



UMS TRUSTEES MEET TODAY IN FARMINGTON
Student enrollment report presented

FARMINGTON – University of Maine System Board of Trustees today were presented with a report on [fall 2013 student enrollment](#) and plans to focus on new markets to help educate Maine’s current and future workforce.

“Despite our state’s demographic realities and the enrollment challenges that presents to our universities in recruiting traditional 18 year-old students, there are several positive signs that indicate we are moving in the right direction,” explained James H. Page, Chancellor of the University of Maine System.

“Undergraduate headcount is up substantially at Maine’s flagship, the University of Maine, in Orono—and that is not limited to UMaine—enrollment is up at the University of Maine at Fort Kent as well. In fact, three of our seven campuses are welcoming larger incoming classes this fall.”

Out-of-state student headcount grew 6.3 percent across the University System, however overall university enrollment is down 2%, in large part due to a 4.7% reduction in graduate student enrollment, a demographic which is impacted greatly by the state’s lagging economy. The majority of out-of-state students come from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut.

Chancellor Page noted that the System is making inroads in new areas of focus, including working adults and high school students. To this end, at today’s meeting Trustees passed a resolution recognizing the System’s responsibility to serve the educational needs of all Maine citizens and officially expanded the core student profile to include adult and non-campus based learners, and directed the System to review and act on policies, practices and operating procedures to better serve the needs of all its students.

The System has a new Adult Baccalaureate Completion Distance Education initiative currently under way to enhance baccalaureate degree completion by Maine’s adult population. An estimated 200,000 Maine citizens have some college credits but no degree, and the initiative will help those citizens transfer credits, obtain credit for work-related training and experience, and provide guidance to make adult students successful.

Additionally, early college programs—which allow high school students access to higher education—are proving to be extremely popular across the state. At UMFK alone, more than 20 Aroostook County high schools are partnering with that campus to provide nearly 600 credit hours of instruction this fall. These students will be able to transfer the college credit completed to help accelerate their degree attainment.

The enrollment report also showed a significant increase in the number of credit hours completed via online education, with an eighty percent increase since 2009—including a ten percent in the past year.

It was announced at the meeting that the University of Maine System has reached a tentative agreement with the faculty bargaining unit, Associated Faculties of the Universities of Maine (AFUM) MEA/NEA, subject to approval of the Board and ratification by the union. Trustees [authorized the Chancellor](#) to sign an agreement with the union, if ratified by membership. The faculty union's membership is expected to vote on the measure later this year.

The settlement with AFUM occurs in the context of an overall Trustee strategic change package designed to close a significant financial gap while meeting mission responsibilities. The package will emphasize control of benefit costs, rightsizing, and reinvestment. Costs associated with this agreement will not be borne by students or their families, but by reductions and efficiencies.

In other activities at the meeting, Trustees:

- Adopted a resolution to endorse and expand [international student recruitment efforts](#) across the state;
- Reviewed the System's [annual audited financial report](#); and,
- Approved an amended [student conduct code](#), which is updated every three years.

Complete meeting materials may be viewed at:

<http://www.maine.edu/about-the-system/board-of-trustees/meeting-agendas/>.

The next University of Maine System Board of Trustees meeting will take place on January 27, 2014, at the System headquarters in Bangor.

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System is the state's largest educational enterprise. It has an annual enrollment of nearly 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.