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Board of Trustees Ad Hoc May 19, 1985

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
Board of Trustees

107 Maine Avenue, Bangor
May 19, 1985

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ROTC

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Dunfey, James Bowers, Richard Marshall and Richard Morin. Other trustees: Joseph Hakanson, Geneva Kirk. Committee Consultant Carolyn Stephenson, Campus Presidents Arthur Johnson and Richard Spath. Richard Eustis, John Zener, Robert Sezak, USAF Colonel Kenneth Deal, USArmy Captain William Rice and Professor John Battick.

Chairman Robert Dunfey convened the meeting and at his request the Committee's consultant, Professor Carolyn Stephenson, reported on her meetings with UMO, USM, ROTC faculty for discussion of issues related to peace studies. She indicated that the Committee is perceived as being interested in establishing a balance, so-called, between ROTC courses and peace studies, and the faculty question whether such balance would be sought across the curriculum of an individual Campus or on a system-wide basis. There is also concern that this balance would be forced into the ROTC curriculum. Apart from these concerns, she reported that both the University faculty and the ROTC faculty were receptive to the establishment of peace studies which would be open to all students, and she outlined some of the ways a program of this kind could be approached, even with limited funds. She said she would recommend a gradualist approach through the initiation of one course on a single campus, and she thought enough faculty already were available to develop one or two interdisciplinary courses. In addition to the human resources, she identified other needs which included:

- . funding for faculty who would develop the courses;
- . release time for teaching faculty;
- . a coordinator for the program, with at least part-time clerical support;
- . development of a brochure;
- . some funding to enhance existing library resources.

She suggested that once the willingness to initiate a program had been determined, possibilities for outside funding should be explored. Among the first tasks in the preliminary stage, would be the appointment of a faculty committee to determine the nature and content of the program and oversee its development. She said it would be important for this

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committee to meet privately at first, in order to work through the inevitable ideological conflicts and differences in attitudes and opinions and, once these problems had been resolved, to carry the substantive issues to the wider campus community for discussion and consensus.

During discussion, President Johnson expressed reservations about prospects for establishing peace studies at UMO. Due to the lack of resources and other urgent priorities on that Campus, he said UMO was not in a position to initiate new programs at this time. In further discussion, Professor Stephenson responded to questions of interest from the Committee, and the ROTC faculty who were present spoke to the nature of the requirements for ROTC students which, they pointed out, were not oriented solely to military-related courses.

Following the discussion, Committee members considered the preparation of their report to the full Board. The Committee expects to receive a written report from Dr. Stephenson shortly, and the Committee will meet again in July to develop their final report and recommendations to the Trustees.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk