

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME OF ITEM: Establishment of the **Pioneering Innovation Chair in Engineering**

CAMPUS PRESENTER(S): Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President, and Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation; John Volin, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

INITIATED BY: Roger J. Katz, Chair

BOARD INFORMATION:

BOARD ACTION: X

BOARD POLICY: 711 Named Chairs and Professorships

UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION: The Pioneering Innovation Chair in Engineering will be pivotal to support the development and strengthening of the statewide hub framework for Engineering and Computing. With this position based in Orono, the Maine College of Engineering and Computing will leverage UMS's Unified Accreditation, providing opportunities for learning and research across all the campuses in the system.

UMS STRATEGIC PLAN CONNECTION:

This position will allow the University of Maine the opportunity to bring to UMS a highly visible scholar and educator. Specifically, Commitment 1: advancing the State of Maine through teaching, research, and service; Commitment 3: making our system a destination for public higher education and a respected, and rewarding place to work; and Commitment 5: expanding the abilities of our universities and law school to collaborate and flourish through our unified accreditation as this position will focus on research and academic programs that will benefit all campuses.

BACKGROUND:

The Pioneering Innovation Chair in Engineering is presented to the Board for approval. This professorship was created in the University of Maine Foundation in 2023 and will meet the minimum endowment value of \$1,000,000.00 needed to establish a chair within the University of Maine by the end of June 2025. The Pioneering Innovation Chair in Engineering is presented now, supported with a University of Maine Foundation endowment valuing \$7,781,935.94 as of December 2024.

The purpose of this endowed chair is to improve excellence in educational opportunities and research contributions at the University of Maine in any advanced topic or area selected by the Maine College of Engineering and Computing. The annual distributions from the endowment shall be used to supplement the annual salary of the individual. In addition, a portion of the distribution may be used for stipends and benefits, as well as other needs related to the teaching,

research, and service activities of the holder of the Chair. The holder of the Pioneering Innovation Chair in Engineering shall have an outstanding teaching and scholarly record.

An ad hoc committee shall be formed and charged with the review of applications for the Pioneering Innovation Chair in Engineering, and the committee's recommendation shall be reviewed and approved according to the University of Maine's standard policies and practices for such committees.

Nominations for the Professorship shall be recommended to the Provost and then forwarded to the President of the University of Maine. Appointments shall be for a term of five years and may be renewed according to the standard policies and practices of the University of Maine. The fund shall be administered by the Dean of the Maine College of Engineering and Computing in consultation with the Provost.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

That the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee approves the following resolution to be forwarded for Board of Trustees approval at the May 19, 2025, Board meeting.

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee, and authorizes the University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine, to establish the Pioneering Innovation Chair in Engineering.