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Board of Trustees Executive Committee April 25, 1983

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

University of Maine at Orono
April 25, 1983

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESENT: Vice Chairman Francis Brown, Joseph Hakanson, Richard Morin, Harrison Richardson, Stanley Evans. Other Trustees: Severin Beliveau, Peter Johnston, Richard Marshall. Faculty representatives: Ralph Jans, Harry Kerr, Sharon Zimmer-Boucher, Douglas Allen, Kenneth Rosen, Carol-Ann Hall, Rodney Cole. Student representatives: Thomas Hamilton, James Bowers, Kathleen Hunt, Mark Higgins, Elliot Carpenter, Christina Fornili, Rodney Labbe. Staff: Chancellor McCarthy, William Sullivan, Harlan Philippi, Frederic Reynolds, Hilton Power, Paul Silverman, Constance Carlson, Judith Sturnick, Helen Greenwood (for Robert Woodbury), Samuel D'Amico, Russell Smith, Richard Eustis.

In the absence of Mr. Monaghan, Vice Chairman Francis Brown chaired the meeting, which is regularly scheduled to discuss the Board's agenda with the faculty and student representatives.

Rodney Labbe, UMO Representative and Chairman of the University of Maine Organization of Student Governments (UMOSG), distributed to Trustees a memo outlining UMOSG's position on a number of University issues now facing the Board or the Legislature. He reported that UMOSG had voted not to support the proposed increase in tuition, which was on the Board's agenda for this meeting, unless the additional funds would be used for academic support. The Chancellor said that since there has been no increased funding available for the academic support area for the past several years, he had already proposed that the additional tuition revenue be allocated to improvement of the academic support system, contingent upon full funding of the University's appropriation request by the Legislature, which would be used for salaries. Professor Allen asked if some of the tuition monies would be used for salaries if the appropriation request was not fully funded. Chancellor McCarthy pointed out that no one could guarantee what the University's appropriation would be and the Board would ultimately decide how the funds would be distributed. Mr. Richardson said it was too early to determine what the distribution formula would be since that would depend on the amount of the appropriation. With respect to the other issues on which UMOSG took a position, Mr. Labbe reported that the Organization voted:

- not to support a bill which proposes to change the name of the Orono Campus to the University of Maine, on the grounds that such a change would relegate the other six units in the system to satellite status;
- not to support the establishment of a Lewiston Campus, and to recommend that existing University resources be strengthened and developed before exploring new territory;

- not to support bills which would mandate the appointment of one or more student Trustees;
- to support equal tuition and equitable disbursement of funds and revenue within the University system.

In response to a question from Mr. Beliveau, Mr. Labbe said UMOGS had not been consulted by Senator Kenneth Hayes before he sponsored the so-called Student Trustee bills. Mr. Beliveau suggested that Mr. Labbe forward copies of the position paper to the Education Committee of the Legislature, of which Senator Hayes is Chairman.

There was extensive discussion of the equal tuition issue. Augusta Student Representative Thomas Hamilton and UMA Representative-elect, James Bowers, reported that the UMA Student Government supported uniform tuition at all campuses. Mr. Bowers said UMA students are concerned that the higher tuition at the larger campuses makes it appear that courses at those campuses are worth more. Chancellor McCarthy and the Trustees pointed out that differentiated tuition rates reflect the higher costs of delivering the range of programs offered at the larger campuses, and that Augusta's tuition would be substantially higher if a set rate were applied throughout the system. The Chancellor indicated that a substantial increase in tuition at UMA might have an unfavorable impact on enrollment. Mr. Labbe pointed out that UMOGS also supports equal tuition and equitable disbursement of funds. Mr. Richardson requested clarification of the impetus for equalization. Chancellor McCarthy explained that the basic issue is increased revenue. Each Campus retains its own tuition, and each receives a share of the State appropriation, which varies according to the costs of the programs and services offered at the particular Campus. Essentially, the UMA students are requesting equal tuition and also a larger share of the State appropriation. The Chancellor noted that the Orono Campus, for instance, is funded at a higher level to support the range of programs and services which are offered there, and that UMA should not expect to be competitive with UMO. A primary objective has been to give Augusta equity with the smaller Campuses in order that UMA could remain competitive within its group.

