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Board of Trustees Executive Committee September 24, 1981

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 24, 1981
Augusta Civic Center

Executive Committee

PRESENT: Chairman Stanley Evans, Francis Brown, Joseph Hakanson, Richard Morin, Harrison Richardson and Elizabeth Russell. Other Trustees: Thomas Monaghan, Ellen Platz. Student representatives: David Spellman, Maxelle Smith, Robert Haenssler, Paul deShane (for Dana Murch). Faculty representatives: Doris Baker, Steward Doty, Richard Robertson, Ralph Jans, Sharon Zimmer-Boucher. Staff: Chancellor McCarthy, William Sullivan, Robert Binswanger, and Presidents Carlson, Silverman, Spath, Woodbury, Reynolds and Philippi. Press and public.

Chairman Evans convened the meeting which was scheduled to brief the faculty and student representatives on the agenda. He welcomed the representatives and introduced those attending their first meeting: Professor Stewart Doty, UMO, Professor Richard Robinson, UMF, and Mr. Robert Haenssler, student, UMFK.

Dr. Evans called for questions on agenda items. Professor Jans requested discussion of the issue raised by supporters of AFUM, who were picketing outside, namely that the University has not been willing to negotiate with the faculty union. Dr. Evans said that this item would be discussed during the Board meeting since the Trustees believed that this issue should be aired in the public session. Mr. Spellman suggested that the representatives be permitted to express their views in this meeting in order that the Trustees present would have them in mind for the later discussion. Referring to recent activities at Orono in support of the faculty union, Mr. Spellman said he thought the protests simply reflected a dissatisfaction with the process of negotiation so far, and that it would have been better if the faculty and the administration could have agreed on a figure. Mr. Richardson said that after talking to students at Orono, his impression was that the issues have been presented there as simply a matter of money. Mr. Spellman concurred with this perception, noting that his own knowledge of the issues was vague despite the fact that he served as a student member on the bargaining committee. Mr. Monaghan inquired about the prospects of student support for a substantial increase in tuition to fund higher salaries for faculty. Mr. Spellman said he thought students would have to look closely at such a proposal, adding that student reaction to tuition increases in the past has been negligible. Trustees Monaghan and Russell did not agree with the view that students have been indifferent to tuition increases. Professor Doty recommended that rather than increasing tuition, the Trustees should seek additional funds from the Legislature to upgrade faculty salaries. Dr. Evans reiterated that further discussion of this item should take place in the public meeting of the Board. Professor Jans noted that faculty and student representatives are not permitted to take part in the public session. Dr. Evans pointed out that increased participation in the Board meeting encroaches on the time available for Trustees to deal with their agenda, but he said the Board might be willing to make an exception for discussion on this issue since it was an

important one. Mr. Richardson supported this suggestion with the understanding that the elected representatives be given an opportunity to offer comments on this issue, without establishing a precedent for using public meetings as a sounding board for all subjects.

During discussion of other agenda items, Dr. Binswanger responded to questions about program discontinuation, noting that there is no correlation between program assessment and discontinuation. He reported that the General Procedures for Program Discontinuation, which were on the agenda for information, were developed at the request of the Trustees to complement the procedures already in place for program approval.

Dr. Binswanger and President Woodbury responded to questions from Professor Baker about the content of the proposed Option of Business Computer Programming for USM. Professor Baker also inquired about provisions for transferability and was informed that the proposed Option is a two-year program which is transportable. In further discussion, Dr. Russell requested that a report be provided for a future meeting on access from two-year to four-year programs. Chancellor McCarthy noted that most Associate Degree programs are designed to train students for a job in a particular field. Professor Zimmer-Boucher said she thought some two-year graduates are disadvantaged in that they find themselves in lower paid jobs and, as career goals change, they learn that a large percentage of the courses they've taken are not acceptable in a four-year program. She suggested that the University could be more careful in the way two-year courses are labelled, and in counselling students in Associate Degree programs. The Chancellor agreed that counselling is critically important. He pointed out that there is a certain market for two-year programs, per se, and that it would not be desirable for all such programs to be made transferable. He noted that professional programs at the undergraduate level leave little room for transferring into other majors without losing some time. Nevertheless, he said, the University has attempted to reduce the obstacles to transfer, and will continue to try to improve its counselling programs.

Chancellor McCarthy responded to questions from Mr. deShane concerning the proposal for higher tuition for courses provided by UMO as a service to U.S. Navy personnel.

JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk of the Board