

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Board of Agriculture
Annual Report to the Maine Legislature
&
Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System

December 8th, 2022

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Bill Pluecker of Warren, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
Legislation Information Station
Agusta, Maine 04333

Patricia (Trish) A. Riley, Chair
University of Maine System Board of Trustees
15 Estabrooke Dr.
Orono, Maine 04469

Cc: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Dannel Malloy, Chancellor, University of Maine System
Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President, University of Maine
Diane Rowland, Dean, College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture and Director, Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station
Amanda Ouellette, Library Associate, Law and Legislative Reference Library

Dear Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil, Distinguished Committee Members, and Chair Riley and the Board of Trustees,

The Board of Agriculture thanks you for your support of its work in 2022. As Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Agriculture we are pleased to provide the Joint Standing committee of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry and the Board of Trustees with our 2022 annual report.

The Board met four times in 2022, twice in March, once in September and December..

At the March meetings the board discussed the survey of Agricultural Producers that was presented at the Fall 2021 meeting. They suggested producing a follow up survey to increase connectivity between the Board and the producers they represent and those who are not currently represented on the Board as well as and the meeting with the Governor. The meeting with the Governor covered each COVID-19, PFAS, and labor shortages. The Board specifically requested funding for PFAS research.

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At the September meeting the Board formed three subcommittees to work over the next three months on Governance, Structure and Charge, and Director Advisory. At the Winter meeting the Board elected a Chair, Julie Ann Smith, and Vice Chair, Tade Sullivan, put in place a new meeting schedule, and will make statute revisions this coming session.

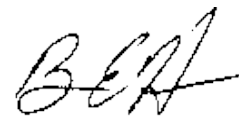
The meeting was held on Friday, September 9th 2022, from 9 am to 2 pm. The meeting was attended by 14 board members and 18 invited guests including the President of the University of Maine and University of Maine Machias, as well as all 3 members of the Board administration. The history of the Board was provided at the start of the meeting, followed by a discussion among board members and invited guests how the Board, the University, and the Legislature could engage and communicate to move Maine agriculture forward. An update on PFAS research progress was provided by Director and Dean Rowland and Associate Provost and Dean Carter as well as University faculty Juan Romero, Glenda Pereria, and Rachel Schattman, and graduate student Alexandra Scraece. After lunch it was determined that three subcommittees (Structure and Charge, Governance, Advisory Committees to the Director) would be formed and meet at least twice between the next Board meeting to be held in December. The last item of the meeting was a presentation of the structure and funding of the Experiment Station by Director and Dean Rowland.

The meeting was held on Friday, December 2nd 2022, from 9 am to 2 pm. The meeting was attended by 13 board members and 10 invited guests, as well as all 4 members of the Board administration. Samantha Warren, Director of Government and Community Relations with the University of Maine System, presented University Legislative Priorities and Processes. The Board approved the following meeting schedule: February: Budget meeting and preparation for conversation with Governor in March, March: Governor meeting to share UMaine partnerships and priorities. during the MAFES/Cooperative Extension Day at the Legislature during National Ag Week, April: Agricultural Needs. Needs from the agricultural community articulated to the University, October: Report of University to Board. University highlights, research, extension and other initiatives allowing for the Board to advise, December: Officers and Reporting meeting: Nomination of officers and preparation of annual report to the Board of Trustees and legislature's Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry committee. The Board voted to submit a title to clarify and update the Statute language. The Board approved a nominating community and elected Julie Ann Smith as Chair and Tade Sullivan as Vice Chair

The Board of Agriculture appreciates the efforts of the Legislature and of the University and University System on behalf of Maine agriculture.

Sincerely,

Julie Ann Smith
Chair



Bruce Hall
Vice Chair