

University of Maine System  
Board of Trustees

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**NAME OF ITEM:** Naming of UMaine Athletic Multipurpose Arena, UM

**CAMPUS PRESENTER(S):** Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President and Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation; Kelly Sparks, Vice President for Finance and Administration & Chief Business Officer; Jude Killy, Director of Athletics

**INITIATED BY:** Roger J. Katz, Chair

**BOARD INFORMATION:**

**BOARD ACTION:** X

**BOARD POLICY:**

803 – Naming of Physical Facilities

**UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION:**

University of Maine (UMaine) Athletics is actively engaging with our partner universities across the state and local communities to offer access to the new athletic facility. As the state's only Division I program, UMaine Athletics is boldly reshaping UMaine infrastructure with best-in-class facilities and convening venues at the state's flagship university.

**UMS STRATEGIC PLAN CONNECTION:**

The University of Maine Athletic Multipurpose Arena supports Service Action 1, Goal 1.1: Support initiatives by university community members that directly serve Mainers and their communities. The Athletic Multipurpose Arena will support university and community collaboration through camps and other athletic activities.

**BACKGROUND:**

**a. Summary of the request**

The University of Maine System, acting through the University of Maine (UMaine), requests authorization to name the new Athletic Multipurpose Arena currently in design as Morse Arena.

Philip H. Morse '64 and Susan Morse '64 have steadfastly supported UMaine and UMaine Athletics since 1975, with over \$15M in gifts and pledges. This includes three seven-figure gifts, including the name of the football field (Morse Field) and fully funding the football scoreboard in 2013. Mr. Morse was a close friend of Harold Alfond and often "joined forces" with Mr. Alfond to make gifts in support of UMaine Athletics and leverage others to join them. Phil met his wife, Sue Keene (Class of 1964) at UMaine, and their daughter Katherine is a proud member of the Class of 1994. Phil's career achievements include founding North American Instrument Corporation (NAMIC) in 1969, a company focused on the development, manufacturing, and sales of the first transparent fluid delivery system for coronary angiography, the Morse Manifold. Morse served as NAMIC's chairman until its sale to Pfizer, Inc. in 1995. After more than 40 years, Morse Manifold continues to be used in more than half of all cardiac catheterization procedures worldwide. Mr. Morse has been vice chairman of the

Boston Red Sox since 2004 and a partner since 2002. In 2022, Mr. & Mrs. Morse initially pledged \$1M to UMS TRANSFORMS in support of the Athletics Master Facilities. However, they increased that pledge by \$10M (\$11M total) in 2023 to support the design and construction of the new multipurpose arena on campus. Mr. Morse has paid \$7M of the pledge, with expected completion in 2027. His active philanthropic support of UMaine's Sigma Chi fraternity continues today. In recognition of the Morse family's many years of support to UMaine, UMaine would like to name the new multipurpose arena in honor of the Morse family as Morse Arena.

**TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:**

That the Finance, Facilities, and Technology Committee approves the following resolution to be forwarded to the Consent Agenda for Board of Trustees approval at the May 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 name the new Athletic Multipurpose Arena the Morse Arena.