

1974

Board of Trustees Educational Policy Committee December 3, 1974

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 3, 1974
Farmington, Maine

Educational Policy Committee

PRESENT: Acting Chairman Lawrence M. Cutler, Jean Sampson, Susan R. Kominsky, Cynthia A. Murray-Beliveau, Richard Curtis. Staff: Mary Ann Haas, Paul C. Dunham, Donald R. McNeil, Sally V. Holm, Robert H. Davidson, George M. Shur, Lloyd J. Jewett, N. Edd Miller, Richard J. Spath, Arthur S. Buswell. Guest: Professor John M. Nickerson.

Acceptance of Minutes. On motion of Dr. Cutler which was seconded, it was VOTED to accept the minutes of October 22, 1974 as circulated.

Policy on Political Activity of Employees. Discussion of the 1972 Trustees Policy Statement revealed misunderstandings of how the policy had been and was currently interpreted and applied by the Chancellor's Office. President Jewett stated that he had been under the impression that University employees must take unpaid leave if elected to political office. Dr. Haas explained that under present policy, the Presidents are at liberty to make whatever arrangements with an employee which appear appropriate. Such arrangements would depend chiefly upon the amount of time required by the political office and the academic needs of the University.

Dr. Cutler moved that the Chancellor and Administrative Council be asked for their recommendations with respect to clarification of present policy.

Mr. Dunham explained that the present policy's flexibility is in accord with the AAUP position. Chancellor McNeil suggested that the existing flexibility should encourage rather than discourage political activity on the part of employees. The Chancellor pointed out that any revision of the existing policy could not be applied to the cases of present employees recently elected to public office since they ran for office expecting application of the present policy.

Dr. Cutler moved that the issue of a possible policy change be returned to the Chancellor and the Administrative Council for review and recommendation. The motion was seconded and APPROVED unanimously.

UMA Three-Year B.S. Degree in Public Administration. President Jewett briefly described the history of, and reasons for, the proposal.

Professor Nickerson explained the program and responded to questions. He emphasized the specialized mid-career nature of the program, its intent to aid in "up-grading" the education of

current state employees in the Augusta area and its emphasis on state and local government. Only a limited number of recent highly-motivated "honors" high school graduates would be admitted. Although the program might be used as a basis for later graduate study in public administration, Professor Nickerson explained that students expecting to continue in academic graduate programs would be discouraged from enrolling. Professors from Maine's private colleges are expected to participate, adding an element of "program evaluation"

Professor Nickerson and President Jewett responded to several questions by Ms. Murray-Beliveau. Professor Nickerson stated that the program attempts to provide a "double content", i.e. both practical and conceptual/cultural.

The new program should complement the Orono MPA Program by providing prerequisite courses, it was explained. President Jewett expressed the belief that the new UMA Program would not compete for students with the Orono B.A. in Public Administration which would continue to attract younger students interested in a four-year, residential college experience with greater liberal arts content.

Mrs. Sampson expressed concern about approving a new academic program without a source of new funding. Dr. Haas suggested that a moratorium on program approval pending new funding would tend to discourage faculty and administrative initiative. President Jewett felt that such a policy would impinge upon traditional discretion of the campuses in ordering their own budgetary priorities. This view was supported by Presidents Spath and Buswell.

Mrs. Sampson suggested that the Chancellor's recommendation be amended to read "....an evaluation of the program be submitted to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and to the Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Trustees..."

Mrs. Kominsky moved adoption of the proposal with the suggested amendment. The motion was seconded and approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE of the Committee.

Canadian Tuition Policy. Dr. Haas briefly described the history of, and rationale for, the proposal that a limited number of Canadian citizens should be granted in-state tuition rates.

The limitation of the program to one percent of student body was explained as a device to limit possible revenue losses. The Chancellor's retention of the right to annually approve exceptions to this policy on a "space available" basis was explained.

Presidents Buswell and Spath presented the case for aiding Canadian enrollment at their campuses. President Spath thought it reasonable to enable the Canadian studies program to enroll a few Canadians.

George Shur raised two points: potential loss of tuition income, and a possible legal problem in that the program could be viewed as "preferential treatment". He pointed out that court tests of various "affirmative action" programs are not over. He further pointed out that the legal justification for having a different "in-state" tuition rate for a state's citizens might be undermined by extending such "in-state" rates to foreign citizens.

Mr. Dunham pointed out that many University programs might be viewed as "preferential treatment".

President Jewett expressed the view that the University might be criticized for taking a more open position toward Canada than toward its neighbor New England states and the NEBHE program.

Ms. Murray-Beliveau moved to accept the proposal, and her motion was seconded. Ms. Sampson spoke against the motion, suggesting that the timing was bad and the legal aspects unclear. Ms. Murray-Beliveau withdrew the motion.

Dr. Cutler and Ms. Kominsky suggested referring the proposal back to the Chancellor's staff and to the University's legal counsel for further study.

There was general agreement that the proposal would be tabled pending further study, especially with respect to the proposal's possible legal implications.

Ms. Sampson suggested a January meeting of the Committee for further discussion of academic tenure.

Adjournment.

Robert H. Davidson, Jr.

for
Margaret R. Dexter
Clerk, Board of Trustees