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Board of Trustees Educational Policy Committee September 27, 1978

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DATE: 11/28/78UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEESCLERK: John R. Meyer 002September 27, 1978
Fort Kent, MaineEDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

PRESENT: Chairman Thomas Monaghan, Alan Elkins, Joseph Hakanson, Elizabeth Russell, Artemus Weatherbee and Dennis McCannell. Other Trustees: Francis Brown, Bernard Carpenter, Patricia DiMatteo, Susan Kominsky, Ellen Platz, John Robinson. Staff: Chancellor McCarthy, Robert Binswanger, William Sullivan, Mary Ann Haas, Kenneth Allen, Donald Beattie, Einar Olsen, Howard Neville, Richard Spath, Russell Smith, Richard Eustis, Barnett Shur. Press and public.

Chairman Monaghan convened the meeting. On motion made and seconded, the Minutes of the Educational Policy Committee meeting of July 19, 1978, were APPROVED as circulated.

USM Academic Plan - Costs. Chairman Monaghan introduced Acting President Kenneth Allen to present the cost implications of the USM Academic Plan, which was approved in principle at the July meeting. Dr. Allen briefly reviewed the development of the Academic Plan taking note of its major impact areas: demand scheduling, core curriculum and integration of day and night courses, and he outlined the process through which the costs of implementing the Plan had been identified and evaluated. To facilitate discussion, reorganization costs were displayed and presented under two major headings: 1) educational quality and 2) organizational efficiency. Dr. Allen elaborated on each area in considerable detail and discussion of the individual items by the Committee was interposed throughout the presentation. In the interest of continuity, major discussion points are summarized below:

EDUCATIONAL QUALITY

Core Curriculum Planning - dollars requested would provide release time for faculty for development of core curriculum which is expected to be a complex and lengthy process. It is expected that the new Provost will be in charge of this project.

Undergraduate reorganization:

College of Arts and Sciences - needs are for new faculty, new equipment and development of stronger advising function.

Business, Economics and Management - dollars requested are for additional faculty positions; name change reflects intent to expand the Management area.

College of Education - college will now also include Physical Education, Therapeutic Recreation, Industrial Arts and Educational Media.

School of Nursing - no extensive program changes but upgrading, especially in the learning laboratory and commitments to family nurse associate program. Dr. Elkins commended the expansion of program offerings below the baccalaureate level and further suggested that possibilities for cooperating with diploma schools, even reducing class size at the University, might be explored at some point.

Program One - will handle deferred degrees, two-year programs, some early transfers and some remedial courses.

Human Services and Health Services - needs are for faculty to develop programs, e.g. occupational therapy, geriatrics. Question of reassigning human services to the College of Education has been deferred and, for the time being, allied health programs can be developed in this department which will report to the Vice President.

Integration of Teaching Schedules. Concern was expressed for the costs of integrating the teaching day and there was extensive discussion of overload issues. In response to questions from Mr. Robinson, the Chancellor indicated that it may be necessary to continue the overload system for some time into the future in order to assure uniform quality of courses offered throughout the teaching day. In the meantime, the issue of upgrading continuing education courses is under study by the Trustee Subcommittee on Continuing Education which is developing recommendations for Board consideration at a future meeting. Questions were raised about some of the non-traditional courses being offered on the basis of public demand. Mr. Monaghan pointed out that the public associates these types of courses with University education and this misconception invites criticism. Chancellor McCarthy responded that the Academic Plan purposely divides these issues, separating the curriculum-related courses from those which are offered as a public service on a self-sustaining basis. Mr. Carpenter inquired about the plans for eliminating overload teaching as recommended in the Academic Plan. The Chancellor reported that the current overload policy will continue until decisions have been reached on Continuing Education issues on a system-wide basis. Mr. Carpenter suggested that under these circumstances it might be appropriate to amend the language of Recommendation #3 in the Academic Plan to avoid misunderstanding.

Graduate Academic Reorganization. There was extensive discussion of graduate reorganization. Mr. Monaghan questioned its inclusion in the Plan, preferring to deal with the needs of graduate education through the regular budget process. Further, he stated that the thrust of the studies from which the Plan evolved focussed on undergraduate education and therefore it was not appropriate to include graduate reorganization in these recommendations. Chancellor McCarthy pointed out that graduate education was part of the USM mission and that the intent was to raise the level of support for the graduate program consistent with the concept of maintaining a second University center at USM. Other Committee members expressed reservations about considering the Graduate school programs at this time.

Organizational Efficiency. Dr. Allen reviewed the items in this category indicating that with the expanded day schedule and demand scheduling there would be need for more support services from Administration, Physical Facilities, Custodial, Police and Safety, Institutional Research, Personnel and Public Information.

After Dr. Allen concluded his presentation there was additional discussion of specific areas and a brief review of the twelve recommendations as listed in the Plan document approved at the last meeting, to determine that each had been accounted for in some way. Questions were raised about the need for funding the entire Plan. Mr. Weatherbee was concerned about other priorities which would have to be dealt with in considering the Biennial Appropriation Request and indicated he could not support the total figure proposed for the USM Plan. Dr. Elkins expressed reservations about the plan as a whole but indicated support for some portions such as the core curriculum and demand scheduling. Dr. Russell concurred with Mr. McCannell who pointed out that the development of the Plan had been a lengthy, exhaustive process which has left the campus in a state of suspension and he called for a strong vote of support for the Plan. In response to a question from Mr. Weatherbee about timing of implementation, the Chancellor replied that the timing of the Plan is about three years late, that the planning was initiated because the many problems had already seriously eroded morale. He noted that there may be details which individuals could disagree with but the planning process had deeply involved Trustees, professional consultants and all of the academic apparatus on the campus. Further, he pointed out that two previous campus plans had not received funding and he felt that a third failure would have serious implications for the quality of the institution. Mr. Monaghan expressed support for the Plan although he said he would prefer that certain portions were deleted. Mr. Hakanson recommended favorable action in view of the planning that has taken place with the involvement of the Trustees and the staff. On motion of Dr. Russell, which was seconded, and with Mr. Weatherbee and Dr. Elkins dissenting, the Committee voted to recommend Board approval.

Other Business. Mr. Weatherbee inquired about the status of the Trustee Subcommittee on Structure and Mr. Brown reported that he intended to appoint a new subcommittee at the November meeting.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill

JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk of the Board