

## Unified Online Charter July 2015

The Chancellor and the Board of Trustees have identified the need for a strategic approach for online, distance, hybrid and other digitally enhanced teaching and learning modalities (hereafter “online”) as a critical priority of the University of Maine System in order to meet learner and state needs. In recognition of this, the Presidents Council has provisionally recommended **an institutional collaboration model** for system and campus online resources across the enterprise. The Presidents Council now seeks greater clarity on an implementation plan that recognizes our online resources as a unified system asset belonging to the collective (not an individual institution) that serves the priorities of the academic enterprise and will be managed to ensure: resources are effectively leveraged to benefit the entire enterprise; a prioritization process occurs to address the most urgent learner and state needs and to expand revenue; and a fair process to develop a portfolio of quality online academic courses and programs.

Specifically, the Presidents Council recognizes:

- ✓ The need to develop policy for and governance of our unified online resources to ensure a fair and efficient process to develop a portfolio of online academic courses and programs maximizing our investment and minimizing duplication of effort;
- ✓ The need to modernize the technological infrastructure to ensure a common, robust, and effective platform for online academic courses and programs; and
- ✓ The need to stand up leadership for our unified online resources to fulfill the desired goals for this asset to serve the vision of “One University for All of Maine” through the delivery of quality online academic courses and programs that meet learner and state needs and expand revenue.

Dr. Rebecca Wyke has agreed to lead the effort to develop an implementation plan and will be assisted by Chief Student Affairs Officer Rosa Redonnett. Their work will engage the Presidents Council, the CAOs, the Distance Learning Steering Committee, campus thought leaders in digitally enhanced teaching and learning, as well as faculty, students, instructional designers and IT professionals.

The **implementation plan is due no later than September 30, 2015**, and implementation is anticipated to begin by November 30, 2015. The implementation plan will consist of: the policy and governance recommendations; a plan to achieve a common, robust and effective platform including financing; and recommendations on the formation of a leadership team.