



## **TRUSTEES APPROVE UMS BUDGET AND FREEZE TUITION RATES AT 2012 LEVELS**

***Samuel W. Collins of Caribou named next board chair***

BANGOR – The University of Maine System board of trustees voted today to continue a tuition freeze for in-state, undergraduate students—keeping tuition at 2012 levels for the upcoming fall semester.

This marks the first time since 1985-87 that there has been no increase in in-state, undergraduate tuition for two consecutive years. Annual tuition and mandatory fees for in-state students range from \$10,600 at UMaine, the System’s flagship campus in Orono, to \$7,300 at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. The tuition rates are contingent on the State maintaining flat appropriation for the System in fiscal year 2014.

“Our trustees are committed to keeping higher education affordable in Maine,” explained Chancellor James H. Page. “With today’s decision, undergraduate students from Maine who were freshmen in 2012 will be paying the same tuition two years later—in their junior year. This is, of course, contingent upon the Legislature maintaining flat funding for the System.”

In another tuition-related decision, trustees kept tuition for in-state graduate and law students at the previous year’s level.

As part of determining tuition rates, trustees reviewed and approved a \$522 million operating budget for the statewide System, which includes seven universities, eight regional off-campus education centers, a law school, Cooperative Extension, and numerous research facilities. The University System budget is balanced despite flat State appropriation.

Trustee [Samuel W. Collins](#) of Caribou was elected to a one-year term as the new chair of the UMS board of trustees. Collins is president of the S.W. Collins Company and has served on the board since 2010. He is the second member of the Collins family to serve as board chair—as his mother Patricia Collins, also of Caribou, served as a UMS trustee from 1987-97, and as chair of the board from 1991-94. It is the first time a mother and son have both served as chairs of the UMS board.

Admiral [Gregory W. Johnson](#) of Harpswell, a graduate the University of Maine flagship campus, was named the vice chair of the board.

The two-day meeting also included:

- An in-depth dialogue regarding [strategic human resources](#) in higher education—as an administrative review team is recommending that the System transition to this form of HR management, the team will deliver a final report will be submitted to the board in July;
- Approval of up to \$1.8 million in renovations to facilities at UMaine and USM for [International Study Centers](#) being created on the campuses; and
- A presentation and discussion on the System’s [unrestricted net assets](#)—often referred to as reserves.

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, an additional 31 course sites, and Cooperative Extension. For more information, visit [www.maine.edu](http://www.maine.edu).