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Advisory Committee on Engineering/Technology Education April 27, 1989

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees

Portland, Maine
April 27, 1989

Advisory Committee on Engineering/Technology Education

PRESENT: Stewart Smith, Chair; Patricia Collins, James Storer, John Field, Marshall Hall, Groves Herrick, Patti Hinckley, Brian Hodgkin, Perry Hudson, Durward Huffman, David Knudsen, Joyce Patrick, William Rivard, James Smith, James Vamvakias, John Wuorinen. Staff: Richard Bowers.

MEETING SUMMARY:

- . Chairman Stewart Smith convened this first meeting of the Advisory Committee which was created by the Board of Trustees at its January, 1989, meeting to provide continuing input on policy issues in engineering and technology education. The membership of the Advisory Committee was drawn largely from the membership of the ad hoc Panel on Engineering and Technology Education, which had submitted its final report to the Board on September 28, 1988.
- . The Chairman reviewed the charge to the Committee which will focus broadly on the needs of the State rather than on particular programs or narrow issues. As a holdover from the agenda of the original Panel, the Committee will receive a report of the annual reviews and the three-year evaluation of the BSEE which was established at USM in 1988, but Dr. Smith stressed that this program would not be the primary area of concern for the Committee.
- . Update on Recommendations in the ad hoc Panel's Report.
 - Professor John Wuorinen, Director of the University of Maine's Center for Engineering Studies at USM briefed the Committee on the activities of the Center which opened last December. These included identification of courses and seminars currently offered or in the planning stage; efforts to stimulate interaction with industry; work with high schools to recruit students and provide enrichment programs; ongoing survey of engineering needs in Southern Maine. Mr. Hudson reported that the Maine Extended Engineering Program Advisory Committee (MEEPAC) seeks to attract more high school students to engineering fields and suggested that the Center might provide some direction for this group. There was discussion of the possibility that such activities could enhance recruitment of women students. Dr. Hodgkins indicated that the Maine Society of Science and Technology (MSST) might be helpful on this issue, as well. The Chairman asked the membership to consider what suggestions the Committee could make to the Center, to MEEPAC and to MSST.
 - Manufacturing education. Professor Brian Hodgkins reported that a USM proposal for a program in manufacturing engineering technology was complete and would be submitted for Board consideration as soon as funding became available. Work on a graduate program in manufacturing management to be developed jointly by UM and USM had been deferred awaiting guidance from the Advisory Committee. The Chairman requested

that development of the program be initiated and asked Vice Chancellor Bowers to determine what progress had been made at Orono to prepare for the addition of a manufacturing concentration to the Campus's existing program in mechanical engineering technology.

- Broadening access to Engineering/Technology Education. This recommendation called for a coordinated effort by the University with representatives from Maine Maritime Academy and the Vocational Technical Institute System, to determine educational needs and provide instruction on engineering and technical subjects in partnership with business and industry in the State. Vice Chancellor Bowers reported that a preliminary task will be to make determinations about the level of need. Professor Groves Herrick, Maine Maritime Academy, and Dr. Durward Huffman, Director, NMVTI, both expressed interest in this initiative on behalf of their respective institutions. Chairman Stewart Smith said the Chancellor's Office should now proceed with the development of this coordinated effort and Dr. Bowers said he would try to bring a group together this Spring.
- Certificate of Technical Studies. The thrust of this recommendation was to provide a means to encourage graduates with Associate Degrees to pursue further studies. Dr. Huffman said the Certificate would be an excellent starting point. Professor Herrick reported that Maine Maritime had four-year technical programs that would tie into two-year University programs and that the University's proposed Interactive Television Network will help to integrate the programs.
- . Issues for Advisory Committee Consideration:
 - Ongoing review of the implementation of recommendations noted above;
 - Women in engineering - to address the dearth of women in the field and the tendency for many of those who do enter to leave the field for other career options.
 - Recruitment of students to engineering; working with high school and secondary schools to provide information and raise aspirations. Attention should be given to providing information about engineering to teachers and counselors as well as to students. The Commission on a Common Core of Learning, established by Eve Bither, Commissioner of Educational & Cultural Services, has just begun its study and might be an appropriate contact for the Committee.

Background information to be available for the next meeting.

- A statewide survey on women in engineering (P. Hinckley);
- A summary of high school and junior high school interaction with engineering education - what activities/information are available and what more needs to be done;
- The Vice Chancellor will review data collected earlier which provides information about the number of Maine students who go out-of-state for engineering education, and about the factors which influence the choice of schools.