



UMS Office of Government Relations Overview

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Did You Know: For every \$1 of State appropriation, the UMS generates \$7.50 for Maine's economy.

UMS Office of Government Relations Overview

Raise awareness and appreciation for the role of our public universities in serving and strengthening Maine's citizens, communities and economy through:

- Proactive engagement as resource and advocate to inform and influence:
 - Issues that directly impact UMS and its institutional interests
 - Issues that impact Maine and national prosperity
 - Issues where we have unique expertise to inform policymaking
- Preparing and supporting faculty, staff and students to effectively engage with state and federal policymakers
- Activating the voices of our allies to champion our value and relevance
- Showing state and federal stakeholders our work on campus and in the community

UMS Office of Government Relations – Key State Duties

- Develop and deliver written or in-person testimony (for, against, informational)
- Draft and submit proposed legislation
- Respond to requests for information
- Make legislators aware of unique expertise of UMS faculty, staff or students
- Track legislation and relevant rulemaking
- Write, edit and submit legislative reports
- Plan informational briefing for legislative committee, issue caucus or staff
- Provide legislators strategic updates including e-newsletter and alerts in advance of relevant announcements
- Organize legislative events/invitations to campus including tours
- Develop and distribute informational or promotional materials
- Plan individual or group visits to Augusta
- Provide 1:1 or group training on effective legislative relations
- Strategic partner engagement (MCCS, BOV)

UMS Policy on Legislative Engagement

"...This policy does not restrict any UMS faculty, staff, or student from speaking on political matters, including testifying before or speaking with legislators or policy makers, about the subjects of their teaching or research expertise or personal experience, provided they do not represent that they speak for their campus or the System unless specifically authorized to do so...All UMS legislative advocacy without exception will therefore be managed through the Chancellor's office, specifically the Office of Community and Government Relations. System legislative advocacy, including university-specific advocacy, may only be pursued by individuals authorized by UMS for that purpose. For the purposes of this policy, 'UMS legislative advocacy' includes interaction with the State Legislature, including individual legislators or legislative committees and their staff, the Governor's office and staff, or any other public official or the general public when the purpose of the interaction or communication is to advocate for a specific UMS institutional position or outcome." - [Board Policy 214, Institutional Authority on Political Matters](#)

- Serving as an official representative of the UMS or its universities (including centers, programs, etc.) to advocate or provide objective subject matter expertise to inform legislation requires advanced approval and coordination.
- Engagement in the legislative process as a private citizen does not require coordination, but doing so may add value and can reflect on UMS. (Testimony not on official letterhead, may reference university title to establish relevant credibility but must make clear you are not speaking on behalf of the institution.)

Did You Know: UMS has conferred more than 55,000 degrees in the past decade, led by those for nursing/health, business, engineering and education.

Overview of First Regular Session of 130th Legislature

Appropriations

- Base appropriations increase of 3% annually, targeted funds for early college and Maine Law
- \$35M (from ARPA) to support UMS talent development, research and innovation (MJRP)

Affordability

- Increase need-based Maine State Grant minimum award to \$2,500
- Commission to study college affordability, studies to limit student debt

Board Governance

- Bill to add tribal member to UMS BOT enacted, those to add faculty to BOT vetoed
- Four new trustees (Hon. Cain, Katz, Rotundo + student), two reappointments

Inclusion

- Bills to ban trans women from athletics defeated
- Elimination of SAT as required State assessment

Remote Participation Post-Pandemic

- Allow remote public meetings if access con't

Research, Development & Commercialization

- Establish new UMS research institute to inform innovation and economic advancement cmte
- UMaine offshore wind technology protected

Others

- UMS debt cap flexibility (\$350M)
- Nursing faculty loan repayment program funded
- Creation of student trip leader certification

Did You Know: Students at the University of Maine School of Law provide nearly 14,000 hours of pro bono legal services to Mainers with need annually.

Priorities for Second Session of 130th Legislature

- Funding to help address \$1.3 billion need for infrastructure improvements across UMS while leveraging private and other investment
- Investment to grow university R&D activities and impact on workforce and economic development (MEIF)
- E&G appropriations to offset operational cost increases, minimize tuition increases
- Expansion of University of Maine School of Law legal aid clinic, including rural clinic pilot
- Policy and investment based on councils, study groups, plans: Maine Climate Council, Affordability and Completion Commission, workforce needs (early childhood education, teachers, veterinarians, nursing, etc.)
- Prevent passage of bills that would increase operational costs, reduce student affordability and opportunity while ensuring UMS has appropriate seat at the table

Did You Know: The debt load of UMS graduates is 17.4% lower than is average for graduates of New England four-year public institutions.

UMS Office of Government Relations – Key Federal Duties



- Develop and advocate for institutional interests with Congress, Executive Branch and national higher ed and related organizations (developing legislation, securing bill sponsorship, rulemaking comments, etc.)
- Raise profile and influence of UMS universities among federal stakeholders, including by making connections to System experts and information
- Monitor federal legislation and regulation of impact to UMS and advise UMS leadership on related action
- Coordinate all sign-on letters related to federal legislation, agencies or issues on behalf of UMS or individual UMS universities
- Lead annual UMS congressional earmark selection and submission process w/UMS VCRI
- Partner with other universities and related organizations (APLU, SHEEO, etc.) on issues of shared interest
- Serve as delegation's POC for UMS-related constituent related inquiries
- Serve on APLU Council on Government Affairs (APLU CGA) Executive Committee

Did You Know: The State's investment in UMS research and development through MEIF has a more than 5:1 rate of return.