

Jimmy Murray  
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Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Jimmy Murray and I am currently an employee and Trustee of the University of Oregon. I won't pretend to know what is best for the University of Maine system but hope the experiences and perspectives I touch on in this statement prove helpful. I have seen the value of campus-based trustees both for my fellow trustees and the greater campus community. For my fellow trustees I have found that my most important contribution is a sense of the current or anticipated campus climate around policy under consideration. When our Board meets, I am often asked by our at-large trustees who wish to hear the on-the-ground sentiments about the items on the agenda. This contribution extends from policy discussion through presidential evaluations and in everything in between. For members of the campus community, having a colleague on the board allows for a greater sense of inclusion and consideration during discussions around the direction of the institution. I meet regularly with my staff colleagues to inform them and, importantly, learn from them. In addition, given my particular role on campus as a student supervisor, I also get a look into the oftentimes difficult reality of the whole student experience. I work with students experiencing home insecurity, food insecurity, domestic conflict, and a myriad of other tensions and difficulties. I often time see the same students multiple times a week for years. I get to watch them grow, fail, and succeed. I believe this perspective is also valuable for my colleagues on the board.