

1980

Board of Trustees Joint Session March 25, 1980

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Joint Session
Student Affairs and Executive Committees
Bangor Civic Center
March 25, 1980

PRESENT: Francis Brown, Bernard Carpenter, Patricia DiMatteo, Joseph Hakanson, Ellen Platz, John Robinson, Elizabeth Russell and Thaxter Trafton. Staff: Patrick McCarthy, William Sullivan, Richard Eustis, Russell Smith and Summer Bernstein. Faculty Representatives: Doris Baker, Ralph Jans and John Peirce. Student Representatives: Sandra Bovard, Jeffrey Rudom and Eric Scharf.

Dr. Russell, Chairman of the Student Affairs Committee, convened the joint session which had been scheduled to brief faculty and student representatives on Board agenda items.

1. In reviewing the agenda, questions were raised on several items:

- Appointment of a Director for the Cutler Health Center, UMO. Questions were raised about the change of assignment for the present director, who will be initiating a counselling program for campus staff, and there was concern that this change might reduce the number of hours that doctors' services would be available to students, and that these additional services would eventually result in the need for additional staff and an increase in student health fees.
- Energy projects. Mr. Eustis responded to questions concerning the selection of projects for funding.
- Academic calendar change. There was extensive discussion of a proposal put forward by Chancellor McCarthy for shortening the academic calendar in an effort to save energy and reduce operating costs, and thereby reduce the amount of tuition increases which will be necessary for next year. A number of questions were raised about the impact of a shorter calendar on specific activities, student teaching, the athletic programs, field trips, among others. Concern was expressed that the timing of the proposal did not allow sufficient time for planning and readjustments before the fall semester. There was also concern that Board action on the calendar proposal and on tuition increases for next year would occur too late for students to participate in discussion of these issues. Miss Bovard recommended that discussion of these two items be scheduled for the April meeting of the Board, rather than May, to allow opportunity for student input.

Dr. Russell said the representatives' questions would be raised for discussion during the Board Meeting.

2. Student Conduct Code. Mr. Scharf reported that the University of Maine Organization of Student Governments supports a revision of the Student Conduct Code and review of the process by which the Code is revised, indicating that there appear to be some discrepancies and some problems which should be resolved. William Lomas, President of the Fraternity Board at UMO, presented a statement outlining issues students believe to be troublesome, and reporting dissatisfaction with the campus administrations' handling of drinking violations which culminated in ruling to close a fraternity house. He requested that the Trustees review the decisions and sanctions of the student conduct officer for possible bias and further requested that the Board establish a committee to review and revise the Student Conduct Code, the committee to be composed of four students, two administrators, two faculty and at least two lawyers. During discussion, Dr. Russell said she would recommend that the Code review be undertaken as soon as possible to provide ample time for student input while classes are still in session, and Mr. Robinson suggested that the Trustees receive a report on the handling of the fraternity closing for discussion at a future meeting.
3. Other business. In response to questions from the students about an upcoming budget presentation, Mr. Brown reported that the Trustees had been invited to attend an administrative meeting on April 8th at which the campus Presidents would present budget recommendations based on their program needs. He indicated that faculty and student representatives would be welcome to attend.

Dr. Dolores Mirto, who identified herself as a former member of the faculty at USM, asked to speak. She wanted to call the Trustees' attention to the University's affirmative action programs which she indicated, as in her own case, were not working as she feels they were intended by the Trustees.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk of the Board