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Board of Trustees Student Affairs Committee March 22, 1978

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DATE: 5/23/78

March 22, 1978
Orono, Maine

CLERK: _____

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

PRESENT: Chairman Susan Kominsky (part of meeting), Elizabeth Russell, Ellen Platz, Jamie Eves. Staff: Mary Ann Haas, Chancellor McCarthy, Robert Binswanger (present for part of meeting). Others: UMO Student Guests.

In the absence of the Chairman who was detained by another committee meeting, the business agenda was suspended and Dr. Haas convened the Forum which had been scheduled to provide an opportunity for campus students to discuss any items of interest with the Committee.

Forum Issues.

1. Tuition Decisions. The students requested a voice in tuition matters and particularly to be allowed to review and comment before decisions are made. Mrs. Platz observed that tuition decisions require a lot of study and she questioned whether students could devote the time to go through all the background data which must be reviewed.
2. Student Credit Union. Student James Fitzpatrick announced that a student-run Credit Union is being explored. Services available would include check cashing, postal services, share deposits, loans, credit rating, travel insurance and travel checks. An interest rate of 5% would be offered. The Credit Union would be run solely by a student Board of Directors. There would be one faculty advisor. The local group is being assisted by students at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst which has had a student-run Credit Union for three years. Dr. Russell inquired about University of Massachusetts experience with defaulting of loans. Mr. Fitzpatrick indicated that the default rate was about 6%, which is substantially below national average. In response to a question about regulation of the Credit Union, Mr. Fitzpatrick said that they would be regulated by a federal charter.
3. Student Legal Services. James Lemieux briefed the Committee on legal services available on campus, which help students with legal problems and provides research into certain laws and problems. Assistance is available to help students with marital problems, tenant disputes, traffic violations, consumer protection and welfare rights.
4. Faculty Evaluation. Students expressed interest in publication of faculty evaluation forms. Dr. Russell questioned the fairness of such practices and pointed out that there might be legal problems as well. The students discussed their experiences with faculty evaluation and commented that among the qualifications that students look for in an instructor are:

Quality of the reading material assigned
Instructors' enthusiasm in presentation
Instructors' availability to students outside classroom
Instructors' respect for self and students

The Committee members indicated the Board would welcome student input on tenure nominations.

5. Nautilus Equipment. There was extensive discussion of campus decisions which prohibit the use of the Nautilus equipment by women. Women students and others sympathetic to their problem protested the ban which has been upheld by President Neville. Dr. Binswanger suggested that the students compile all possible factual information to support their request for reversal of the decision and to make the information available to the administration. There was discussion of the need for an appeal mechanism and the staff agreed to develop a process for bringing issues to the attention of the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees.

Adjournment.

Cynthia Carr
for
JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk of the Board