



UMS TRUSTEES GRANT TENURE TO 25 FACULTY MEMBERS
New policy on employee background screenings also adopted

AUGUSTA – Today’s meeting of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees in Augusta focused on [faculty tenure](#). Each year in March, the Trustees review tenure and this year twenty-five faculty members from six of the System’s seven universities were reviewed and approved. The approvals take effect September 1, 2013.

“All of the candidates represent the best in their fields, and we are fortunate to have scholars of their caliber in the System,” noted Chancellor James H. Page. “It is especially noteworthy that fifteen of the twenty-five newly tenured faculty members teach in the STEM areas—such as computer science, math, spatial information science and engineering—which are key to meeting Maine’s work force needs.” Page added that several other candidates represent areas important to Maine’s economic development including the areas of business, accounting, tourism and recreation.

At the meeting held on the University of Maine at Augusta campus, Trustees also considered and adopted a new policy to standardize [background screening](#) policies and practices, which previously varied at the System’s campuses. With the new policy, background screenings at all seven universities and the System Office will include reference checks, employment and educational verification, license verification and motor vehicle license checks (where applicable), and criminal history for all positions. For positions with special responsibilities, credit history and sex offender history will also be required.

Trustees also approved the [issuance of revenue bonds](#) to refund prior revenue bonds totaling approximately \$75 million to achieve significant interest rate savings within this historically low interest environment. Estimated savings total approximately \$5 million through and including FY2035.

At the meeting Trustees received updates on a number of major Board-directed initiatives currently being implemented including: [credit transfer](#), [adult baccalaureate completion/distance education](#), and [strategic procurement](#).

Another presentation at the meeting focused on [Project>Login](#), a statewide public-private partnership between higher education and Maine businesses which was developed to respond to the state’s workforce needs by doubling the number of computer science and information technology graduates in Maine. A number of networking receptions are being held at Maine’s public universities across the state to connect students with [paid internships](#) at major Maine companies. The internship events have proven to be very popular with both current and prospective computer science students.

A number of other items were considered and approved by Trustees:

- An increase in the scope of UMaine’s [Memorial Gym and Fieldhouse](#) Complex project to expend an additional \$1 million on its completion;

- The establishment of two assistant professorships at UMaine, one for the [Farm Credit Assistant Professorship](#) of Production Economics and Agricultural Finance and the other for the [Barbara Wheatland Assistant Professorship](#) of Geospatial Innovation;
- The expenditure of up to \$2.2 million for a [software project](#) to integrate and improve facilities management, and also eliminate duplicative or dated computer systems which manage the System's nine million square feet of facilities; and,
- A number of appointments to various university-related boards and committees.

Complete meeting materials from the meeting may be viewed at:
http://www.maine.edu/board/meeting_agenda.php.

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.