Professor Allen reported that the UMO Council of Colleges voted to support the bill calling for an expansion of the Board to include two faculty and two student Trustees. In addition, both the faculty and administrators on the Council strongly supported the idea of revitalizing the Board's Committee structure with non-Trustee members. Chancellor McCarthy noted that the Committee structure, per se, has not changed, and he pointed out that the Educational Policy Committee had met the previous day with more faculty and student representatives in attendance than Trustees. Professor Jans recalled that at one time representatives had voting status on the Committees. Mr. Brown explained that at the present time the Board makes only limited use of its Committees because the Trustees became dissatisfied with the previous practice of ritually referring all business for Committee discussion before it was presented to the Board for action. Accordingly, the Trustees now address their agenda in plenary session and refer to Committees only those items requiring further discussion or in-depth study. He acknowledged that this practice reduced opportunities for participation by faculty and student representatives and noted that this Executive Commit-

tee agenda discussion was initiated as a means to compensate for that loss. Mr. Richardson said that dealing with the agenda as a Committee of the Whole invites more direct participation by all members of the Board, which is desirable. He indicated, however, that the representatives will continue to be involved in all projects of the Educational Policy Committee, which he chairs. Mr. Brown suggested that the Committees should try to schedule meetings at least once per quarter for general discussion of issues within their respective areas. Dr. Evans concurred that it is important for the Trustees to do as much as possible in the plenary session. He said he thought the Committee could still be used effectively since there were many substantive issues which require consideration.

Mr. Brown reported that a number of faculty had asked how they could be helpful in efforts to obtain funding for the University in the Legislature. Mr. Beliveau said the Governor has included no additional money for salaries in his budget recommendation. He said he and the Chancellor had met with the Governor to discuss funding and while the Governor appeared sympathetic, no commitment was made. The projected State surplus of \$5 - \$6 million will be insufficient to fund proposed legislation which amounts to about \$25 million, and the Governor and the Legislative leadership will determine what the priorities are. Mr. Beliveau suggested that in the meantime, the faculty might chat with Senator Hayes, who is also a University faculty member, focusing on the common objectives of the faculty and the Trustees in support of the University. He indicated that the myriad University-related bills which have been submitted by Senator Hayes have left the impression with Legislators that there are problems in the University family, and he said the Legislators will try to resolve what they perceive to be problems before they deal with the financial issues. Mr. Richardson said the bills themselves present no problems but the rhetoric in Education Committee hearings has been inaccurate and has created the impression that problems exist. Professor Rosen said he thought there are forces which are part of the faculty's professional lives which lead them to be uncooperative with the Board, and he suggested that an effort be made to address this phenomenon. He said he thought it would be productive to try to establish a larger understanding of what faculty do, why they behave as they do and whether this behavior serves mutual goals. He suggested that the Educational Policy Committee, which is looking at the professional dimensions of faculty development, might also give some attention to this matter as well. Professor Allen said faculty representatives might be able to facilitate communication with Senator Hayes. Mr. Brown concurred that better communication might serve to resolve some of the problems.

In other discussion, Professor Rosen expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with President Woodbury who has, he said, proven to be an energetic and intelligent leader for the University of Southern Maine.

On behalf of the Alumni Association of the University of Maine at Presque Isle, Ms. Hunt asked about the status of the so-called Guideposts Committee which is studying ways to improve constituent relations. Mr. Brown, who chairs the Committee, reported that work had been interrupted by the press of other urgent tasks but that the Committee would resume its duties and complete its project as soon as possible.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

JoAnne R. Magill, Clerk