

1981

Board of Trustees Executive Committee December 7, 1981

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Executive Committee
December 7, 1981
Bangor Civic Center

PRESENT: Chairman Stanley Evans, Francis Brown, Richard Morin, Elizabeth Russell. Other Trustees: Maurice Keene, Thomas Monaghan. Faculty representatives: Doris Baker, Stewart Doty, Ralph Jans, Richard Maiman, Sharon Zimmer-Boucher. Student representatives: Don Harris, Maxelle Smith, David Spellman, Henry Marcy. Staff: Chancellor McCarthy, Robert Binswanger, William Sullivan. Press and public.

Chairman Evans convened the meeting and introduced the new faculty and student representatives. He thanked student representative David Spellman, whose term is ending, for his contributions to the deliberative process.

The Chairman announced that this meeting, which is ordinarily scheduled to brief faculty and student representatives on the Board's agenda, would be devoted primarily to discussion of a resolution presented by Mr. Spellman in October. The resolution proposed the establishment of a joint committee of Trustees, administrators, faculty and students, to explore ways to obtain additional funding for faculty salaries. To initiate discussion, Mr. Spellman suggested that students be enlisted to support the University's pending request to the Special Session for a supplemental appropriation for faculty salaries. He pointed out that at UMO, for instance, there are students from every legislative district who could be mobilized for letter writing and personal contacts with Legislators. He said he thought this show of support from the University's constituents would be effective and also suggested that the faculty might be willing to participate as well. Professor Doty concurred, noting that he thought the faculty would be eager to cooperate in any concerted effort to obtain a supplemental appropriation. He suggested that the Trustees' legislative subcommittee would be an appropriate vehicle to work out the specific arrangements. Mr. Harris said he thought the University's financial and public relations problems would not be resolved by a single campaign effort since they are continuing issues which should be addressed on a more permanent long-range basis. There was extensive discussion of the need to improve the University's image and to convey to the Legislature and the public not only the University's need for increased support, but also to improve the flow of information about the opportunities and services the institution provides to Maine citizens. There was consensus that the most effective way to achieve these objectives is through informed and personal contacts with Legislators and constituents. There was further discussion of the need for a statewide grassroots advocacy organization for the University, and how this might be achieved. There was consensus that to be successful, any such effort would need to be a cooperative undertaking. Professor Doty said he was confident the University's faculty was ready to work together as advocates for the system as a whole. In conclusion, those present concurred with Dr. Evans' summary of the thrust of the discussion: that the faculty and student representatives said they would be willing to put themselves at the disposal of the Board's legislative subcommittee, to generate support for the University in its totality.

Professor Doty requested discussion of tenure guidelines. Referring to "the tenure guidelines proposal," he reported that faculty at Orono are uncertain about the impact they have had on the guidelines. He requested that the Trustees make it clear that the collective bargaining agreement negotiated with the faculty takes precedence over the guidelines document wherever these conflict. Professor Doty also offered comments on the specific provisions in the guidelines which refer to 1) the prescribed waiting period; 2) transfer of tenure among the campuses in the system; and 3) tenuring of administrators. In response to questions about the need for further clarification, he said the faculty recognizes that the granting of tenure is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. However, the process for developing the nominations for tenure, along with other procedural matters are included both in the faculty contract and in the tenure guidelines document proposed last summer, and he said there are conflicts between the proposed guidelines and the contract. Chancellor McCarthy pointed out that the guidelines proposed last summer were adopted by the Board at the July meeting* and while a separation of responsibility is delineated, there is no conflict between the guidelines and the contract. During discussion, it was determined that Professor Doty was not able to identify specific conflicts at that time. Mr. Richardson suggested that he review the guidelines adopted in July and report any problems to the Committee at its next meeting. There was some further discussion of the need for timely updating of faculty handbooks at the campus level. Chancellor McCarthy noted that the campuses are responsible for initiating revisions to incorporate changes in Board policy and, given the cycle of contract negotiations, the need for revisions should be anticipated every two years.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk of the Board

*with the exception of the guideline on tenuring administrators, which was returned for further study.