

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME OF ITEM: Informational item: UMS Strategic Plan goal
Pilot survey of graduating students*

INITIATED BY: David M. MacMahon, Chair

BOARD INFORMATION: X

BOARD ACTION:

BOARD POLICY:

This pilot survey addresses the second part of Commitment 1, Action 1, Goal 1.1 of the 2023-2028 University of Maine System (UMS) Strategic Plan:

Our universities and law school will survey all first-year students in their second semester and all graduating students in their final semester to gain information leading to the continuous improvement of academic programs and student outcomes.

UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION:

Board and student engagement

BACKGROUND:

The System-wide Academic Assessment Committee (SWAAC) comprises assessment experts from our universities. It was formed in 2022 to support the comprehensive review of UMS by our primary accreditor, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), in October of that year. SWAAC members have subsequently collaborated on the delivery of assessment programming for faculty and professional staff across UMS. The group meets monthly with Vice Chancellor St. John and advises him on matters of academic assessment salient to our universities and UMS as a whole.

This update is purely informational. Following its successful development and deployment of a survey of all first-year students last fall, SWAAC has devised and will deploy— with the help of the chief academic officers— a survey this spring of all graduating undergraduate students. This pilot survey of graduating students will be evaluated and refined in summer 2025, and its spring 2026 iteration will reach all graduating students: undergraduate, graduate, and law.