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Board of Trustees Public Meeting December 1, 1976

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APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE: June 26, 1977

December 1, 1976
Augusta, Maine

CLERK: _____

Public Meeting

PRESENT: Francis Brown, Susan Kominsky, Robert Masterton, H. Sawin Millett, Thomas Monaghan, Cynthia Murray-Beliveau, Chairman James H. Page, Kenneth Ramage, Carlton Reed, Elizabeth Russell, Artemus Weatherbee, Nils Wessell.
Absent: Bernard Carpenter, John Donovan and Stanley Evans. Staff: Chancellor McCarthy, Robert Binswanger, William Sullivan, Mary Ann Haas, Thomas Strauss, Jeanne Bailey, Barnett I. Shur; Presidents Kenneth Allen, Arthur Buswell, Howard Neville. N. Edd Miller, Einar Olsen, Stanley Salwak and Richard Spath. Dr. James Aldrich, UMM, Richard Scribner, UMM, and UMM students, Thomas McKinney and Richard Grant. George Pierce, Georgia-Pacific Corporation. Press and Public.

Chairman Page convened the meeting.

On motion made and seconded, it was

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting of
October 27, 1976, as circulated.

Report of the Chancellor. Mr. McCarthy took note of a recent opinion by an Assistant Attorney General who ruled that committee meetings of the Board should be open to the public. The Chancellor reported that the University's Legal Counsel had prepared a response to this position and that copies had been distributed to the Trustees for review.

The Chancellor focussed his remarks on the adult education programs administered by the University of Maine at Augusta which offer both credit and non-credit courses in a range of subjects at several regional locations. The full text is appended to the file of these minutes. The Chancellor then introduced Interim President Kenneth Allen who presented a more comprehensive report on the activities of the University of Maine at Augusta.

President Allen briefly outlined the historical development of the Augusta Campus and elaborated on UMA's unique mission as a community college and he spoke to the need for the institution to remain responsive to the needs of its regional community.

Maine Freedom of Access Law. Chairman Page indicated that the trustees will continue to abide by the spirit and intent of the law and he announced that he would ask the Executive Committee to review the Board's policy and report back to the Board at the January meeting.

At the request of the Chairman and on motion of Mr. Brown, seconded by Dr. Wessell, it was

VOTED: to ratify the appointment of Trustee Thomas Monaghan
to the ad hoc Committee on Academic Planning.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel and Employee Relations Committee. Chairman Brown reported that the Committee had received an update of collective bargaining activity and a status report on the development of professional and administrative staff personnel policies.

Physical Plant Committee. At the invitation of Mr. Ramage, Dr. Russell reported briefly on the progress of the Trustee Committee which was established to develop recommendations for a memorial to the late President Jewett. Dr. Russell indicated that the Trustees' Committee, which she chairs, has met with a Memorial Committee established by the Augusta Campus. The Campus committee has recommended that an advisory council be organized to function as a community support group to build a Jewett Memorial Fund. On motion of Dr. Russell, which was seconded, it was

VOTED: to authorize the establishment of the University of
Maine at Augusta Advisory Council.

Joint Finance and Student Affairs Committees Meeting. Mr. Masterton reported for the joint session. At his request Mr. Sullivan recapped the report on enrollment and there was discussion of the implications of the decrease in Fall semester enrollments. Mr. Weatherbee inquired whether it would be advisable to reconsider the enrollment ceiling and the Chancellor responded that it might be desirable to relax the ceiling without reference to specific members but that the issue should be discussed by the Administrative Council before the Board took any action to revise present policy. Mr. Masterton noted that financial circumstances and other considerations had dictated the establishment of the enrollment ceiling and he cautioned that implications of the decreased enrollment would need to be carefully analyzed before the Board considered raising the ceiling at a time when it was also trying to reorder its priorities.

Mr. Masterton reported that the Committees had received a report on tuition waivers which will be discussed fully at the next meeting.

Mr. Masterton noted that the Committees had discussed a staff report on student fees and, consistent with procedures for handling major issues, action was deferred until the next meeting to allow time for reaction and receipt of comments from interested constituents. The Committees also reviewed a status report on a student health services study which is underway with the final report scheduled for submission to the Committees and the Board in January.

