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Board of Trustees Educational Policy Committee February 24, 1985

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bangor, Maine
February 24, 1985

EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

PRESENT: Chairman Francis Brown, Severin Beliveau, Geneva Kirk. Other Trustees: James Bowers, Robert Dunfey, Stanley Evans, Joseph Hakanson. Faculty Representatives: Carol Ann Hall, Ralph Jans, Andrew Anderson, Rodney Cole. Student Representatives: Michael Saltz, Dena Merrill, Robert Sezak, Bradford Payne. Staff: Chancellor McCarthy, Harlan Philippi, Arthur Johnson, Judith Sturnick, Byron Skinner, Frederic Reynolds, Robert Woodbury, Richard Spath.

Mr. Brown convened the meeting.

Higher Education Services for Lewiston. Mr. Brown took note of a continuing interest in higher education services for the Lewiston/Auburn area. He reported that the Chairman of the Board had received a letter on the subject from James B. Longley, Jr., which had been referred to the Committee for review, and Mr. Brown acknowledged the presence at this meeting of State legislators from Lewiston and Augusta, who wished to discuss their interests with the Committee. Miss Kirk introduced Representative Paul Gauvreau from Lewiston, and Senator Beverly Bustin, from Augusta. Representative Gauvreau emphasized the commitment of the Lewiston region to ready access to higher education for Lewiston students, and his own commitment to securing additional resources for the area. He indicated that there is overwhelming support for the University in the Lewiston area despite the recent failure of a local referendum which would have insured an increase in University services through the establishment of a Lewiston College of the University of Southern Maine. He said he was aware that Dr. Byron Skinner, President of the Augusta Campus, has developed a tentative plan for increasing UMA's services to Lewiston/Auburn, if additional money became available. Representative Gauvreau said he would not become involved in the question of which Campus would be responsible for the delivery of any new programs for Lewiston, noting that his role simply was to articulate the demands of his region for additional services. He reported that at the Governor's suggestion, the possibility of holding another referendum is being discussed in Lewiston, but he said it is not certain this can be worked out. Senator Bustin concurred that there is a real need for more services in the Lewiston area and she asked to hear about Trustees' plans for meeting those needs. She said she wanted to see the Augusta Campus strengthened and would not object to changing its name to the University of Central Maine to reflect the larger geographical area it serves. In response to questions about his tentative plan, so called, President Skinner explained that he had been asked informally by Trustee Beliveau and other Augusta-area individuals to develop alternatives for delivering services in Lewiston and his response to this request subsequently and regrettably was publicized in an untimely way. Mr. Beliveau indicated that his request to President Skinner was straightforward and not intended to circumvent administrative or Board procedures. There was discussion of prospects for salvaging the funds already appropriated by the Legislature for the

Legislature for the Lewiston project. It was determined that if by June, 1985, the City of Lewiston were to achieve passage of a local referendum approving the City's share of the funding, the project could still go forward. Failing that, the appropriations would revert to the General Fund. Representative Gauvreau acknowledged that sufficient support from the City Council for another referendum has not been assured as yet. Senator Bustin raised questions about the prospects for delivery of four-year programs to Lewiston/Auburn by the Augusta Campus. Chancellor McCarthy explained that the design of the Lewiston project was tailored to area needs and the capacity to deliver the program, as designed, already exists at USM, whereas there is no existing basis at UMA to deliver that program. He said it would triple the cost to build program capability at Augusta for delivery in Lewiston. He said that while the University has developed an excellent design for the Lewiston project, there is no way it could be implemented without new money since the need to fund current services supercedes the establishment of new programs, as desirable as these are. He pointed out that the University already has a shortfall of at least \$16 million in its basic structure, apart from what would be required to increase services in the Lewiston area. The Chancellor agreed that the best solution to Lewiston's educational needs would be full funding of the project the University has designed. If some additional funds became available he said the design could be reviewed but it would be questionable how much the project could be cut without destroying its viability. He said he thought the next best alternative would be for the area's legislative delegations to support full funding for the University as a whole to provide access to a quality education for all Maine students, including those from Lewiston. In further discussion, the Trustees conveyed their appreciation of the legislators' positions and the Board's support for the concept of the Lewiston project, reiterating that without additional funding the University would not be able to bring the project to fruition.

Mission Statements. Continuing the current review of Campus missions, the Committee considered missions statements for the Fort Kent, Machias, and Presque Isle Campuses.

UMFK. President Spath presented the mission statement which he said was designed to meet the educational and cultural needs of the diverse bilingual and bicultural region served by the Campus.

UMM. President Reynolds presented the mission statement taking note of two revisions in the document circulated in materials for the Board meeting. The revisions were made for clarification purposes and did not change the substance of the statement. The revised statement is appended to the file of these minutes.

UMPI. President Carlson had been delayed by bad weather. UMPI Faculty Representative Carol Ann Hall noted that the statement accurately reflects the Campus's regional mission.

During discussion, President Reynolds responded to questions of interest from

the Trustees concerning UMM experience with the mobile graduate program which has provided opportunities for graduate-level study in the field of education for the past several years. President Reynolds reported that the program served 110 students, and 84 of these completed the requirements for graduation. Vice Chancellor Harlan Philippi announced that the mobile graduate program, which has the capacity to provide education courses, only, for the time being, will be offered next at the Presque Isle Campus, beginning next Fall. There being no further discussion, Mr. Brown indicated that the missions statements would be referred to the Board meeting with a favorable recommendation for action.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk