



REPORT TO UMS TRUSTEES WILL SHOW STUDENT TRANSFERS & ONLINE EDUCATION CREDIT HOURS RISING
Board of Trustees to meet in Presque Isle on November 4-5;
some committee meetings dates/times have changed due to this week's storm

BANGOR – Trustees of the University of Maine System meet at the University of Maine at Presque Isle on November 4-5. The University System's official statewide enrollment report will be presented to Trustees at the meeting and it reveals positive news as a result of an active effort to stabilize and stop what had been a decline in enrollment at Maine's public universities in recent years.

For the entire statewide student population, full-time equivalent enrollment and credit hours are up slightly by 0.3% each. The incoming freshman class of degree-seeking students is up 5.6% from last year's class due to a 4.7% jump in first-time students and a 14.1% increase in transfer students. One big factor in the increase in transfer students is a 19.9% increase in transfers coming from the Maine Community College System. Another factor is a 5.2% increase in out-of state enrollment—with the majority of those students coming from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut.

Two years ago, in the midst of a challenging economy, the System engaged in a major statewide enrollment effort to face head-on the rapidly declining demographics for traditional-age students. This year's enrollment numbers reflect results of the ongoing effort. An initiative that freezes in-state undergraduate tuition for the current academic year may have influenced students as well.

More positive enrollment news was found in distance education credit hours which are up 8.6% over last year. One interesting note is that the manner in which students complete their distance education has evolved—with online credit hours increasing by 95% in the past five years. Previously many of these students participated via interactive television or video conference, which have seen decreases in recent years due to the availability of high-speed Internet and the number and accessibility of online courses. Other students have switched from attending a traditional campus course to taking an online course—which saw a 1.2% drop since last year.

In other activities at the meeting, the UMS Board of Trustees will receive updates on major initiatives including one which will improve the process for students to transfer among the System's seven universities, as well as for those students who transfer from the Maine Community College System.

Trustees will review and consider a number of items including:

- Creation of a charter for the new adult baccalaureate completion/distance education initiative to serve Maine's non-traditional adults students and help meet the needs of Maine's work force;

- Several facilities-related matters regarding university properties in Gorham, Old Town, Machias and Augusta; and
- The University System’s audited annual financial report for fiscal year 2012.

A series of board committee meetings will take place on Sunday, November 4. Due to the impending storm, two UMS board committee meetings originally scheduled for Tuesday, October 30, at the System Office in Bangor have been rescheduled to Sunday, November 4, in Presque Isle. The new schedule of UMS board committee meetings on Sunday is as follows:

12:00 noon-1:15 p.m. Audit & Finance/Facilities Committee joint session

1:15-3:30 p.m. Finance/Facilities Committee

3:30-5:00 p.m. Academic & Student Affairs Committee

5:00-6:00 p.m. Human Resources & Labor Relations Committee

The official board meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 5, at UMPI’s Campus Center facility. The complete agenda for the November UMS Board of Trustees committee meetings and board meeting may be viewed here: http://www.maine.edu/board/meeting_agenda.php?section=3.

All Board meetings are open to the public. Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to attend should call Chip Gavin, director of facilities management and general services, at 973-3335 (voice) or 973-3262 (TDD/TDY) or by e-mail at chip.gavin@maine.edu.

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System is the state’s largest educational enterprise. It has an annual enrollment of more than 40,000 students and serves over 500,000 individuals annually through educational and cultural offerings. Two-thirds of its alumni—approximately 120,000 people—live in Maine. The University of Maine System features seven universities—some with multiple campuses—located across the state, as well as eight University College outreach centers, a law school, and an additional 31 course sites. For more information, visit www.maine.edu.