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# Board of Trustees Educational Policy Committee January 30, 1979

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Meet with PK, Chancellor Page and Comm. Gervais RE: Marine Bond

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date: 3/27/79

By: *James Monaghan*

January 30, 1979  
Bangor, Maine

EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

**PRESENT:** John Donovan, Alan Elkins, Elizabeth Russell, Artemus Weatherbee and student representative Dennis McCannell. Faculty representatives: John Coupe, J. Albert McDaniel, Robert Brandon, Walter Lichtenstein, Steven Morang. Other Trustees: Francis Brown, Bernard Carpenter, Patricia DiMatteo, Susan Kominsky, Sawin Millett, Ellen Platz, John Robinson. Staff: Chancellor McCarthy, Robert Binswanger, Mary Ann Haas, Kenneth Allen, Donald Beattie, James Aldrich, John Bay and Samuel D'Amico. Press and public.

In the absence of Chairman Monaghan, Dr. Donovan convened the meeting and served as Chairman pro tem. The minutes of the Educational Policy Committee meeting of November 28, 1978 were approved as circulated.

1. New Program Proposal. Dr. Binswanger briefed the Committee on the development of the B.S. in Biological Technology by the Machias campus, and introduced Dean James Aldrich who was present to respond to questions of interest from the Committee. There was discussion of the program's objectives, types of employment and/or further education for which graduates would be qualified, available resources, and evidence of demand for the program. On motion of Dr. Elkins, which was seconded, the Committee voted to recommend Board approval.

Dr. Binswanger presented a brief update on the activities of the University Program Planning Review Committee which is composed of faculty from the seven campuses, two each from UMO and USM, and one from each of the other campuses, and which is charged with the preliminary review and approval of proposals for new programs throughout the system. Professor McDaniel raised a question concerning the procedure for upgrading proposals which have been rejected, with specific reference to a chemistry proposal from UMF. It was suggested that he meet with Dr. Binswanger to obtain additional information.

2. USM Academic Reorganization. Dr. Donovan called attention to a letter from Dr. Allen, Acting President, USM, which outlined the status of implementation of the academic plan. Dr. Allen and Dr. John Bay, Acting Vice President, were present to provide a more detailed oral commentary on two major aspects of the reorganization, a) core curriculum planning and b) demand scheduling. Dr. Bay reported that a committee has been established to initiate development of the core curriculum. The committee is composed of eleven representatives from the College of Arts and Sciences and one representative from each of the other schools and colleges in USM. The committee will review core curricula offered at other institutions and explore possibilities for development of new courses in combined areas. It is expected that the committee will have the basic framework completed by the end of the spring semester. Dr. Bay also reported that preparation for demand scheduling is proceeding; the schedule for Fall '79 has been completed and registration for continuing students will take place this spring.

3. Tenure - case study. Dr. Binswanger initiated discussion of tenure issues, calling attention to the case study which had been circulated with the meeting materials to illustrate the typical documentation and process which culminates in nominations to tenure for Board consideration. There was general discussion of the philosophy of tenure, the ramifications of the coexistence of a tenure system and collective bargaining, and possible alternatives to tenure, such as renewable contracts. Professor Morang spoke to the issue of salary increases based solely on merit and expressed his opposition to this approach because no basis for evaluating merit has been established. Professor McDaniel objected to the requirement in the Board-approved guidelines which calls for tenure to be awarded at the level of associate professor, ordinarily. He said he thought this provision was detrimental to the institution and hoped the Board would reexamine it. Dr. Donovan pointed out that the Board guidelines do not preclude awarding tenure below the associate professor level on a meritorious basis and he further explained that the thrust of the Board's action on tenure has been to establish standards and to insure that the process for identification of nominees is rigorous rather than automatic. Dr. Binswanger noted that the case study covers the issues under discussion and that it would serve as good background information for consideration of tenure nominations which will be on the Board's agenda in March.

4. Music Task Force. Dr. Binswanger reported briefly on the status of Task Force recommendations which are undergoing further refinement.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill  
Clerk of the Board