

1983

Board of Trustees Educational Policy Committee December 11, 1983

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 11, 1983
University of Maine at Orono

EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Harrison Richardson, Alan Elkins, Stanley Evans, Peter Johnston, Geneva Kirk, Ellen Wasserman. Other Trustees: Francis Brown, Patricia DiMatteo, Robert Dunfey, Joseph Hakan-son, Richard Marshall, Thomas Monaghan, Richard Morin. Faculty Representatives: Carol-Ann Hall, Ralph Jans, Harry Kerr, Sharon Zimmer-Boucher. Student Representatives: James Bowers, Christina Fornili, Kathleen Hunt, Paul Tyson. Staff: Chancellor McCarthy, William Sullivan, Mary Ann Haas, Harlan Philippi, Kenneth Allen, Harold McNeill, Constance Carlson, Roland Burns, Frederic Reynolds, Paul Silverman, Judith Sturnick, Helen Greenwood, Byron Skinner.

Chairman Richardson convened the meeting which was scheduled for discussion of items referred to the Committee for further study, from the Board's agenda.

Admissions Standards. In response to the Board's interest in identifying ways the University could help to strengthen the educational system in the State, the Committee was asked to study the possibility that higher University admissions standards would reinforce efforts to improve academic excellence at the secondary level. Mr. Richardson reported that information on admissions policies and procedures have been compiled for each Campus and will be distributed to Trustees, faculty and student representatives for discussion at the next meeting, when the Committee will also have a report from the Administrative Council with the Council's recommendations for any action it deems appropriate. He noted that any changes adopted now couldn't be effective for students who would enroll for next year. Mr. Monaghan expressed disappointment that the study had not produced some tightening of standards that could be imposed for the coming academic year. Chancellor McCarthy pointed out that each academic department has its own requirements and it would take time to effect any substantive change in the character of admissions standards. Vice Chancellor Philippi noted that admissions requirements vary tremendously and the staff is trying to arrive at the best approach to a complicated problem. In summary, Mr. Richardson said the Committee will receive recommendations from the Administrative Council which will address the issue of uniform standards and the impact of change on enrollment.

Cooperative Extension Service. To support the Committee's review of the Cooperative Extension Service and its programs, representatives from the Orono administration and CES were present to provide information and answer questions from the Committee. There was extensive discussion of the relationships which obtain among and between the Extension Service and the federal and state governments, the University and, ultimately, the

Board of Trustees. Dr. Kenneth Allen, Vice President for Research and Public Service at Orono, traced the evolution of the Extension Service through the federal enabling legislation and the subsequent development of the State and County agencies which share responsibility with the University for the administration, implementation, and funding of Extension services. Mr. Richardson was particularly interested in identifying responsibility for CES program and budget decisions, and in determining the extent to which the Orono administration has input to or influence over the decision-making process. Dr. Allen reported that the budget process for CES starts outside the University. Federal, state and county agencies all have responsibilities for some aspects of Extension, and he said this three-way contract tends to be complex. Funding is derived from several sources and there is a requirement for University matching funds under the federal legislation. Dr. Harold McNeill, Director of the Cooperative Extension Service at UMO, explained that the Extension program is based on the needs of the people in the State, and that the people have considerable say over what the programs will be. The needs are identified at the County level and are forwarded as the County Program to CES in Orono, where these Programs are synthesized and developed into a State Plan, which is submitted to the Cooperative Extension Service in Washington, D.C. He acknowledged that the Orono administration essentially is not involved in this program development. Dr. McNeill pointed out that the U.S. Congress has input to program development. The Congress appropriates money for its own priorities, which are then assigned, without requirement for matching dollars, to the local CES for implementation as part of its federally mandated responsibilities. Mr. Richardson said that the Orono administration should have a role in the planning process, at least to the extent that the administration would decide what level of funding it would commit to CES, when the State Plan is being developed. President Silverman pointed out that he was trying to do just that when he requested impact statements for Extension programs last summer, in preparation for the 1984-85 fiscal year. Questions were raised about the potential for duplication of CES programs and programs delivered by State agencies, and it was suggested that it might be appropriate for Cooperative Extension to be funded directly by the Legislature, separate from the University's appropriation, given Extension's mandate for state-wide service to State citizens. In response, Dr. McNeill distinguished between the direct services delivered by State agencies, and the teaching function which is served by CES. With respect to a separate appropriation, he indicated he could support the concept of funding CES by a categorical grant from the Legislature if that were deemed the best approach, assuming such a grant would come through the University of Maine. He said he thought the option should be explored if it would not appear that CES and the University were in competition. There was further

discussion of alternative funding mechanisms for CES. It was noted that in one sense the University serves as functionary for CES as it carries out its mandates from the federal and state governments. Mr. Richardson pointed out that UMO has only a passive influence over CES and recent attempts to have a meaningful impact on the budget process generated strong political reaction and controversy. He said the Board should consider whether it wants to exercise some effective budgeting control over CES and, if it does, it should determine how this would be carried out. President Silverman said that the various options should be explored. He suggested that the Orono administration and the Chancellor's Office undertake that assignment together, and the Committee concurred. Mr. Hakanson said it should be made clear to the constituent groups that the Committee is not seeking ways to increase or decrease funding for CES, and that the study will focus only on alternative funding mechanisms. Chancellor McCarthy said the assignment would be undertaken and completed as soon as possible.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk

