

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees Meeting

hosted by the University of Maine
January 28-29, 2024

Board of Trustees Meeting

Present: **Trustees:** Trish Riley, Chair; Lisa Eames, Vice Chair (Zoom); Roger Katz, Barbara Alexander, Patrick Flood, Donna Loring, Emily Cain, David MacMahon (Zoom), Kelly Martin, Valerie Landry, Owen McCarthy, John Moore, Pender Makin, and Michael Michaud. **Chancellor:** Dannel Malloy. **University Presidents:** Leigh Saufley, Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ray Rice, Jenifer Cushman, Joseph McDonnell, Deborah Hedeem and Jacqueline Edmondson. **Faculty Representatives:** Kennedy Rubert-Nason, Dmitry Bam, Ivan Manev, Clyde Mitchell, William Otto, Libin Thaikkatti Louis, Lisa Leduc, and Joe Staples. **Student Representatives:** Katie Ashley, Tony Lewis, Aidan Mulrooney, JJ Chaboya, Jacob Carter, Alec Brooks, Andrew Seile, Lisa Prosienski, Olivia Britton and Ava Ellis. **System Staff:** Ryan Low, Jeff St. John, Tracy Elliott, Paul Chan, Carolyn Dorsey, Samantha Warren, Gretchen Catlin, Kim-Marie Jenkins, Megan Walsh, Seth Goodall, Grace Garland, Elizabeth Stickler and Kayla Flewelling.

Sunday, January 28, 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, 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 university.

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

Monday, January 29, 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. The following individuals spoke during the Citizen Comment period:

Shane Flynn – Belfast Hutchinson Center
Judy Stein – Belfast Hutchinson Center
Hugh Townsend – Belfast Hutchinson Center

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Meredyth Waters – UM Student
Darrin Marbone – UM Student
Greg Jameson – Minerva House Corporation
Jon Guzman – UM Student
Cindy Witas – UMA Bangor Land Sale
Leo Rubin – UM Student
Beau Michaud - UM Student
Steven Santiago – UM Student

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE DISCUSSION

President Ferrini-Mundy had the land acknowledgement read and there was a presentation and activity on the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

REDLINED BOARD POLICY FIRST READ

Trustee Alexander asked for feedback from the Trustees on proposed changes to board policies #202-206. She will meet with her committee and bring the policies back to the full board for adoption at the April 7-8 meeting.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Chair Riley thanked President Ferrini-Mundy and UM staff for the dedicated efforts put into the planning and hosting of the Board of Trustees Meeting.

Introduction of Clerk Elizabeth Stickler; Appointment of Clerk of the Board

Section 2.2 of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees provides that the Board will appoint a Clerk who serves at the pleasure of the Trustees. Bylaw Section 2.6 describes the Clerk’s duties as follows:

The Clerk shall prepare the agenda of all meetings of the Board and its committees. The Clerk, or someone the Clerk shall designate, shall attend the meetings, prepare the minutes of such meetings, and forward copies of the minutes to the members of the Board and to such other persons or agencies as the Board may determine. The Clerk shall have charge of all Board records, files, minutes, and official documents, notify appropriate persons and agencies of the Board’s actions, and copies of Board records certified by the Clerk shall be evidence in all cases in which the originals might be used. The Clerk shall send notices of Board and committee meetings to members of the Board, maintain a central calendar for meetings and shall perform related duties assigned by the Chair of the Board.

Elizabeth Stickler is the former Town Manager of the Town of Glen Echo, Maryland. She has an MS from Johns Hopkins University in Environmental Science. Her twins will graduate from University of Maryland this May.

The Board, on the recommendation of UMS Chancellor Dannel Malloy, to appoint Elizabeth Stickler as Clerk of the Board of Trustees, effective January 29, 2024 and subject to the normal UMS Management Group terms and conditions of employment, including as set forth in the UMS *Handbook for Non-Represented Faculty and Salaried Staff*.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

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That the Board of Trustees appoints and directs that Elizabeth Stickler be sworn in as Clerk of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees effective January 29, 2024 and to serve at the pleasure of the Trustees.

On a motion by Trustee Landry, which was seconded by Trustee Flood, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees appointed Elizabeth Stickler as Clerk of the Board.

President's Round Table

Chair Riley asked the Presidents to provide a brief – 2 minute – update on what's new and exciting on their campuses. UM/UMM President Joan Ferrini-Mundy, UMPI President Ray Rice, UMA President Jenifer Cushman, UMFK President Deborah Hedeem, USM President Jacqueline Edmondson, UMF President Joseph McDonnell and Maine School of Law President/Dean Leigh Saufley each provided a brief update on current initiatives for their universities.

DIVESTMENT POLICY UPDATE

Consistent with the University of Maine System's commitment to addressing climate change, the Board of Trustees endorsed on July 11, 2022, the attached Divestment Statement related to the University's investment portfolios. This Statement identifies short-term actions and long-term goals as approved by the Investment Committee on April 28, 2022.

The Investment Committee was pleased to share progress made. Kelly Regan of NEPC presented via Zoom the update to the Board. The ESG initiative reduced the total fossil fuel exposure across all three portfolios from 2.5% to 1.4% over a six-year time frame. The Fossil Fuel Divestment initiative further reduced the total fossil fuel exposure across all three portfolios from 1.4% to 1.1% over a one-year time frame. Each portfolio (MIP, Operating & Pension) all experienced a decline in exposure.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Malloy took a moment to thank the Presidents for their outstanding work on each of their campuses and within their universities which is a very important part of the success of the System. These Presidents are working together to institute programs across campuses in a collaborative effort to bring more value and depth to higher education within the state. He also noted the work that the Vice Chancellors are doing to implement the strategic plan. He congratulated Trustee McCarthy whose business MedRhythms received the Business of the Year award from the Portland Chamber of Commerce. Chancellor Malloy noted that budget development was going forward. Additional dollars are coming forward from the Alford Foundation. He noted that UMS has raised 94% of the goal of \$180 million. \$320 million is being invested in the system from the Foundation. The System needs to raise another \$18 million for athletics. He thanked Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives Carolyn Dorsey for her work in transitioning away from using AP. In closing, Chancellor Malloy congratulated the University of Maine Hockey Team for its season so far.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES' REPORT

Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives Carolyn Dorsey asked Trustee Cain and Vice Chancellor St. John to begin with an update on the UMS Strategic Plan Implementation.

UMS Strategic Plan Implementation Update

Acting Vice Chancellor Dorsey, with Vice Chancellor Jeffrey St. John, and Trustee Emily Cain

provided an update on progress achieved in furthering strategic plan implementation efforts with a focus on final assignment of major goal areas to board committees that will serve as reporting platforms for progress made, strategies for tracking goal progress, development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), progress on communication and website development, and goal accomplishments to date.

Trustee Cain thanked the presidents for providing their work on aligning with the UMS strategic plan. Vice Chancellor St. John began by stating that the monthly updates would go to Chancellor Malloy to be shared in his meetings with Chair Riley. He updated the Board on the progress on developing six to eight key performance indicators (KPIs). They will be shared with Chancellor Malloy and Vice Chancellors this week and with the Board thereafter.

Some specific outcomes from the plan have been accomplished. Vice Chancellor St. John informed the Board that work on the funding over the next five years of UMS' libraries to ensure equitable online database and in person access has been accomplished.

The Systems is working to address systemic barriers to underrepresented populations in a report, to develop a tool in employee retention efforts. This tool will be released this spring.

The system has signed on with two inexpensive software platforms that support the reading of transcripts and the management of diplomas and transcripts in an automated way. They will be implemented across all the universities. This will improve transfer outcomes and job placement.

The Maine Center

Part of the historic Alford Foundation gift to the University of Maine system included \$55 million in investment and a challenge to raise an additional \$50 million to support scholarships, integrated program development across business, law, and policy and engineering, computing and information sciences with a state-of-the-art building to host Maine Center programs and Maine Law. Seth Goodall, CEO, Maine Center Ventures, and Executive Director, The Maine Center offered an update on initiatives underway at the Maine Center and the focus for 2024. Four main areas are planned for 2024: accelerate faculty expertise and programming; build brand awareness; strengthen industry and community partnerships; develop 7 Custom House.

VC Dorsey addressed the transition away from AP and enrollment numbers since that occurred. This affected USM, UMFK, UMPI.

APPROVAL OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, TEAMSTERS UNION LOCAL #340

The Board of Trustees delegates responsibility for negotiating collective bargaining agreements to the Chancellor. The Chancellor reports tentative agreements to the Board for approval prior to executing the agreements.

The University has reached a tentative agreement with Teamsters' Union Local #340, representing employees who are members of the Service and Maintenance Unit. The Board will be briefed on the terms of the Agreement at the meeting.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

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That the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chancellor to execute the collective bargaining agreement with Teamsters' Union Local #340 upon notice that the agreement has been ratified.

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 approved the agreement.

The Board of Trustees delegates responsibility for negotiating collective bargaining agreements to the Chancellor. The Chancellor reports tentative agreements to the Board for approval prior to executing the agreements.

The University has reached a tentative agreement with The Maine Part-Time Faculty Association (PATFA), representing employees who are members of the part-time faculty bargaining unit. The Board will be briefed on the terms of the Agreement at the meeting.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chancellor to execute the collective bargaining agreement with The Maine Part-Time Faculty Association upon notice that the agreement has been ratified.

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 approved the agreement.

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION REPORT

University of Maine System Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy along with several UMS faculty and students provided the Board of Trustees with an update on Research Learning Experiences (RLEs). RLEs are introductory courses across a wide range of disciplines that are designed to engage students in research and scholarly endeavors at the earliest points of their college careers and is one of the three Student Success and Retention initiatives of the Harold Alfond Foundation funded UMS TRANSFORMS grant. Chancellor Malloy noted that RLEs are designed to increase retention of students.

VC Ferrini- Mundy also provided a brief update on the newly released *Maine Economic Improvement Fund Report 2023*. It was sent to the legislature January 2.

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

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration (VCFA) & Treasurer Ryan Low provided the following update:

Investment Update - Flash Reports

6.3% gain in managed pool
Preliminary for December gain of 4.5%
Pension fund for November gain of 4.9%
Operating fund for December 2.1%

FY25 Budget Timeline

Started to work on this back in July. Initial budgets due to the System office over the next couple of weeks.

Presentation for FY25 will take place at the March 20 Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee (FFT meeting). Each campus gives a budget presentation. They are on YouTube. FFT Chair Katz said it is open for all Trustees to attend.

The FFT Committee worksession will be on April 17 to answer followup questions. On May 8 the budget will be brought to the BOT and the BOT will vote on the FY25 budget at the May 20 board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Campus Budget Changes (Maine Law, UMF, USM)

The FY2024 budgets have been revised by the universities and shown below.

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration & Treasurer Ryan Low, along with the universities, presented the FY2024 proposed operating budget revisions for UMF, USM, and LAW which have resolved budget gaps created primarily from tuition revenue projections below the original budget. Revised budgets for all other universities were presented and approved at the November Board of Trustees meeting.

OPERATING BUDGETS

	ORIGINAL	1st REVISION	2nd REVISION
UMF	-	(754,141)	-
USM	-	(1,000,000)	-
LAW	(1,331,181)	(217,409)	-
TOTAL	\$ (1,331,181)	\$ (1,971,550)	\$ -

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 approved the FY2024 proposed operating budget revisions.

Houlton Higher Education Center – transfer of ownership, UMPI

President Ferrini-Mundy discussed that the University of Maine System in concert with the University of Maine at Presque Isle has reviewed and evaluated the full cost for keeping a satellite location, 50 miles from the main campus, functioning with significant loss of student involvement in the past 5 years. UMPI is asking to hand this facility over to a local (Houlton) partner or sell it to a party who expresses an interest in owning it and who will continue to be a positive influence for the City of Houlton, for UMS and its University members.

UMPI will require a ‘carve out’ in the transfer. That carve out will address two needs:

1. A requirement to support the telecommunications equipment owned by the System and the State which supports communication in all Northern Maine and Eastern Maine and which is housed at the Houlton Higher Education Center.

2. To support the continuing need for housing UMPI offices for our educational work associated with the Houlton area and to support our current partner offices with access to shared classroom use.

The Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee approved this recommendation to be forwarded to the January 28/29, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting, for approval of the following resolution:

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, and seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee and authorizes the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine at Presque Isle, to transfer or sell the Houlton Higher Education Center to a third party with a 5 year carve out for office space, shared teaching space and with a permanent carve out for technology located in the building. All final terms and conditions of the transfer or sale agreement are subject to review and approval of the University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

Skyway Hall (STR), UMPI

President Ferrini-Mundy overviewed the details of this resolution. The University of Maine System in concert with the University of Maine at Presque Isle, has reviewed and evaluated the full cost for continuing ownership of this location. Skyway Complex is 5 miles from the main campus. We no longer house students in this location (we have moved all students in residence to the Main Campus).

We have at least one interested third party who has already expressed a desire in purchasing the property at the fair market value. The University of Maine at Presque Isle has not advertised the availability of this complex for purchase or other approved ownership transition yet but will do so if the Board approves of the sale.

On a motion by Trustee Michaud, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee and authorized the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine at Presque Isle, to sell the Skyway Complex with a minimum sale price at Fair Market Value. All final terms and conditions of the sale agreement are subject to review and approval of the University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

ASCC Temporary Office Trailer Lease, UM

President Ferrini-Mundy overviewed the details of this resolution. The University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine (UM) requests authorization to extend the lease of a temporary office trailer to house Advanced Structures and Composites Center (ASCC) supporting offshore wind and communications programs. The prior lease was for approximately two years and approximately \$88,000. Terms of the new lease are for twenty-six months commencing October 31, 2023, to December 31, 2025, for total cost across terms of \$112,183.82. Upon completion of GEM in 2026, the staff located in the temporary office trailer will be relocated to the GEM and the ASCC.

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee, authorizing the University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine to extend a lease for a WillScot temporary office trailer for a total cost of \$112,183.82 and to

expire December 31, 2025. All final terms and conditions of the lease will be subject to review and approval by the University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

ASCC Temporary Space at UpStart Center, UM

President Ferrini-Mundy and Kelly Sparks, Vice President for Finance and Administration & Chief Business Officer overviewed the details of this resolution. The UpStart Center houses temporary laboratories and accompanying space for staff and students until the Green Engineering and Materials (GEM) Factory of the Future is completed in 2026. It is supporting the facility's research and learning objectives through sustainable material trials and scale-up, prior to using these materials in the large 3D printers located at UMaine. GEM is a world-class research and educational facility that will provide access to academic programs across the UMaine System through immersive research learning experiences and leverage unique regional assets of UMS campuses to enable richer educational programs and workforce training opportunities.

On a motion by Trustee Martin, which was seconded by Trustee Cain, and approved by all Trustees present and by roll call vote, the Board accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee, and authorizes the University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine to extend a lease with Bangor Target Area Development Corporation to lease six offices and two laboratories at 20 Godfrey Drive, Orono ME for one year for a total of \$101,640.00 set to expire February 1, 2025, with the option to renew for an additional twelve months. All final terms and conditions of the lease will be subject to review by the University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

Bear Brook Watershed Lease, UM

President Ferrini-Mundy and Kelly Sparks, Vice President for Finance and Administration & Chief Business Officer overviewed the details of this resolution. The Bear Brook Watershed in Maine (BBWM) research program is centered on two small first-order adjacent forested stream watersheds in eastern Maine. The research was begun in the mid-1980s as part of the national agenda of research to determine the effects of acid deposition on surface waters and their related watersheds. Since then, the BBWM program of research has grown to encompass an array of scientific objectives that include acid deposition, climate change and carbon sequestration, nitrogen saturation, base cation depletion, and studies of the evolution of watershed biogeochemistry under prolonged experimental acidification. The primary principal investigators for this research are faculty at the University of Maine, with strong collaborations with the USDA Forest Service and the US Geological Survey. However, many other scientists and students from other institutions have and continue to work at BBWM.

The University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine (UM) requests authorization to extend a lease with Ursa Major LLC c/o American Forest Management for a non-exclusive forty (40) foot wide right of easement from the centerline of existing gravel road located in T28 MD, Hancock County, Maine and Beddington and T29 MD, Washington County, Maine. This right of way is for the purposes of ingress and egress to the Bear Brook Watershed and not for public use. The prior lease expired August 31, 2022. The new lease will start retroactively on September 1, 2022, and expire December 31, 2027.

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 accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee and authorizes the University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine to extend a lease with Ursa Major LLC c/o American Forest Management for the right of way to access Bear Brook Watershed for five years through December 31, 2027. All final terms and conditions

of the lease will be subject to review and approval by the University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

University of Maine Energy Center (UMEC) – Additional Design, UM

President Ferrini-Mundy, Kelly Sparks, and Dan Dixon, Director of Sustainability reviewed the request. The University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine (UM) requests authorization to increase spending from \$5.7 million to \$8.7 million to complete the full design of the UMEC facility to arrive at a firm fixed price from Honeywell.

Honeywell and the University anticipate this final phase of design to take approximately one year to complete, at which time the University will bring to the Board a request for authorization with a firm fixed price to construct the UMEC facility.

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 accepted 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 authorized spending of \$5.7 million up to \$8.7 million for the complete full design of the UMEC facility to obtain a firm fixed pricing for construction of the UMEC facility.

Energy Savings Lighting Project, UM

President Ferrini-Mundy and Kelly Sparks reviewed the request. The University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine, requests authorization to spend up to \$2.3 million to pursue an energy savings performance contract (“ESPC”) to save energy, reduce costs, reduce carbon emissions, and improve the indoor environmental quality of campus space.

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 accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee, and authorizes The University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine, to spend up to \$2.3 million to pursue an energy savings performance contract (“ESPC”) to save energy, reduce costs, reduce carbon emissions, and improve the indoor environmental quality of campus space. Final terms and conditions of the financing to be approved by the Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration and Treasurer.

Purchase Authorization Request, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity House, UM

President Ferrini-Mundy and Kelly Sparks reviewed the request. The University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine (UM) requests authorization to expend up to \$300,000 for the purchase of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) Fraternity House owned by the Minerva Corporation located at 117 College Avenue, Orono Maine. The SAE Fraternity House is located on university owned property leased by Minerva Corporation, the lease expired May 31, 2023. This property is needed for the future construction of the UMEC project. The University of Maine and Minerva Corporation have come to an agreement for a purchase price of \$300,000.

On a motion by Trustee Katz, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, and approved by all Trustees present with abstention by John Moore, and by roll call vote, the Board accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee, and authorizes the University of Maine System acting

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through the University of Maine (UM) to spend up to \$300,000 for the purchase of the SAE House owned by the Minerva Corporation located on university property at 117 College Avenue, Orono Maine.

Shawn Walsh Center and Alford Arena Renovations and Additions – UMS TRANSFORMS Athletic Project, UM

The University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine, requests authorization to spend up to \$46 million for renovations and construction of two additions to the Shawn Walsh Center and Alford Arena as part of UMS TRANSFORMS and included in the UM Athletics 10-year Master Plan.

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 accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee, and authorizes the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine to expend up to \$46 million for the design, renovations, and construction of additions to the Shawn Walsh Center and Alford Arena as part of the UMS TRANSFORMS project and included in the Athletics 10-year Master Plan.

Multiple Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Capital Projects, UM

The University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine (UMaine) requests authorization to spend up to \$14,875,000 for the construction of new facilities as well as renovations of existing facilities resulting from projects awarded through the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) and/or State of Maine recovery & Jobs Plan (MJRP). Funding for these projects will be primarily funded from multiple congressional earmarks and/or MJRP.