Finance Committee. Mr. Masterton reported that the cash flow for the UMO Arena is adequate at this time.

Gifts, Grants and Awards. On motion of Mr. Masterton which was seconded, it was

VOTED: to accept with gratitude all gifts, grants and awards
listed under dates November 30 and December 1, 1976,
a complete copy of which is appended to the file of
these minutes.

Monthly Budget Status Report. Mr. Masterton indicated that the staff is utilizing a new method to compare budget to actual and to expenditures for like periods in the previous financial year. The current report indicates that the University is on target and all deviations from budget or previous seasonal disbursements were accounted for.

Educational Policy Committee. Dr. Wessell reported for the Committee as Chairman pro-tem.

Dr. Wessell called attention to the report of the Vice Chancellor on Academic Affairs which included items on MPBN, health education, faculty tenure, University library services and Maine Talent Search. Background information on each item in the report was distributed with the materials for this meeting.

Faculty tenure. Dr. Wessell announced that the Committee had voted to support the creation of a committee to conduct a study of tenure, such committee to be representative of both the Faculty Liaison Council and the Administrative Council. The central issue for committee consideration is the relation between tenure and appointment to Associate Professor. The committee will report its findings to the Educational Policy Committee at a future meeting.

Process for Presidential Search, UMA. Dr. Wessell reported that the Committee had reviewed a proposed process for the UMA search and had discussed in some detail a listing of desirable criteria compiled by the staff. Committee members offered additional suggestions for criteria and recommended that the number of criteria ultimately specified should be kept small.

Cooperative Extension Service. Dr. Wessell announced that the Committee had approved the organization of a task force to undertake an evaluation of the Cooperative Extension Service, with half of the membership to be drawn from the University and half from the public served by Extension. The task force will be charged to give special attention to needs assessment, priorities, fiscal support and necessity for quality. The initial convener will be the President of the University of Maine at Orono.

Report from the University of Maine at Machias. Chairman Page introduced President Buswell for presentation of a report on Diversified Academic Programs Cooperative Education at UMM which had been heard earlier by the Educational Policy Committee. Dr. Buswell noted that after a long history as a Teacher preparation institution, the University of Maine at Machias has diversified its offerings which now include programs in recreation management and biological technology. Accompanying Dr. Buswell was the Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. James Aldrich who elaborated on some of the ways a small single-purpose institution resolves problems inherent in reorientation to multi-purpose programming. Also participating in the presentation were two UMM students, Thomas McKenney and Richard Grant, who are enrolled in the cooperative education programs, Richard Scribner, UMM Instructor, and Mr. George Pierce, an environmental engineer from Georgia-Pacific which cooperates with the Machias campus to provide work experience opportunities. These participants discussed the benefits of cooperative education from their individual perspectives.

Ad hoc Committee on Academic Planning. Dr. Wessell noted that the Committee has just released a preliminary statement intended to promote discussion by all interested parties of issues identified by the Committee in the course of their review of the University's missions. The statement will be widely disseminated and a series of public hearings and discussion meetings will be conducted over the next few weeks to encourage response and elicit comments from the University community, elected public officials and the public. A recap of the public discussions will be presented orally at the January meeting and the Committee expects to have its final report ready for formal Board review in March.

Mr. Monaghan recorded some observations on the preliminary statement. He expressed approval of the concept of mission review, per se, but he identified a number of additional issues on which he thought the Committee should also encourage public discussion and comment. These issues included, among others, verification of the initial rationale for the University's state-wide system, desirability of establishing a standing committee in the Legislature for the University of Maine, faculty productivity. Mr. Weatherbee expressed concern for the organization, structure and missions of the several campuses and he had reservations about retaining baccalaureate programs at all campuses. He suggested that questions such as University/VTI relationships, and open admissions policies be addressed. Chairman Page commended the Committee for their progress in this initial phase of the study and noted that Trustee and public involvement in discussion of the issues is the vital next step in this effort to improve and strengthen the State's public higher education.

Chairman Page announced that the next meeting of the Board will be held in Bangor on January 26, 1977.

Adjournment.



JoAnne R. Magill
Interim Clerk