



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON  
COMMISSIONER

**EXHIBIT: #V.B.**

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner\*

DATE: November 18, 2009

SUBJECT: Receipt of the Review Team Report Concerning the Application from Tufts University, in collaboration with the Maine Medical Center, to Offer Courses in Maine Leading to the Degree of Doctor of Medicine.

**BACKGROUND:** 20-A MRSA, Chapter 409 provides that the State Board of Education may approve an application from a postsecondary educational institution located outside the State of Maine to offer within the State courses or programs for academic credit. Tufts University, located in Medford/Somerville, Massachusetts, in collaboration with the Maine Medical Center, located in Portland, Maine, has submitted an application for approval to offer within an educational partnership within the State of Maine. Tufts University School of Medicine [TUSM] has partnered with Maine Medical Center [MMC], Maine's largest tertiary care and teaching hospital, to provide a unique Medical School Program to enhance access to medical education for Maine students, to address Maine physician workforce needs, and to develop innovative curricula for future physicians. It is proposed that students will spend the majority of the first and second years of preparation at TUSM, having specific experiences in Maine, and then, during the third and fourth years, they will be predominantly within the State of Maine.

Under the formal Agreement, signed by MMC and TUSM, on February 5, 2008, up to 36 students per-year will be admitted to the "Maine-Track." It is proposed that a Maine-based Admissions Subcommittee will actively participate in the selection of students for the "Maine-Track." A Maine-based Curriculum Subcommittee has been formed to develop the MMC-TUSM Medical School Program curriculum. TUSM and MMC are jointly developing a component of the Medical School Program that will prepare students for the unique challenges they will face when practicing in an underserved, rural location. This is a need that both MMC and TUSM feel strongly needs to be met.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the State Board of Education receive the Review Team's Report concerning the application from Tufts University School of Medicine, in collaboration with Maine Medical Center, to offer academic courses in Maine leading to the degree of Doctor of Medicine. This will be an agenda item for the December 9, 2009 Board meeting.

\*Prepared by Harry Osgood,  
Higher Education Specialist