

# AFUM UPDATE

<http://afum.info/>

2/14/2021

## **AFUM WEBINAR on Cooperating Departments** 2/19/21 @ 1:00 p.m.

AFUM is hosting a WEBINAR on Cooperating Departments on Friday February 19 @ 1:00 pm. This webinar is exclusively for AFUM members so please do not share the Zoom link:

<https://mainea.zoom.us/j/81564763769?pwd=Wkd4QVdSZXBleWtzQzFSbFM5ekJRUT09>

Passcode: 423334

Cooperating Departments is a structure initially developed by AFUM, refined through negotiations with UMS, and approved by members and the BoT as part of the UMS-AFUM Contract between the Board of Trustees and the Association.

Please join us to learn what Cooperating Departments are about and how they provide an opportunity for units at different UMS Universities to collaborate on offering degree programs.

### ***Enhanced COVID testing***

AFUM & UMS modified the previous testing MOU to provide for more frequent testing of members up to once a week. By all accounts, the people involved in planning and executing are doing a wonderful job under difficult and unpleasant circumstances. Please look out for emails from your campus on testing (each campus appears to use a different email source), as these will provide your testing time and instructions. As you can imagine, the logistical challenges of testing are substantial, please seek scheduling modifications only if essential. The expectation is that if you are working on campus you are subject to testing. If you are not on campus, or have a de minimis presence (you run in, don't interact with anyone, and grab a book from your office), you need not be tested. We know the more contagious variants are in Maine, so please keep yourself and the Community safe by practicing safe-distancing, masking, and participating in testing. Each University and members are encouraged to work cooperatively, with AFUM assistance, to resolve any issues that arise.

The MOU language is below:

*Unit members who interact substantially in person with students or other University community members in their teaching, research, or service shall be subject to COVID testing not exceed once per week. In this context, substantial interaction with others includes anyone who teaches an in-person class or reports to campus for duty in any facility or location where other people are also working. Recognizing the University list of faculty interacting with others on-campus may not be up to date, a faculty member or the Association may reach out to the University if they believe that a member who is selected should not be subject to testing under the terms of this paragraph.*

In safe Solidarity,  
Jim