

1983

Board of Trustees Executive Committee December 12, 1983

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 12, 1983
University of Maine at Orono

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESENT: Chairman Thomas Monaghan, Patricia DiMatteo, Stanley Evans, Joseph Hakanson, Richard Morin, Harrison Richardsón, Francis Brown. Other Trustees Robert Dunfey, Peter Johnston, Geneva Kirk. Faculty Representatives: Rodney Cole, Harry Kerr, Sharon Zimmer-Boucher, Ralph Jans, Douglas Allen, Carol-Ann Hall, Robert Russell. Student Representatives: James Bowers Christina Fornili, Nancy Scott, Edmund Lindemanis, Rodney Labbe, Kathleen Hunt, Paul Tyson. Staff: Chancellor McCarthy, William Sullivan, Harlan Philippi, Mary Ann Haas, Robert Woodbury, Paul Silverman, Judith Sturnick, Richard Spath, Frederic Reynolds. Press and public.

Chairman Monaghan convened the meeting and at his invitation, Trustee Morin presided for this meeting which is regularly scheduled for discussion of the Board's agenda with faculty and student representatives.

At the last agenda meeting, Professor Allen requested that some opportunity be provided for faculty and student representatives to notify the Committee in advance of issues, including non-agenda topics, that they wished to raise for discussion, in order that as many items as possible could be covered in the time available for the meeting. Professor Allen was asked to recommend a process and in the interim he had suggested that in the first few minutes of each agenda meeting, the representatives be allowed to briefly identify any topics they wished to discuss. Accordingly, Mr. Morin called for such items and the following were specified and subsequently discussed:

- . Student evaluation of faculty
- . Navy ROTC program, UMO
- . Faculty petition
- . Effects of Lewiston Campus on UMA
- . Student Activity Fee increase, USM

Student evaluation of faculty. Professor Allen said he wanted to clarify the faculty's position on a proposal for system-wide procedures for student evaluation of faculty. (This proposal was prepared by the chief academic officers for the Administrative Council after the subject was discussed in an Educational Policy Committee meeting earlier this year, and the staff was instructed to review the student evaluation process.) Professor Allen took note of a status report on student evaluation from the minutes of the October 24th Board meeting, which read in part: "Chancellor McCarthy said a review of the final product by UMOSG and the newly reconstituted Faculty Liaison Council, had generated a number of comments which the staff thought should be addressed" Professor Allen said that he

and the other faculty who attended the FLC meeting did not feel that the FLC had "reviewed" the proposal. He said that most of the meeting was devoted to discussion of libraries and he had made only a comment or two on the proposal late in the meeting, and then the Chancellor put the topic aside when one of the group objected to discussion on the grounds that the proposal would be subject to union negotiations. Professor Allen said he hoped the faculty would have an opportunity to re-view the proposal. Vice Chancellor Philippi reported that the Administrative Council is taking the document back for review on each Campus and it will eventually be submitted to the Educational Policy Committee for consideration. Presidents Silverman and Woodbury confirmed that the proposal was being reviewed at UMO and USM. Professor Russell reported that the USM Faculty Senate had reviewed the proposal and endorsed certain changes. Student Representative James Bowers said that UMOSG has looked at the proposal and forwarded their recommendations to the Chancellor. In response to questions, Chancellor McCarthy indicated that the objective is to insure equal protection under the evaluation process. Professor Allen inquired about the extent of faculty abuse of the process and the need for tightening procedures. He pointed out that procedures for taking action against faculty are already available. Professor Kerr and President Reynolds reported on instances of intimidation, manipulation of data and of faculty collecting and reading evaluations as students turned them in. Mr. Richardson said he gets such reports often and he pointed out that the system should insure that all students can feel confident about expressing their views. He said the Educational Policy Committee seeks standard guidelines for each Campus which incorporates basic procedural due process.

Navy ROTC Program, UMO. Professor Allen asked for information on a report in the student newspaper that the Board will take action soon on a Navy ROTC program. Vice Chancellor Philippi said the program proposal has been received in the Chancellor's Office although it had not been approved as yet. President Silverman reported that the proposal had been processed through all Campus channels for approval, including the Council of Colleges. Professor Allen noted that the administrators on the Council of Colleges had unanimously voted for approval, but the proposal had generated controversy on the Campus and many of the faculty have reservations. He said the faculty have raised questions about the program as it relates to issues of academic freedom, due process, course content, hiring of faculty and affirmative action. He said the program probably would be approved but he thought the Board should at least consider and respond to the faculty's arguments. He noted that the Campus administration had made no response to the criticism. Chancellor McCarthy indicated that since it appears there will be issues for debate, he would submit the program to the Board through the Educational Policy Committee, which he thought would provide an ideal forum for discussion of the faculty's concerns.

Faculty petition. Professor Kerr made reference to the intent of some of the University faculty to present a petition to the Board in its plenary session, protesting the Board's appointment of Chancellor McCarthy to a tenured professorship when he steps down as Chancellor in 1985. Professor Kerr said he wanted to note that not everyone agrees with the protesters' position.

Effects of Lewiston Campus on UMA. Professor Cole commended the Chancellor's recent visit to UMA as cordial and productive in the faculty's view. The faculty discussed with him their apprehension as the Lewiston Campus develops. Faculty are not opposed to the increased University presence in Lewiston but they are concerned for the needs of UMA which are similar to those identified for the Lewiston area. Professor Cole noted that UMA seeks to enhance its offerings and is in the process of developing programs that would be unique to that Campus. Further, the faculty are trying to determine how they could be credentialled to teach upper level courses in other Campuses' programs, and they look to the Chancellor and the Trustees for support and suggestions in this transitional period. Chancellor McCarthy said he would be addressing these concerns. He said that recent publicity implied that President Woodbury had already presented a plan for the Lewiston Campus but such was not the case. He indicated that the development of the Lewiston program should involve faculty from UMF, UMA, USM, and perhaps other Campuses, to meet the need to broker courses for UML. He said the Lewiston program would have important long-range implications for inter-institutional cooperation of faculty and credentialled faculty for participation in this program will be addressed.

Solomon Amendment. Professor Allen initiated discussion of the so-called Solomon Amendment, which requires that students show proof of draft registration as a condition for receiving federal financial aid. Professor Allen noted that the amendment was not withdrawn as expected last Spring, and that it became effective over the summer for students receiving federal aid this Fall. He reported that some colleges including Colby, Bates, Harvard, Yale and Stanford have elected to comply with the law, but make use of non-federal scholarship funds for students who have not registered for the draft for reasons of conscience, ethics or religion. President Silverman said he was one who reported that the amendment would be withdrawn, but the federal government later achieved a reversal of the injunction against its implementation. Mr. Richardson said he thought the Board should consider the issue and there was discussion of alternatives for action. Mr. Monaghan asked how many students had dropped out for lack of funds rather than register. President Silverman and Woodbury said it would be very difficult to determine the number, although it was probably small. The Presidents pointed out that reliance on non-federal aid for these students is probably not an option for the University since its sources of private scholarship funds are so limited. Chancellor McCarthy said the staff should try to determine what options are available and investigate the legal, human, and financial means of addressing the situation. After further discussion, Mr. Monaghan said

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he would have the item on the agenda for the February meeting.

Student activity fee, USM. Student representative Paul Tyson recommended a favorable vote on the proposed increase in the student activity fee at USM. President Woodbury also supported the increase, noting it is the first increase in the fee in ten years.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk