



**UMS TRUSTEES APPROVED BUDGET; IN-STATE, UNDERGRADUATE TUITION TO REMAIN AT FY2012 LEVELS**  
***Chancellor announces new projects to help improve & stabilize the System's financial future***

BANGOR—For the first time in twenty-five years there will be no increase in tuition for in-state undergraduate students at the University of Maine System.

During a meeting today in downtown Bangor, the University of Maine System Board of Trustees approved the System's Fiscal Year 2013 budget, where tuition was one of the focuses of discussion. System officials presented a balanced budget to Trustees despite a \$2.3 million decrease in State appropriation.

"Today we have the results of the great work completed by the university presidents, chief financial officers, and vice chancellor Rebecca Wyke in presenting a balanced budget," stated James H. Page, UMS Chancellor. Page noted that the current financial model is not sustainable over the long term. To help improve and stabilize the System's financial future Page is drawing on several [goals and actions](#) established by UMS Trustees in January.

"My first two months with the System have been very busy and eventful—and that provided a great opportunity to learn more about the organization and its people as I traveled throughout the state," Page explained. "It also gave me time to study the Trustees' directives."

Page added that he strongly supports the Trustees' goals and actions and immediately plans to turn two of them into direct projects—and slightly modify a third one to meet the System's current needs. The directives include:

- Aligning the System's funding with performance-based outcomes which will include undertaking a review of performance-based funding formula models.
- Reallocating savings from administration and infrastructure to the University's main mission of teaching, research, and public service. As part of this, an in-depth review of administrative costs and structures will be conducted at all levels and in all divisions of the System. Recommendations will be brought forward to improve administrative efficiencies and services. At the meeting, Chancellor Page introduced a plan to evaluate and improve the System's statewide information technology, as an example of the type of efforts that this directive will include.
- Improving the college credit transfer process to make it easier for students to move among Maine's public universities and to transfer from the Maine Community College System to the University of Maine System and vice versa.

“These projects will also provide an opportunity to develop high-performing, focused teams throughout the System,” Page said. “The work of these teams will be our major first steps in building a system to address our challenges and opportunities.”

Other business conducted at the Trustees’ meeting included approval of:

- An updated student conduct code for the entire University of Maine System. The code is updated every three years, per UMS Board policy.
- Activities related to University facilities including continuation of leases for two UMaine Cooperative Extension facilities in Tenants Harbor and Bryant Pond, naming a UMaine baseball batting pavilion, and demolition of two structures at the University of Maine at Farmington.
- Awarding Dr. Theodora Kalikow the title of President Emerita of the University of Maine at Farmington. Kalikow is retiring from the institution on June 30.

The next meeting of the UMS Board of Trustees is scheduled to take place on July 9 at the System Office headquarters in Bangor.

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 nine University College outreach centers, a law school, and an additional 75 interactive distance learning sites. For more information, visit [www.maine.edu](http://www.maine.edu).