

1979

## Board of Trustees Finance and Student Affairs Committee May 22, 1979

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 22, 1979  
Bangor, Maine

Finance and Student Affairs Committees

PRESENT:

- Artemus Weatherbee, Patricia DiMatteo, Joseph Hakanson, Susan Kominsky, Elizabeth Russell, John Robinson, Jamie Eves. Other Trustees: Francis Brown, Thomas Monaghan, (Alan Elkins, Ellen Platz, Bernard Carpenter - part of meeting) Staff: Patrick McCarthy, William Sullivan, Russell Smith, Robert Binswanger, Lawrence Stanchfield, Mary Ann Haas, Einar Olsen, Arthur Buswell, Kenneth Allen, Donald Beattie, Howard Neville, Stanley Salwak, Roland Burns, and Sumner Bernstein.

Mrs. Kominsky convened the meeting and served as Chairman.

1. Refund Policy. Mr. Sullivan presented for action the refund policy statement which was submitted for preliminary review at the last meeting. In response to questions concerning proposed changes, he indicated that the recommended policy would provide a uniform schedule for all campuses, and a larger refund than current schedules allow for withdrawals during the first and second weeks. After discussion and on motion made and seconded, the Committees voted to recommend Board approval of the recommendation.

2. Tuition Billing Practice. As a matter of information, Mr. Sullivan initiated discussion of current practices for calculating tuition for part-time students. He explained that part-time students are billed at the rate of \$30/credit hour, up to a maximum of the full time tuition fee. At some campuses it is possible for students on the so-called part-time basis to register for virtually a full course schedule and be billed at the per hour rate, which has the effect of substantially reducing the tuition. He reported that for the purposes of calculating tuition, 12 credit hours will be considered full-time and henceforth students will be billed accordingly. During discussion, Mr. Eves pointed out that students who prefer to complete their course work over five instead of four years will now have to pay more tuition. Mr. Robinson said he had some basic questions about continuing education and the relationships between full and part-time fees and requested these issues be explored at the next meeting. There was consensus that there would be discussion of part-time tuition policy, in general, at the next meeting. The staff was directed to provide information about tuition and other student fees charged to full and part-time students, with input from all campuses, suggestions for alternatives were to be included.

3. Regional Student Program. There was discussion of an informational report on the NEBHE Regional Student Program which was requested at the last meeting. Mr. Robinson asked why the increase in program participation is so much higher for out-of-state students than for Maine students. Dr. Haas explained that Maine participates as a system and some other states are listed by category; therefore, the statistics are not comparable. Committee members took note of recent Board actions affecting the Regional Program which include establishment of a limit on the number of Regional students who may be accepted by the Law School, and the assessment of a 25% surcharge for all students enrolled in the Program. Mr. Weatherbee expressed concern about the continuing deficit situation

and inquired whether additional limits should be considered or if the benefits to Maine students outweigh the costs. Chancellor McCarthy indicated that the benefits are the educational opportunities provided for Maine students in programs which are not available in the state. Mr. Robinson suggested and it was agreed that it would be helpful to have the Regional Program on the agenda for full discussion for the benefit of new trustees. The Chancellor will provide appropriate background materials.

4. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG). Robert Burgess and Dieter Bradbury,

spokesmen for the PIRG at USM, were present, by permission, to address the

Committee on the subject of PIRG fee collection. Mr. Burgess indicated that in

lieu of a formal presentation, he and Mr. Bradbury would respond to any questions

the Trustees might have concerning the materials about PIRG which had been

circulated to Board members over the past several weeks. Essentially, the group

requested that the University of Southern Maine PIRG be allowed to have its fee

collected by the University through a negative check-off mechanism, on bills for

student fees. Mr. Burgess reported that the negative check-off is currently

being used by the University at several campuses for collection of health fees

and further, that a significant number of USM students had signed a petition,

circulated by PIRG, supporting the negative check-off funding mechanism. During

discussion there was no objection to PIRG, per se, but many of the trustees were

opposed to the negative check-off system. Mr. Burgess reiterated that USM students

were supportive of this method of funding for PIRG and that the negative check-off

was already in use at some campuses for voluntary payment of health fees. Dr.

Russell pointed out that tuition bills are most often paid by parents and that

PIRG fees would be more appropriately assessed to the students directly. Mr.

Sullivan reported that the negative check-off, wherever it is used for health

fees, is provided primarily as a convenience for parents who may have other

insurance coverage. Mr. Weatherbee moved that the PIRG request be referred to

the staff for study and a recommendation, and the motion was seconded. After

other committee members expressed a preference for a decision on the issue

without further delay, the motion and the second were withdrawn. After further

discussion, Mr. Weatherbee moved that the Committee recommend that the

proposal for a PIRG fee to be collected through a

negative check-off system not be accepted.

The motion was seconded and with Mr. Eves opposing and Dr. Russell abstaining, it

was VOTED.

On behalf of the Committees, Mrs. Kominsky instructed the staff to review and

report back on the uses of the negative check-off in the system.

5. Other business. Mr. Eves inquired about the status of the proposed

Committee on Student Life. Mr. Monaghan offered to check on it.

In response to a further question from Mr. Eves concerning the status of the

administrative appeals procedure, Mrs. Kominsky requested that the staff have the

procedures on the agenda for the next meeting of the Student Affairs Committee.

For the record, Ms. Bovard pointed out that several items on the agenda for the

Board meeting lacked back-up materials and requested that information be provided

on all items for future meetings.

Adjournment.

*Joanne R. Magill, Clerk*