

2-3-1971

Board of Trustees Honorary Degree Committee February 3, 1971

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 3, 1971
Orono, Maine

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date 4/8/71
By: JoAnne R. Magill, Clerk

HONORARY DEGREE COMMITTEE

PRESENT: Chairman pro-tem Mrs. Jean Sampson, W. G. Robertson, L. M. Cutler, Staff: D. R. McNeil, S. L. Freeman, A. C. McGuinness, V. F. Massey, and Clerk, J. R. Magill.

In the absence of Chairman Brown, Mrs. Sampson served as Chairman pro-tem.

The Committee met to review recommendations submitted for conferral of honorary degrees at the Spring commencements. Dr. McNeil acquainted the Committee with a special problem he felt might cause some later misunderstanding. He had nominated Dean Mark Shibles as a candidate, unaware that the Dean had been considered but not approved for nomination by the UMO campus screening committee in accordance with their unwritten rule that precludes recommending colleagues for honorary degrees at retirement. The chairman of the UMO screening committee had advised the Chancellor that it would be preferable, in his opinion, to award degrees in such cases after a year of retirement. Since Dean Shibles enjoys a national reputation, and since the awarding of degrees is the prerogative of the Board, Dr. McNeil allowed his nomination, which had the concurrence of President Libby, to stand. If the nomination is approved by the Committee and the Board, the Chancellor said that he would call the campus chairman to be sure he understood that the guidelines authorize and the Trustees encourage nominations from varied sources.

The nomination for President Fox to receive an honorary degree constitutes a special case. He may accept a position somewhere in the system after his retirement from the Presidency at Fort Kent, and approval of this nomination may suggest that the Board has departed from its tradition of not awarding honorary degrees to active staff. Since he will be completely disassociated with the Fort Kent area after retirement, and since his post-retirement plans are unknown at this time, it was agreed that the nomination should receive consideration as an exception to the general rule.

Chairman Brown had conferred with all Committee members by telephone a few days before the meeting and all of the recommendations forwarded by the Chancellor had his approval.

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: to recommend that the Board authorize conferral of honorary degrees at the Spring commencements as follows:

UMO

Roger Howell, Jr., President, Bowdoin College
Karl Sax, Emeritus Professor, Harvard University
Harold M. Morse, Mathematician, School of Advanced
Study, Princeton, New Jersey
Mark R. Shibles, Dean, College of Education, UMO

UM-Farmington

Harvey B. Scribner, Chancellor, New York City
Public School System

UM-Fort Kent

Joseph M. Fox, President, University of Maine at
Fort Kent

UM-Machias

James V. Day, Commissioner, Federal Maritime Commission

UMP-G

Mrs. Shirley Chisholm, Congresswoman from Brooklyn,
New York
Robert Lowell, Poet
E. Grosvenor Plowman, scholar, writer and lecturer;
retired from U. S. Steel as Vice President for
Transportation
Robert G. Albion, Emeritus Professor, Harvard University

The Chancellor will consult with Chairman Brown about the specific degree designations for each nominee, and it was agreed that Dr. McNeil should work out arrangements with the individual Campuses for public announcement of nominations approved by the Board. No publicity will be released until acceptances have been received from the candidates.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill
JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk, Board of Trustees