concluded the Executive Session.

PUBLIC SESSION

Before proceeding with the scheduled agenda, Chair Katz invited Vice Chancellor Ryan Low to provide a brief update on the recent Standard & Poor's rating.

Vice Chancellor Low reported that S&P had affirmed UMS's AA- negative rating, which places the System in the top third of public higher education institutions. He highlighted several positives noted by S&P, including:

- Success in securing federal, state, and private research grants
- Support from the Alford Foundation and state government partners
- Effective expense management and reduced reliance on the budget stabilization fund

Low noted that while the rating remains strong, S&P did identify some ongoing challenges, particularly related to declining enrollment and the need for significant infrastructure investments.

MAINE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL CENTER BUILDING RENOVATIONS

Seth Goodall, Executive Director presented a request for authorization to expend \$650,000 for design, planning, and limited renovations at the Maine Center in Portland. The funds will come from previously allocated capital improvement funds.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board of Trustee approval:

That 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 expend \$650,000 for design, planning and limited renovations and capital improvements at the Maine Center in Portland, Maine.

SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE WORKFORCE AND INNOVATION CENTER (SAWIC), UM

President Ferrini-Mundy presented a request to increase authorization for the SAWIC project by \$9,565,000, bringing the total project budget to \$11,065,000. The additional funds will support the construction and completion of a 14,200 square foot facility.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board of Trustee approval:

That 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 increase the authorization to expend an additional \$9,565,000 for a total expenditure of up to \$11,065,000 for the construction and completion of an

approximately 14,200 square foot facility to house Sustainable Aquaculture Workforce and Innovation Center (SAWIC).

BOUDREAU HALL RENOVATIONS AUTHORIZATION INCREASE, UM

President Ferrini-Mundy requested an increase of \$100,000 for the Boudreau Hall renovation project, bringing the total budget to \$800,000.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Riley, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee approved the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees acting through the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee, authorizes the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine, to increase the authorization for the renovations of Boudreau Hall (formally North Stevens) by \$100,000 for a total of \$800,000.

BUDGET INCREASE FOR MALLETT HALL RENOVATION PROJECT, UMF

President McDonnell requested a \$500,000 increase for the Mallett Hall renovation project, bringing the total budget to \$3,200,000. The additional funds will support restroom renovations and plumbing infrastructure replacement.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board of Trustee approval:

That 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 at Farmington to increase the construction budget up to \$500,000 making the total project budget \$3,200,000 to renovate the restrooms and replace the failing plumbing infrastructure at Mallett Hall.

BUDGET INCREASE - E-SPORTS ARENA CONSTRUCTION IN LOWER BROOKS DINING HALL, USM

President Edmondson presented a request to increase the budget for the E-Sports Arena project from \$750,000 to \$1,625,000, with the additional \$875,000 to be funded through a UMS loan.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board of Trustee approval:

That 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 Southern Maine to increase the budget from \$750,000 to \$1,625,000 to be funded through a UMS loan of up to \$875,000 for the renovation of the lower area of the Brooks Dining Area for an E-Sports Arena located on the Gorham campus of the University of Southern Maine.

KELLY COMMONS BOILER REPLACEMENT, UMPI

President Rice presented a request to spend up to \$1.5 million to replace two boilers in Kelly Commons.

On a motion by Trustee Cain, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by a roll call vote of all Trustees present, the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee approved the following resolution to be forwarded for Board of Trustee approval:

That the Board of Trustees, authorizes the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine at Presque Isle to spend up to \$1.5 million to replace two boilers in Kelley Commons.

UMS RESERVE POLICY UPDATE

Vice Chancellor Low provided an update on ongoing work to revise the UMS Reserve Policy. He indicated that a draft of the revised policy would be presented at the October 30 meeting, along with the FY25 budget adjustments and the multi-year financial analysis.

IT PROJECT UPDATES

Chief Information Officer Robert Placido provided updates on several IT projects, including:

- Advancement Ascend CRM implementation
- Raptor transcript OCR solution
- Point and Click immunization portal
- Oracle HCM implementation

Placido also discussed the ongoing assessment of the Oracle Cloud ERP implementation, noting that an independent third-party review had identified significant challenges and delays with the project.

FY25 FINANCE, FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

Vice Chancellor Low presented the proposed work plan for the committee for the upcoming fiscal year. The plan includes standard agenda items as well as periodic deep dives into specific topics.

UMAINE RESEARCH FUNDING AND ALL FUNDS OVERVIEW PRESENTATION

President Ferrini-Mundy and her team provided a comprehensive overview of research funding and the "all funds" budget for the University of Maine. Key points included:

- Total R&D expenditures for FY23 reached \$245.7 million
- External research funds received totaled \$197.7 million
- Over the last five years, federal funding for research has increased by 98%
- Approximately 25% of UMaine's total operating budget is dedicated to research activities

The presentation also highlighted the importance of indirect cost recovery in supporting the research enterprise and the ongoing need for investment in research infrastructure and graduate student support.

OFFSITE LOCATIONS PRESENTATION, UM

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed to a future meeting.

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

Adjournment.

Elizabeth Stickler, Clerk