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## Board of Trustees Educational Policy Commitee May 19, 1985

Ellen N. Doughty

*University of Maine - Main*, [edoughty@maine.edu](mailto:edoughty@maine.edu)

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

107 Maine Avenue, Bangor, Maine  
May 19, 1985

EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

PRESENT: Chairman Francis Brown, Geneva Kirk, Richard Morin. Other Trustees: James Bowers. Faculty Representatives: Carol-Ann Hall, Ralph Jans, and John Zaner for Andrew Anderson. Student Representatives: Nancy Scott, Dena Merrill. Staff: Harlan Philippi, Richard Eustis, Arthur Johnson, Richard Spath.

Chairman Brown convened the meeting.

-Mission Statement, UMO. President Johnson presented the statement which recently had been reviewed and updated as part of the ongoing Five Year Planning process. The statement outlined the objectives of UMO's mission with its emphasis on teaching, research and public service. President Johnson reported that the Campus seeks to attain prominence in undergraduate education and UMO is particularly interested in attracting talented students. He took note of the professional expertise of the faculty, which he said is an important service, for UMO as a whole, and for the graduate students who acquire their research techniques in the course of their studies. The President also took note of the public service mission as a basic component of a State University, and of the role of the Extension Service as an integral part of a land grant institution. Following his presentation, President Johnson responded to questions of interest from the Committee members. At the request of Miss Kirk, he spoke to the resolution of problems with the agricultural community in Aroostook County and reported that the area's representatives now seem well satisfied with UMO's efforts on their behalf. There was general discussion of UMO's doctoral programs, the Campus program planning process, educational opportunities for Maine students, and the future of Bangor Community College. After the discussion, there was consensus that the Committee would recommend Board approval of the UMO Mission Statement and it was referred to the full Board for action.

-B.A. in Biology, UMM. President Reynolds presented the proposal which was designed to strengthen the curriculum at UMM, and provide general education and training in biology comparable in depth and breadth to biology programs available at most other four-year institutions of higher education. The President indicated that the Campus's unique coastal environment and natural resources are expected to have a positive influence on enrollment for the program. The necessary equipment and facilities are available since UMM has offered a biological technology program for a number of years. Professor Jans said that the B.A. in Biology would provide a better avenue for students who want to pursue graduate study in this field. President Reynolds responded to other questions of interest from the Committee, and Mr. Brown said the proposal would be referred to the full Board with a favorable recommendation for action.

-Processing of Tenure Materials. Mr. Brown reported that the Educational Policy Committee has been asked to explore the possibilities for reducing the volume of material that is presented to the full Board when tenure nominations are considered. He said he thought the Educational Policy Committee members should continue to receive and review the detailed documentation, but it would be more productive to reduce the materials currently submitted to the full Board and provide an abstract or summary of the nominations. After general discussion of several suggestions from Committee members, Dr. Philippi was assigned to prepare some alternatives for consideration at the July meeting.

-Remedial Programs. Professor Carol-Ann Hall repeated a suggestion she made at the last meeting concerning the need for attention to remedial programs across the system, noting that the Chancellor had said it would be appropriate for the Educational Policy Committee to consider the issue. She said that there is a critical need for truly effective remedial programs throughout the system, and that the problems grow more serious each year as the gap between the best and the worst students becomes wider. All students are adversely affected by the inevitable and substantive erosion of the quality of the University's degrees. She said the University's efforts to increase access should be maintained, but it would be more productive to encourage underprepared students to participate in courses of study over a five year period instead of the traditional four years, where they could be given the special help they need, outside the regular program, by a skilled staff trained in remedial techniques. She said she thought that opportunities of this kind should be developed and publicized so that prospective students who might otherwise be hesitant would realize that they could pursue a course of study successfully. Professor Hall said that to openly acknowledge the need some students have for remedial work, and to address the issue on a system-wide basis through formal programs, would keep the institution accessible and also protect the quality of the University's degrees for the benefit of all of its students. As a first step, she recommended that a system-wide committee be established under the egis of the Educational Policy Committee, to discuss the problems and develop solutions. Mr. Brown said he would schedule a meeting of the Educational Policy Committee in conjunction with the July Board meeting and this issue would be on the Committee's agenda for full discussion at that time.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill  
Clerk