

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees
at the University of Maine System

December 6, 2016

Executive Committee

Present: **Committee Members:** Samuel Collins (by phone); Chair; James Donnelly (by phone), James Erwin (by phone), Norman Fournier (by phone), Gregory Johnson (by phone), Michelle Hood (by phone), Bonnie Newsom (by phone) and Karl Turner (at USM).
Chancellor: James Page. **Presidents:** Glenn Cummings. **Staff:** Tracy Bigney, James Thelen, Robert Neely, Rosa Redonnett, and Vendean Vafiades (by phone).

Absent: Mark Gardner.

Trustee Collins called the Executive Committee to order and thanked everyone for participating.

University of Maine System Commitment to Civility. Trustee Collins explained the Student Representatives to the UMS Board of Trustees have asked that the Board make a statement affirming the University's commitment to civility. This is a timely issue as many universities nationally are facing questions about campus climate and civility. In August the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) Board of Directors issued a statement on Governing Board Accountability for Campus Climate, Inclusion and Civility. The AGB statement may be found at <http://agb.org/statements/2016-08/statement-campus-climate-inclusion-civility>.

UMS Board policies on Free Speech and Assembly (Policy 212) and Campus Violence (Policy 414) state the university's commitment to civility and free expression.

Policy 212 excerpt: Free Speech and Assembly

Recognizing that many citizens have differing views on the matter of whom and which groups should have an opportunity to express opinions and meet on our University of Maine System Campuses, the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System affirms its commitments to the rights of free speech and assembly.

To that principle, there shall be no restrictions, on any of the System institutions, placed on the fundamental rights of free speech and assembly, except those necessary to preserve the order for the University System to function as an institution of higher learning.

Policy 414 excerpt: Campus Violence

The University of Maine System takes pride in its tradition of maintaining a safe learning and working environment. Civility, mutual respect toward all members of the University community, and a safe campus are essential for effective teaching, learning, and work performance. The University is committed to the goals of civility and mutual respect and to providing a safe environment in its operations and activities.

The Executive Committee discussed its ongoing commitment to policy 212 and policy 414. The Chair will appoint a committee to consider a resolution to be placed on the agenda for Board of Trustees consideration at the January, 2107 meeting. In addition to the Chancellor, the following individuals offered to serve on the committee: President Glenn Cummings, James Erwin, and Gregory Johnson. The committee may also include a Student Representative, System Staff and possibly another President.

Chancellor Page mentioned that Presidents' Council will be meeting next week and he will add this topic as an agenda item. He also suggested the committee develop, during the month of December, a draft resolution and report with guidelines on how these issues should be consistently handled at all campuses. Final approval of the resolution would be on the agenda for the January Board meeting, or if approval is needed sooner, by the Executive Committee. Trustee Johnson recommended the use of campus forums as a platform for discussion and education about this issue.

Approval of Amended Minutes from the March 13-14, 2016 Board of Trustees Meeting. Trustee Collins stated that it was recently noted that the approved minutes of the March 13-14, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting omitted approval of one item forwarded by the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee to the consent agenda. The action was approved by the Board and was noted in the report of Board actions that was issued following the meeting, but in error it was omitted from the minutes.

The item that was omitted from the minutes was the approval of the Financing and Project Authorization resolution related to the issuance of revenue bonds. The resolution was:

That the Board of Trustees approves the Financing and Project Authorization resolution related to the issuance of revenue bonds not to exceed \$50 million for the purposes of financing the UMS IT and UMM Kimball Hall demolition projects not to exceed \$25 million and refunding the revenue bond issued in 2007.

In order to properly document the Board's approval of the Finance and Project Authorization, the minutes will be amended to add approval of this item as part of the consent agenda. The amended minutes are attached.

On a motion by Trustee Fournier, which was seconded by Trustee Johnson, the Executive Committee acting on behalf of the Board of Trustees approved the amended minutes dated December 6, 2016 of the Board of Trustees meeting of March 13-14, 2016.

Adjournment

Ellen Doughty for
Tracy B. Bigney
Clerk of the Board