

1974

Board of Trustees Student Affairs Committee December 3, 1974

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 3, 1974
Farmington, Maine

Student Affairs Committee

PRESENT: Chairman Stanley J. Evans, Carlton D. Reed, Pamela Kelley and Walter Schoenberger. Staff: Donald R. McNeil, David I. Carter and George M. Shur. Guest: Donald Pendleton, UMOSG Chairperson.

Chancellor McNeil and Mr. Carter presented a paper for the Committee to consider on long-range tuition planning and alternatives to the present policy. A copy of that paper is appended to the file of these minutes.

Mr. Carter said that students pay from 20% - 30% of the cost of education and that the national average is 25%. The Carnegie Commission recommended that students should pay 30%. Students at the University are paying just over 30%, or roughly \$600.00 per student on the average. The cost per student is based on the cost of instruction and some support services minus the cost of research.

Mr. Schoenberger asked if there was a cost analysis by campus, suggesting that tuition should be based on the cost of operation of a campus. Mr. Reed suggested that tuition should be differentiated by program. Chancellor McNeil pointed out that this would force the needy students into the less expensive programs such as liberal arts and education since these are cheaper programs. However, the job market in these areas is rather poor. Dr. McNeil stated that higher tuition is charged for professional training such as for lawyers or doctors. The Chancellor then presented his idea that tuition should vary by level, i.e., freshmen and sophomores would pay less than juniors and seniors, since the cost of instruction is less for the former groups.

The following chart represents a policy where students are charged tuition according to the cost involved in educating that student. Line 1 represents the present tuition policy. Line 2 represents student costs when tuition is graduated according to instructional costs while line 3 represents a similar proposal in which the state funds the instructional cost deficit at the Junior and Senior levels.

	Freshmen	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Total Tuition
1.	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$2400
2.	400	400	800	800	2400
3.	400	400	600	600	2000

Chancellor McNeil indicated that he would like to see Line 3 instituted. Mr. Reed said that this proposal would not be realistic in Maine at this time.

Mr. Pendleton asked what the advantage was of the Line 2 tuition policy. Chancellor McNeil said that overall there was none, because the student paid the same amount in the end.

Dr. Evans felt that both Lines 2 and 3 would change the socio-economic picture of the University by allowing greater participation by members of low-income groups.

Mr. Reed said that more commuting students should be encouraged to enroll. The Chancellor said that the quality and direction of the programs varied from campus to campus and that in areas of low population density commuter students could not be relied upon. Mr. Reed countered that similar programs should dictate where students go. Students who are near enough to commute should be forced to do so. Private schools are available for students who do not wish to commute. The State should not be forced to pay for dormitories while students are able to commute. Mr. Carter said that students currently pay off the bonds on dormitories and that the state pays for dormitories only at VTIs.

Mr. Reed felt that a "forced commuter" regulation would create an enrollment increase at Portland-Gorham and Augusta since these campuses are located in population centers.

A suggestion was made that tuition be graduated according to a family's ability to pay. It was pointed out that this would be burdensome to middle-class taxpayers.

Mr. Carter explained the plan whereby a student's income is used to determine his or her financial need. Students, financially independent of their parents, increased by 500 last year.

Norman R. Buck
for
Margaret R. Dexter
Clerk, Board of Trustees