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Board of Trustees Ad Hoc Committee November 28, 1973

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 28, 1973
Bangor, Maine

ad hoc committee - Medical Education Planning

PRESENT: Dr. Nils Wessell, Chairman, Dr. Stanley Evans, Dr. John Donovan, Dr. Lawrence Cutler and Dr. Stanley Freeman.

Dr. Freeman reported on a recent meeting with Mr. Robert Brandow, Administrator of the Eastern Maine Medical Center, on the subject of Affirmative Action Plan for the Center. Mr. Brandow is taking steps to achieve a satisfactory affirmative action plan and recruiting effort to gain an increased participation of minorities among hospital employees. The hospital already makes a periodic report to the Equal Opportunity Commission. In discussion the Committee emphasized the desirability of having the membership of the Board of Trustees and the Corporation of Eastern Maine Medical Center (and other hospitals) examined in terms of the representation of various segments of the actual community which the hospital serves. It was requested that Dr. Cutler, as Chairman of the Board, and Dr. Wessell, as Chairman of the Committee, make arrangements to meet with the Chairman of the Board of Eastern Maine Medical Center on this topic.

Dr. Freeman reviewed for the Committee the information that he had obtained on a trip to Washington about the prospects for Veterans Administration support of a medical school. The details had been reported in a memorandum to the Committee dated November 7th. Dr. Freeman indicated that it was still his intention to work with Dr. Coon and others to prepare an application to Veterans Administration with a target of summer or fall of 1974. The Committee will be kept closely informed as that preparation goes forward and it is understood that no commitment has yet been made to undertake such a school.

A recent editorial in the Maine Sunday Telegram based upon a speech by Secretary for Health Edwards indicating there might be an end to Federal support for medical education prompted Committee discussion of the general problem of outside funding. The Committee again expressed serious concern that the University might take steps which would walk into a medical school. It was recommended that no response to the editorial be issued which might be construed as intent of having a medical school. The Committee expressed the hope that as soon as Dr. Coon takes up residence in Maine that he would accept some speaking engagements around the State in order to clarify the University's plan for medical education without the full trappings of a medical school.

Dr. Freeman reported briefly on the confusion which has developed over the negotiations between the New England Board of Higher Education and Dartmouth for subsidized spaces for Maine citizens in the Dartmouth Medical School. There continues to be apparent misunderstanding by the NEBHE delegation of the University of Maine interest and role, which is to work out partnership arrangements for curriculum and teaching with several out-of-state medical schools. The curriculum and teaching details are separate from the negotiations for subsidized slots for Maine citizens. Dr. Freeman indicated that there would be further discussion with the Dartmouth Dean.

A proposed new position, tentatively titled Assistant Dean for Instructional Services, was presented to the Committee for its consideration. This is a position which Dr. Coon has recommended would be essential for the Institute for Health Science Education in support of hospital-based teaching programs for physicians and other health professionals. The Committee requested information from Dr. Coon as to the priority of this position among other staff plans which he may have.

A letter from Dr. McEvoy, Medical Director of Eastern Maine Medical Center, was distributed in which he indicated that Dr. Coon had interviewed Dr. Hadley Parrot, who is Chief of the Medical Service at Eastern Maine Medical Center and being considered by the hospital for the role of geographic full-time Chief. Dr. Freeman indicated that this position is eligible for partial funding from the AHEC contract and that it represents a first appointment in a clinical faculty for the University of Maine. No action was requested at this time and the Committee urged all policies and rules about the clinical faculty and relationships with the hospitals be clarified before appointments are officially presented.

The Committee expressed the desire to have a special meeting in early January to meet with Dr. Coon and explore in depth his whole view of the future steps which the University should take.