



**UMS TRUSTEES TO MEET IN DOWNTOWN BANGOR ON JULY 15**  
***Plan being presented to enhance adult degree completion***

BANGOR – Trustees of the University of Maine System will meet in downtown Bangor on Monday, July 15. A major topic being considered is the System’s [adult baccalaureate completion/distance education](#) committee’s recommendations to the UMS Board of Trustees.

To recruit, retain, and graduate students for high demand, high paying jobs that will help Maine compete in the global marketplace, the University System must be more responsive to the needs of adult students. As part of this response, the System is developing a comprehensive plan to serve adult students who may have attended an institution of higher learning but who had not completed a baccalaureate degree. An estimated 200,000 Maine adults fall into this category. Suggestions being made in a [report](#) being presented to Trustees include adopting a “concierge” model (e.g., single point of contact) to serve adult students, enhancing support services designed to address the unique needs of adult students, and providing professional development to enable faculty to teach and work more effectively with adult students. The report also shows that funding is a major barrier to adult degree completion, especially for those students who are only able to take one or two courses per semester, so the System is exploring new ways to assist adult students with scholarships.

At the meeting, Trustees will also consider:

- changes to the [board’s committee structure](#) and a proposal to combine four board committees into two committees;
- a final draft of the [Human Resources Administrative Review](#) recommendations; and,
- changes to [board policy](#).

Complete meeting materials for the July UMS Board of Trustees meeting may be viewed at:  
<http://www.maine.edu/system/July152013BOTMeeting.php>.

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](http://www.maine.edu).

All Board meetings are open to the public. Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to attend should call Chip Gavin, director of facilities management and general services, at 973-3335 (voice) or 973-3262 (TDD/TDY) or by e-mail at [chip.gavin@maine.edu](mailto:chip.gavin@maine.edu).