University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME OF ITEM: Establishment of the **Spofford Harris Kimball Chair in Mathematics**

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: N/A

UMS STRATEGIC PLAN CONNECTION:
The UMS Strategic Plan foregrounds the importance of research to the future of UMS. For example, the "Opportunity" section of the plan states: "Our plan will capitalize on the University of Maine's top-tier American research classification (Carnegie R1) to expand and strengthen research activity and opportunity." In alignment with this plan, the Spofford Harris Kimball Chair will enable UMaine to recruit an outstanding mathematics researcher to join the faculty. It is expected that the holder of the Kimball Chair will pursue activities that enhance the university's reputation in research and promote students' engagement in research.

BACKGROUND:
The Spofford Harris Kimball Chair in Mathematics 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 Spofford Harris Kimball Chair in Mathematics is presented now, supported with a University of Maine Foundation endowment valuing $7,781,935.95 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 Department of Mathematics and Statistics. 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 Spofford Harris Kimball Chair in Mathematics shall have an outstanding teaching and scholarly record in the area of mathematics.

An ad hoc committee shall be formed and charged with the review of applications for the Spofford Harris Kimball Chair in Mathematics, 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 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 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 Spofford Harris Kimball Chair in Mathematics.