

Should Faculty and Staff Have a Voice on the Univ of Maine System Board of Trustees?

The Legislature's Education and Cultural Affairs Committee has scheduled public hearings on two bills designed to provide faculty/staff a seat on the Univ of ME System Board of Trustees. For years, the faculty and staff have felt the management has excluded their viewpoints from key debates. Both bills will ensure our voices are heard.

The public hearings for both bills, LD 1253 and LD 1391, are scheduled for **Tuesday April 27th at 10am** via Zoom. All public hearings in the Legislature are conducted via Zoom. It is super easy to sign up to testify. You can submit written testimony or sign up to testify live using this link: [Online Testimony Submission \(mainelegislature.org\)](#) (Go to Education Committee, April 27th at 10am, and fill out the registration and you will receive a Zoom link via email to testify the day of the hearing if you choose to present your testimony live and in-person.)

You can expect your testimony will need to be limited to **three minutes**. It is always a good idea to write up your testimony of what you want to say. Here is the common protocol for beginning testimony:

“Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and other members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

My name is _____ and I am from _____ and I here to testify in support of LD xx . . . (and then tell them why you support the bill(s).)

Below is more information about the two bills. Please contact me if I can be of any help.

In Unity,

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LD 1253: An Act To Add a Faculty Member and Nonfaculty Staff Member to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, sponsored by Representative Rebecca Millett

This bill adds 2 members to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, a faculty member and a nonfaculty staff member. The members are full voting members, serve 5-year terms and are appointed by the Governor from a list provided by their respective unions. The member for each seat may not come from the same campus in any 2 consecutive terms. They receive reasonable leave with pay at their university salaries for board meetings and other board business conducted during working hours, and their compensation as university employees is not otherwise altered.

You can read a copy of the bill here: [getPDF.asp \(maine.gov\)](#)

LD 1391: An Act To Enhance the Educational Expertise and Knowledge of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, sponsored by Representative Ben Collings

This bill adds 6 members to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, 3 who must be current or retired public sector educators, are full voting members and may sit on any board of trustees committee. It requires 3 of the 6 members to be elected by members of Associated Faculties of the Universities of Maine labor union and 3 to be elected by members of the Maine Education Association labor union. All 6 of the members must be confirmed by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. It requires the 6 members to serve for 5-year terms, except that, of the initial trustees elected by the Associated Faculties of the Universities of Maine, one member must serve for one year, one member must serve for 3 years and one member must serve for 5 years and, of the initial trustees elected by the Maine Education Association, one member must serve for one year, one member must serve for 3 years and one member must serve for 5 years.

You can read a copy of the bill here: [getPDF.asp \(maine.gov\)](#)