Plan Design Recommendations of the Credit Transfer Steering Committee

At their May 21st meeting Maine’s public university system Trustees acted to set into immediate motion three projects in support of its Strategic Goals and Actions. This policy recommendation encompasses one of those projects: improving the college credit transfer process to make it easier for students to move among Maine’s public universities.

The proposed Credit Transfer Project Plan Design Recommendations are aimed at improving the college credit transfer process and making it easier for students to move among Maine’s public universities. The Credit Transfer Project, guided by a Steering Committee, followed a four-stage process common to all three Strategic Goals and Action projects. These recommendations of the Credit Transfer Steering Committee are to be fully implemented by the end of the 2013-14 academic year.

The Credit Transfer Steering Committee has identified national best practice solutions which can be implemented to create a comparative advantage for Maine’s public universities. The Steering Committee finds it imperative that Maine’s public universities create state-wide and system-wide policies, processes, and infrastructure to facilitate implementation of national transfer credit best practices to offer Maine’s students model pathways toward baccalaureate degree completion.

In order to establish a reliable, robust credit transfer architecture, the Credit Transfer Steering Committee's Plan Design recommends implementation of the following system-wide credit transfer best practices:

- Electronic communication tools
- Block Transfer /General Education Common Core
- Major (program-to-program) Articulation
- Adult & Transfer degree completion - including Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

Engagement of the campuses in an implementation process which is based upon learning outcomes – and is focused on transfer student success, rather than transfer mechanics – should begin immediately.

Recommendation: The Credit Transfer Steering Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees endorse this Plan Design to facilitate the timeliness of launching preliminary implementation steps and further recommends that a complete implementation plan in the format of four-stage design process be presented to the Board at its January 2013 meeting.

Board Resolution: That the Board approves the Credit Transfer Steering Committee Plan Design and directs that an implementation plan be presented at the January 2013 meeting.