UMaine PFAS Research Center

This \$5,000,000 project is funded by the National Institutes of Standards and Technologies (NIST). The unprecedented occurrence of PFAS in local farmlands drew attention to a primary public health concern and is poised to have a significant economic impact on the state. More recently, the detection of PFAS in public water sources, private wells, soil, game meat, fish, agricultural products, and maple syrup extends the boundaries of this issue and adds new stakeholders to the complex PFAS problem. PFAS is the short name of a large class of harmful, fluorinated synthetic organic chemicals recently found at high environmental levels. PFAS are also known as “forever chemicals” because they do not break down in the environment or via conventional engineering strategies. Their persistence in the environment, pervasive occurrence, ability to bioaccumulate, and growing recognition of their toxicity created an overwhelming need for mitigation strategies, advanced research, cutting-edge policy-making, and public communication. Amidst this nationwide environmental crisis, Maine has been at the forefront of the PFAS debate since these chemicals were detected in local farmlands, a legacy of applying PFAS-laden wastewater biosolids (sludge) to agricultural lands and forests since the 1980s.

One critical bottleneck of PFAS research is access to analytical services to identify and quantify FAS compounds at environmentally relevant concentrations in complex matrices. Currently, a limited number of labs are capable of this type of analysis, and even fewer can provide analysis of more complex matrixes. Due to increased demand, the processing time and cost can be prohibitive for applied and fundamental research. Creating a PFAS analytical laboratory on the UMaine campus would serve the monitoring needs of the state while advancing the University of Maine's leadership in PFAS research.

The goals of the project consist of the following.

- Designing and creating a state-of-the-art PFAS Analytical and Detection Center in a building at the University of Maine in Orono, Maine. The Center will include a laboratory, space for analysis and office and meeting space for laboratory staff, researchers, and student workers. ~ \$3,000,000
- Purchase instrumentation and equipment for the Analytical and Detection Center to provide UMaine researchers with PFAS analysis and quantification. ~ \$2,000,000
- Renovations/upgrades to the existing building for both PFAS and current building occupants as needed to support this project, funding from HAF MCEC. ~\$2,000,000

UM Nursing Skills Lab as part of Improving Access to care and Patient Outcomes Across Maine

Renovations will take place on the first and second floors of Dunn Hall. Two new simulation spaces will be designed on the second floor that promote evidence-based instruction and increase IT capacity to improve nursing simulation fidelity. Additionally, simulation rooms will have external glass walls that permit tours for prospective students and families that allow for access and visual inspection of simulation “in action.” A new nursing skills lab will be created in the basement of Dunn Hall, along with a simulation debriefing space. All the central and shared common spaces on the first and second floors of Dunn Hall will be updated with new and expanded study space and equipment, paint, and flooring. Updated IT and additional sinks for hand hygiene will be installed in current laboratory spaces where it doesn’t exist.

Aroostook Farm Phenotyping Laboratory

The potato industry is important to Aroostook County and Maine. In 2022, Maine farm potato sales were \$232 million. This production helps support potato processing plants, equipment supplies companies, machine shops, and help preserve open land. The Maine Potato Board notes that in 2022, “The total impact of the potato industry on Maine’s economy is \$540 million in sales, 6,100 jobs, over \$230 million in personal income, and over \$32 million in state and local taxes.”

The funds for this project will help modernize the existing facilities at the UMaine Aroostook Farm, which at over 100 years old, is showing some age. With this Earmark/Congressional Directed Spending proposal supported by Senators Collins and King, a building will be renovated and will include modern sorting equipment, a laboratory, and new and expanded storage capacity. This project will enable faster, more precise, modern, and comprehensive data collection, which is an essential part of cultivar development. The importance of this lab was highlighted by President Ferrini-Mundy in her address to the U.S. House Ag Subcommittee earlier this year.

The project allows access to a state-of-the art breeding facility that will help create skilled workers for jobs with premium pay. Finally, the facility has the potential to support public education, job training, and research infrastructure for the benefit of the public and educational, government (state and federal) and private sector partners. Access to a state-of-the art breeding facility creates skilled workers for jobs with premium pay. Finally, the facility has the potential to support public education, job training, and research infrastructure for the benefit of the public and educational, government (state and federal) and private sector partners. The project includes the following:

- Major renovation of the current Potato Storage Research building.

- Installation of a modern sorting and data collection line for collecting data from variety development trials.
- Laboratory upgrades to improve speed and precision of new variety selection.

UMaine Wild Blueberry Production for Changing Markets and Climate

This project, funded through an Earmark/Congressional Directed Spending proposal supported by Senators Collins and King, will develop research infrastructure at Blueberry Hill Farm in Washington County. It will fund innovative research and extension efforts focused on developing and improving harvesting and processing technologies, as well as irrigation and horticultural approaches for Maine's wild blueberry industry. The project includes the following:

- The construction of a new climate-controlled building aimed at researching innovative fresh-pack and value-added practices and technologies focused on the growing segment of the wild blueberry industry here in Maine. The new building will be built upon the footprint of a recently demolished structure. It will house a new fresh-pack line and walk-in cold storage for research and extension purposes to benefit wild blueberry growers. This facility will also offer training and research opportunities for graduate and undergraduate projects.
- Renovations and updates of the electrical infrastructure in an existing storage barn and pesticide storage facility to accommodate new harvesting equipment and to ensure the safe mixing of pesticides for research trials.
- A new well and pump will be developed to support research and extension efforts for new irrigation technologies and practices. This research is intended to assist wild blueberry growers in Maine in preparing for predicted future droughts. Additionally, the project includes the installation of underground irrigation piping to distribute water throughout the 30-acre research farm.

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 accepted the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee, and authorizes the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine (UM) to expend up to \$14,875,000 for the construction of new facilities and renovations of existing facilities of which up to \$7,000,000 for UMaine PFAS Research Center, up to \$2,000,000 for Nursing Skills Lab as part of Improving Access to Care and Patient Outcomes Across Maine, up to \$2,875,000 for the Aroostook Farm Phenotyping Laboratory, and up to \$3,000,000 for the Wild Blueberry Production for Changing Markets and Climates projects.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Trustee Katz, which was seconded by Trustee Michaud, 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:

New Academic Program Proposal: UMA B.A. in Music Technology

The Board accepted the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and approved the Bachelor of Arts in Music Technology at the University of Maine at Augusta.

Annual Awarding of Academic Degrees

The Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System authorized the awarding of degrees during Commencement ceremonies for the 2023-2024 academic year to those students fully recommended by the appropriate faculties and the presidents of the respective institutions of the University of Maine System.

Capital Center Space Renovation, UMA

The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee and authorized the University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine at Augusta to expend up to \$6.3 million to renovate and equip 20,130 square feet at the UMA Capital Center, contingent upon sufficient federal funding.

Lease Authorization Request, Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine UMA

The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee and authorized the University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine at Augusta to extend the lease of 16,400 square feet with the Augusta Civic Center, with an initial period of three years with the possibility of two one-year extensions at a total cost not to exceed \$602,000; with all final terms and conditions subject to review and approval of the University of Maine System Treasurer and general Counsel.

Disposal of Real Property – Bangor Campus, UMA

The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities & Technology Committee and authorized the University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine at Augusta to waive competitive bidding and to sell four acres of the UMA Bangor campus to the Bangor Housing Authority/Bangor Housing Development Corporation at the appraised value of \$160,000; with all final terms and conditions subject to review and approval of University of Maine System Treasurer and General Counsel.

Establishment of the Agnes Ann Walsh '41 Chair, UM

The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee and authorized the establishment of the Agnes Ann Walsh '41 Chair.

Hotel Ursa (adaptive reuse of Coburn and Holms Halls) – Public-Private Partnership Authorization Increase, UM

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 an additional \$500,000 for a total of \$3,500,000 to cover additional unforeseen costs related to the public private partnership of the 99-year ground lease and Definitive Agreement with Radnor Property Group, LLC for the building redevelopment of Coburn Hall and Holmes Hall, and an addition to Holmes Hall. The additional funds will come from annual campus E&G capital budget expenditures.

Confirmation of Student Representatives

Undergraduate Student Representative

Alec Brooks, UMPI – Appointed for a 2-year term – January 2024 to January 2026

Olivia Britton, UM – Appointed for a 2-year term – January 2024 to January 2026

The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of the Student Representative to the Board of Trustees as presented.

Board of Trustees Meeting
January 28-29, 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at the University of Maine at Augusta on April 7-8, 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