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Board of Trustees Joint session February 23, 1977

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DATE: Mar 23, 1977

CLERK: JoAnne R. Magill

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 23, 1977
Bangor, Maine

Joint Session Finance and Student Affairs Committee

PRESENT: Robert Masterton, Artemus Weatherbee, Bernard Carpenter, Becky Fisher, Cynthia Murray-Beliveau, Elizabeth Russell, Grattan Murphy, Gretchen Ryder. Other Trustees: James Page, Stanley Evans. Staff: Chancellor McCarthy, William Sullivan, Ford Campbell, Richard Eustis, Robert Oberg, Jeanne Bailey, Jeanne Steele. Presidents: Howard Neville, Stanley Salwak. Others: Wayne Reilly, reporter for the Bangor Daily News; George Shur, legal counsel.

Mr. Masterton chaired the joint meeting.

Student Fees. Mr. Sullivan proposed a staff discussion of vouchers in lieu of further discussion on student fees. The group concurred.

Vouchers. Mr. Sullivan noted that since the Governor's voucher proposal had not yet been submitted in the form of a bill, his remarks would necessarily focus on voucher plans in general. He said that according to the information he had been receiving, it appeared the state voucher plan would be similar to the federally sponsored BEOG program. Mr. Page told the group about PECOM's study of student financial aid and reported that the Chancellor, Sylvia Lund, Sharon Floyd and he had been named to a PECOM subcommittee charged with further exploring the broader question of access. Mr. Page said he hoped the board members would at some point advise PECOM of the Board's position on vouchers. Chancellor McCarthy said that looking at any kind of student aid program by itself could be misleading. The real issue, he said, is access. Traditionally, he stated, the federal government has played a very active role in the area of student aid. The government's commitment to access has been realized through student aid programs. The states, on the other hand, have been responsible for developing the institutional base to receive students. The question in Maine, he noted, is whether we want to change the state's role.

Mr. Weatherbee asked if there were any news on what was happening vis-a-vis student aid in Washington. Chancellor McCarthy indicated that nothing had been finalized yet. In response to several questions about who was writing and sponsoring the Maine voucher plan, Chancellor McCarthy explained that the Department of Education had apparently been asked to draft the legislation.

Adjournment.

Jeanne R. Steele
for
JoAnne R. Magill
Interim Clerk