

The Trustee Professorships Description and Criteria

The new Trustee Professorships, approved by the Board of Trustees in July 1998, are devoted exclusively to honoring and supporting outstanding University of Maine System faculty already making noteworthy contributions to academic excellence on their campuses and within the System. The Trustee professorship awards provide release time and support for faculty to undertake research and other scholarly/creative endeavors not feasible within their normal workload. This program is designed to assist UMS institutions in recognizing, rewarding, and retaining exceptional scholars, and, in so doing, promoting excellence in teaching, scholarship, and research throughout the University of Maine System.

The program will begin in Fall 1998 and will initially provide for up to seven Professorships. Up to \$12,500 in funds per Professorship per year will be available to provide release time and stipend for each faculty member so honored. The University of Maine System is committed to raising funds so that over time, the Trustee Professorships will be fully endowed through private gifts. As the necessary endowed funding is secured, the program will be expanded to increase the amount available for release time so that each university may nominate up to the following number of candidates in any given year to be named a Trustee Professor:

University of Maine – 3
University of Southern Maine – 2
University of Maine at Augusta – 1
University of Maine at Farmington – 1
University of Maine at Fort Kent – 1
University of Maine at Machias – 1
University of Maine at Presque Isle – 1

To qualify for a Trustee Professorship, a faculty member must be nominated by his/her institution on the basis of a campus-based selection process congruent with the UMS guidelines. The Trustee Professorship is not renewable, and is generally awarded for a period of one year, although multi-year awards for a period up to four years in length may be granted at the request of the nominating institution. The candidate must have already completed at least three years of service (the faculty member may be nominated during his/her third year of service to receive the award during his/her fourth year) at one of the seven University of Maine System institutions. S/he must submit an application through the campus process which describes the endeavor to be pursued during the period of the award. This endeavor should fit within one or more of the following categories:

- 1) one that will have broad and/or significant institutional impact;
- 2) one that will contribute significantly to the candidate's academic field of study/research/inquiry/creativity and/or to the quality of teaching in that field;
- 3) one that will contribute significantly to the public service mission of the university through its impact on the broader community;

- 4) one that will support the candidate's personal and professional growth in significant ways in recognition of previous outstanding service and achievement, and future promise.

The nomination brought forward from the institution to the System office should indicate why the nominee is particularly deserving of the Trustee Professorship. Nominations are to be submitted to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs who will forward them to the Chancellor with his/her recommendations regarding approval. Final approval of all nominations for Trustee Professorships will be made by the Chancellor. The Board of Trustees will receive an annual report of the names of faculty awarded a Trustee Professorship with a brief description of the scholarly work supported by the award.

Following three years of Trustee Professorship awards, the program will be evaluated and possible changes and/or revisions to the program, the criteria, and the selection process will be considered.