Strategic Re-Envisioning Update

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Dear University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias colleagues,

Thank you all for participating in the Strategic Re-Envisioning (SRE) town hall on Tuesday. I was thrilled to see such a great turnout from across so many parts of the university – we had about 80 participants in person and an additional 200 joined us virtually. Your engagement with this event sets the stage for the next nine months as we work toward developing recommendations for a re-envisioned university.

A critical part of this work will be done by a group of Provost’s Fellows as well as a Project Director, who will work on this initiative intensively over the summer. On Tuesday we announced a call for newly-opened SRE positions. Provost Volin reached out on Wednesday to those who had expressed interest in the initiative via the form on the SRE website. I’m following up today with similar information. Project descriptions and information on how to apply for a Provost’s Fellow position or Project Director are now available. Those interested should submit a 1-page cover letter and a CV or resume to Dianne Avery (diannea@maine.edu) no later than June 3.

Those who choose to engage with the initiative will ensure that we strategically align our resources with university priorities and ultimately reach a balanced budget, are well-positioned for a competitive enrollment environment, and are prepared to meet upcoming challenges and opportunities. I look forward to working with you all to determine solutions for long-lasting success here at UMaine.

We will follow up with you next week with some of the results of the activities you all participated in during the town hall. If you were unable to attend the town hall, you can view it here. I hope you’ll consider engaging with this important process if you haven’t had an opportunity to do so yet.

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Sincerely,
What would UMaine look like if we were

The challenges facing higher education are unprecedented—from demographic shifts and economic pressures to a changing global landscape.

Opportunities abound as well, from rapid technological advances to the interconnectedness of society.
These challenges and opportunities demand a bold rethinking of our role and organization, which leverages our great foundational strengths.

Our university-wide strategic re-envisioning process will set the course for a dynamic and sustainable future for the University of Maine:

- **Over the next nine months**, this institution-wide effort to develop recommendations for a re-envisioned university will ensure we are positioned to educate for tomorrow, prepare the leaders and innovators of the future, and fulfill our land grant responsibilities.
- This effort also must ensure we reach and maintain a balanced budget, are well-positioned for a competitive enrollment environment that is inclusive of a wide range of audiences, and are prepared to meet upcoming challenges and opportunities.
- Together, we will ensure that UMaine remains a leader in teaching, research and public engagement to meet the changing needs of Maine and beyond.

As we make progress toward the planning involved with this initiative, we will provide updates here for consideration. Please return here for updates based on the timeline provided below.

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**Read President Ferrini-Mundy’s introduction letter**

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**Strategic Outcomes**

- Re-assess and optimize our academic, research, community-serving, and organizational structures to ensure relevance, anticipate societal needs and sustain strengths.

- Create innovative, interdisciplinary environments fostering learner success by integrating our academic, research, and community engagement endeavors.

- Enhance our commitment to inclusivity and provide enriching experiences across all modalities of interaction.

- Develop new models for leading and administration with consideration toward our commitments to efficiency, transparency, and participatory decision-making.

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**Timeline**

The strategic re-envisioning process will unfold in three phases, with each phase designed to build upon insight and input from our community:

1. **Phase One:**
   - Read President Ferrini-Mundy’s introduction letter

2. **Phase Two:**
   - Strategic Outcomes

3. **Phase Three:**
   - Timeline
   - Develop new models for leading and administration with consideration toward our commitments to efficiency, transparency, and participatory decision-making.

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April-June 2024

University leaders will gather input through workshops, stakeholder meetings, and review of prior strategic plans. This phase will culminate in a synthesized report of our discussions and potential scenarios for the future.

July-September 2024

Based on the outcomes of the initial phase, we will refine our ideas and align them with practical steps and budget considerations for initial implementation in fiscal year 2026.

October 2024-February 2025

The final phase will focus on detailed planning and broad community engagement to communicate the initiatives that will commence in fiscal year 2026.

How to Get Involved

Your insights and experiences are invaluable as we shape the future of our university.

Together, we have the opportunity to redefine what a public university can and should be. This effort towards re-envisioning the future is an important opportunity and responsibility and, done collaboratively, will position us as we advance our mission to be a leader in education, research, and community engagement.

We will be in touch with more information about how you can be involved with workshops, stakeholder meetings, and review of prior strategic plans.

Open Positions

Project Director

The Project Director will collaborate with key stakeholders, facilitate working groups, manage project timelines, and foster an inclusive environment throughout the strategic re-envisioning.

Provost's Fellow

A Provost's Fellow is a faculty member who partners with senior administration to spearhead a project critical to the University of Maine's success. Through this role, talented faculty are enabled to explore academic leadership roles at the university’s highest levels.
Strategic Re-Envisioning Update – Town Hall – May 21

Strategic Re-Envisioning Initiative Update – May 14

Strategic re-envisioning our campuses – May 6
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Strategic Vision and Values: A Framework for the University's Future

The Strategic Vision and Values framework is a living document that was launched in January 2020. It articulates the university's vision, values and goals will serve as the foundation for strategic decision making. The vision is to transform lives through research, teaching and public service, with values focused on fostering learner success, discovering and innovating, and growing and advancing partnerships.

UMaine 2025 Commission

In March of 2021, the UMaine 2025 Commission was convened to consider how the context of higher education was being reshaped by noteworthy current events — especially those pertaining to the pandemic, racial injustice, climate change, and the state of civic discourse — and to consider what bold and visionary steps we should take to better serve our students, faculty and staff, our institutions, and our state, as well as to contribute in shaping ways to the national discourse.

- Point of interest: The UMaine Compass

Strategic Enrollment & Retention Action Plan

The Strategic Enrollment & Retention Action Plan for the University of Maine and the University of Maine at Machias builds from the numerous recommendations and strategies, forming connections to spheres of action from these other initiatives and provides the means for units, as well as individuals, across the University community to make progress and achieve results. It will ensure that available resources flow to where they can make the greatest difference in the lives of our students.
University of Maine System Strategic Plan

In July 2021, the University of Maine System (UMS) Board of Trustees directed Chancellor Malloy to initiate a system-wide strategic planning process. As distilled from the original charge, the following principles have guided the plan's development:

1. Be student-centric in teaching, learning, service, and research.
2. Express values of sustainability, quality, affordability, and justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion.
3. Align the UMS mission with the state of Maine's needs and priorities.
4. Make bold and transparent decisions based on objective data.
5. Use cost-effective measures to balance the current and future interests of our students, faculty, and staff.
6. Maximize each university's unique strengths while enabling the System to function as a cohesive whole.
7. Leverage unified accreditation as a tool to produce system-wide benefits.
8. Modernize aging facilities and improve organizational infrastructure while preserving our history and supporting future strategic initiatives.
9. Seek input from a diverse and broad set of UMS stakeholders.
10. Foster a system-wide culture of innovation and collaboration to achieve academic excellence.

The plan will galvanize faculty, staff, students, and other stakeholders to strengthen the System as a whole while honoring the distinctiveness of our universities and law school. Its central goal is to serve our students and our state.

Appendix

- Strategic Priorities Diagram
- Budget Town Hall FY25 Presentation