



# Maine Board of Agriculture



## Maine Board of Agriculture

April 26, 2024

### Meeting Minutes

#### Attendees:

- Amber Lambke - UMaine President's Appointee
- Nick Smith - Marn Farm Bureau
- Amanda Beal - Maine Department of Agriculture
- Eric Venturini - Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine
- Marilyn Meyerhans - Maine State Pomological Society
- Marge Kilkelly - Livestock Farmer
- Stephanie Burnette - UMaine Faculty Representative
- Philip Fanning - UMaine Faculty Representative
- Sebastian Belle - Maine Aquaculture Representative
- Hannah Carter - UMaine Cooperative Extension
- Jason Bolton - UMaine Cooperative Extension
- Jim Dill - UMaine Cooperative Extension, Maine State Representation
- John Volin - UMaine Provost
- Joan Ferrini-Mundi - UMaine President
- Samantha Warren - UMS Director of Government & Community Relations
- Lee Hecker - Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, Board of Agriculture Clerk
- George Criner - Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, Board of Agriculture Clerk

#### Introductions - Marge Kilkelly (10:00-10:10)

- Welcome, introductions, handouts dispersed, & agenda review
- Approval of previous meeting minutes - minutes not provided

#### University of Maine FY25 Budget Update - President Joan Ferrini-Mundy (10:10-11:30)

- Budget timeline
  - Summer 2024 - close FY24, launch strategic re-envisioning, enroll class F2024
  - Fall 2024 - New classes begin, continue strategic re-envisioning, unit planning and projections underway
  - January 2025 - Campuswide budget hearing
  - March 2025 - Preliminary budget submitted to Board of Trustees Finance, Facilities, & Technology Committee
  - May 2025 - Anticipated FY26 budget approval UMS-wide
  - KEYS for FY 26- Refining enrollment projection, including retention & student credit hour projections
- FY 25 Education & General (E&G) expense budget
  - Total budget: \$273.3M
  - Primary revenue sources: state appropriations (\$105.4M), tuition & fees (\$124.8M net of financial aid), indirect cost returns on research grants (\$22.2M), other revenues (e.g., sales, service, auxiliary; \$16.0M)
  - Primary expenses: compensation & benefits (\$177.1M net of attrition), capital maintenance & energy (\$28.6M), other expenses (\$67.6M, net of interdepartmental credits)
  - UMS is responsible for balancing its own budgets
- Budget targets



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- FY24: net revenues (\$258.7M), total expenses (\$266.3), reserves used to balance (\$7.6M)
- FY25: net revenues (\$268.4M), total expenses (\$273.3), reserves used to balance (\$4.8M)
- FY26: net revenues (\$276.1M), total expenses (\$279.8), reserves used to balance (\$2.1M)
- Potential new revenue opportunities
  - Recruiting & enrollment: direct admit program, prospect purchasing, transfer students, process improvements
  - Foster student success & retention: research learning experiences, gateways to success, pathways to careers, blackbear early alert
  - Launch relevant programs: engineering & computing, business, UMaine online, credentials, Maine center

### Maine Agricultural & Forest Experiment Station (MAFES) budget history, impacts to service delivery, & current needs - George Criner (11:30-12:15)

- Summary of US Experiment Station history, leading into the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station (MAFES) history, current facilities, faculty and operations.
- “Capacity grants” - primarily base budget grants for colleges and universities to enhance the research at experiment stations, and cooperative extension at land-grant universities.
- Description of facilities
- Description of provided financial support annually
  - From federal appropriations and E&G match (FY19 - FY25)
  - To faculty, administration, staff, students, and goods & services
- Purchases FY24
  - Equipment total: \$434,074
  - Infrastructure upgrades total: \$369,146
  - Both were broken down by farm with examples provided
- Anticipated expenses through FY28
  - Equipment total: \$476,000
  - Both were broken down by farm with examples provided
- Ongoing projects
  - Sawmill at Dwight B Demeritt Forest - funding from MJRP & others
  - Phenotype lab at Aroostook Farm - funding from MJRP & others
  - New dairy barn construction & robotic milker installation - funding from MAFES and G&E
  - Irrigation & fresh packing facility at Blueberry Hill Farm - funding from Small Business Administration
  - Wyman’s research and innovation center - funding from Wyman’s and G&E
  - Analytical Laboratory expansion and modernization - funding from National Institute of Standards and Technology

### Cooperative Extension budget history, impacts to service delivery, & current needs - Hannah Carter & Jason Bolton (12:45-1:30)

- Summary of history and current breadth of Cooperative Extension
- Funding sources
  - FY23 total: \$22,686,190
  - Broken down by funding source: 66% from E&G + grants & contracts
  - FY22 and FY23 funding sources provided
- 3-year history of E&G realignment consequences
  - FY23 funding loss: \$214,919
  - FY24 funding loss: \$1,416,304



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- FY23 funding loss: \$60,312
- FY23 grants acquired
  - Total: ~\$8M
  - Highlights of top awards were provided
- 14 new hires
  - 7 faculty
  - 7 professionals
  - 3 hirings in progress
- Ongoing projects
  - PFAS Environmental Contamination Research and Detection Lab - funding from National Institute of Standards and Technology
  - PFAS research funds - funding from the Environmental Protection Agency
  - Center for Food Innovation - funding from MJRP and Small Business Association
  - Agricultural Roadmap - funding from Small Business Association
- Needs
  - Meat Science Specialist
  - Ag Water or Soil Specialist with PFAS and/or Climate Change focus
  - Vegetable and Small Fruit Specialist
  - Vegetable Crop and Vegetable Specialist
  - Ag Economist
  - Entomologist or Pest Management Specialist
  - Support for Food Innovation/Small Business
- Next 3 years
  - Extension roadmap
  - Increase economic impact of heritage industries
  - National leader in on-line Extension programming
  - UMS leader in micro-credentialing and certificates
  - Increase student involvement
  - Endowed positions & programs
  - More connections with UMS - faculty and co-located facilities and/or programs
- Next 5 years
  - National leader in Extension organizations, K-12 non-formal outdoor education programs, 4-H programming, workforce development, soil health (PFAS), climate change, and food innovation
  - Diversified funding profile

### Analytical Laboratory modernization and expansion listening session - Lee Hecker (1:30-2:00)

- Explanation of National Institute of Standards and Technology earmarks for construction and equipment
- Call for input from BoA on service and analytical needs
  - Feedback - leaf analysis, fruit (apple) analysis, organic & inorganic heavy metals in kelp and garden soils

### Action Items

- Send presentation slides to the Board of Agriculture
- Send Analytical Lab earmark handout and price sheet of current services to Board of Agriculture to be circulated through networks (*sent 4/29*)
- Begin a strategic BOA-UMaine-MAFES re-envisioning.



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- UMaine will gather pertinent data (College enrollment, grants, faculty changes; budget; policies, etc.) and will send to BOA members.
- In June, one or more BOA committees will review data and work with UMaine to draft some future scenarios for MAFES.
- In August there will be a hybrid meeting of one or more committees to prepare for a summit with the UMaine President's office in September 2024
- September 2024, day tbd, BOA summit with President's office, likely on campus.
- Next BOA meeting: Oct. 4 in Monmouth, Maine (w/ UMS Chancellor).