

1974

Board of Trustees Joint Committee December 3, 1974

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 3, 1974
Farmington, Maine

Joint Meeting

Physical Plant Committee, Student Affairs Committee, Finance Committee

PRESENT: Chairman James H. Page, Chairman Stanley J. Evans, Acting Chairman Francis A. Brown, Lawrence M. Cutler, Carlton D. Reed, Jean Sampson, Cynthia A. Murray-Beliveau, Kathy Doheny, Pamela Kelley, John Quinn and Neil B. Murphy. Staff: Herbert L. Fowle, Jr., Barnett I. Shur, George M. Shur, Paul C. Dunham, Sally V. Holm, David I. Carter, Richard A. Eustis, John M. Blake, Kenneth T. Winters, Howard R. Neville, Richard J. Spath, Einar A. Olsen, Lloyd J. Jewett, N. Edd Miller and Arthur S. Buswell. Guest: Donald Pendleton, Chairperson of UMOSG.

Mr. Fowle presented the updated Student Housing Survey by Wayne Johnson and reviewed his findings. There is overcrowding at Presque Isle, Fort Kent, Farmington and Orono with a current need of approximately 700 beds and a projected need of around 1,100. Construction costs for dormitories are presently in the range of \$12,000 - \$14,000 per bed. There are currently two alternatives being suggested by the staff for legislative action. The first alternative would call for total funding by self-liquidating bonds when the cost of money is around 5%. This would necessitate a \$60 - \$80 increase in room and board. The second alternative would request state appropriation for a full or partial amount of the total cost of construction as is the case for the VTIs.

Mr. Reed asked how going to the legislature for funding dormitory construction would affect the current capital construction request and it was decided that the two proposals would have to be integrated. By building town-house style apartments as opposed to double loaded corridor dormitories in use now, a savings of 20% is possible. Expensive dining facilities could be eliminated.

Mr. Fowle said construction savings are also possible by building facilities with a life span of 30-40 years similar to motel construction. He also mentioned that \$800 million was available for dormitory construction in the Federal College Housing Appropriation, but it will be returned to the general fund because of the current national trends toward low enrollment.

Vice Chancellor Fowle said that each campus has several Trustee - approved Capital Construction projects in Phase I of the 10-year capital construction program and that these would still have the highest priorities on the campuses.

Mr. Eustis told the Joint Committee that the low-cost modular housing experiment, Talmar Woods, at the University of Maine at Orono, was not working out as well as had been hoped because the upkeep to make the buildings last the life of the amortization period had thrown the cost out of line.

President Neville said that immediate housing was needed at UMO and suggested the lease or purchase of a motel in Veazie which would give the University 50 beds immediately where students could be housed during the second semester. Preliminary discussions with the motel owners indicated the possibility of a quick takeover of the motel. He said that the house on the property was included in the purchase and that it could house another 10-15 students. He asked that the Board authorize further negotiations with the motel owners.

It was pointed out that Bangor Community College was now filled to capacity and that Vice President Blake was exploring alternate housing possibilities there. Discussions were also in process with Husson College to explore the possibility of using one wing of a Husson dormitory to house an additional 75 University of Maine students.

President Neville said that if the need for housing diminished in the future that the motel could be put back on the market.

Mr. Fowle was asked if there were any plans to reevaluate the capital construction request and make recommendations. He said there was no plan to eliminate any items on the capital construction program.

President Olsen said that without additional dormitories it would be necessary to freeze enrollment at the University of Maine at Farmington.

The meeting adjourned without any votes.

Janet C. Beaulieu
Norman R. Buck

for
Margaret R. Dexter
Clerk, Board of Trustees