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Board of Trustees Educational Policy Committee December 14, 1987

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees

December 14, 1987
107 Maine Avenue, Bangor

Educational Policy Committee

PRESENT: Chairman Stewart Smith; Patricia Collins, James Storer, Professor Sharon Zimmer-Boucher and David Levesque. Other Trustees: Stanley Evans, Robert Dunfey, Joseph Hakanson, Richard Marshall, Harrison Richardson, George Wood, Teresa Moore, Thomas Monaghan and David Flanagan. Staff: Chancellor Robert Woodbury, Richard Bowers, William Sullivan, Mary Ann Haas, George Connick, Barbara Leondar, Dale Lick, Patricia Plante, Frederic Reynolds, James Roach, Norman Crawford. Press and public.

Chairman Stewart Smith convened the meeting which was scheduled for preliminary review of program proposals which would be on the Board's agenda for the January meeting. He noted that program proposals have been integrated into the budget process and will now be submitted for Board consideration only twice a year, in January and July.

Master of Social Work - UM and USM. Vice Chancellor Richard Bowers reported that the proposal provided for two inter-related programs with a common core, one to be offered at the University of Maine and the other at the University of Southern Maine. There was discussion of questions raised by the University of New England, a private college in Biddeford. Mr. Richardson reported that he had had a letter from the Chairman of the UNE Board which implied that the University had declined an opportunity to deliver an M.S.W. and that UNE had stepped in to meet the need; after UNE made a commitment, the University developed competing programs. To clarify the University's position, the Chancellor reported that UM and USM were approached by the University of Connecticut before Connecticut gave up an M.S.W. they had offered in the State on an outreach basis. After serious consideration, the University Campuses concluded it would not be appropriate just to take over the Connecticut program, but there were clear indications at the time that the University of Maine System did intend to develop its own M.S.W. program at some point. Associate Professor William Whitaker, University of Maine, briefed the Committee on the substance of the proposals. Professor Zimmer-Boucher said that this program was particularly needed over the entire State and inquired whether students would be able to take courses on a part-time basis. Professor Whitaker reported that both the University of Maine and the University of Southern Maine were committed to meeting the needs throughout the State and could address the outreach issue once the programs had achieved accreditation on the Campuses. Dr. Smith said there would be opportunities for further discussion of these proposals in January.

Other proposals for the January agenda:

- B.A. in Behavioral Science, UMM - would add a social science major at the Machias Campus;

-Associate of Arts in Architectural Studies, UMA - doesn't duplicate any program in the System and would provide another option for UMA students.

-Ph.D. in Geological Science, UM - would provide a much needed doctoral program in a department with strong research capabilities.

Exemplary Program Proposal. Chancellor Woodbury reported that the proposal, which was still in the preliminary stage, was being developed in response to interest of the Board of Trustees in recognizing the Systems' highest quality programs. The proposal had been shared with the Presidents, who were supportive of the concept although not unanimous on the best way to achieve the desired result. The Chancellor indicated that feedback on the preliminary proposal would be welcome and that the document would be refined further before it is presented for Board consideration.

University College of Education. Chancellor Woodbury reported that the University College of Education, which was established by the Board in 1978, had been under review and a proposal to modify its name and responsibilities would be on the Board's agenda in January. He noted that this is the professional program that involves six of the seven campuses in the System and while many of its present functions would remain the same, more of a coordinating function will be prescribed.

Amendment to the UM/USM B.S.E.E. Agreement. Dr. Smith reported that the Committee would receive a status report on this program which was developed and approved by the Board a year ago after much discussion and controversy. Dr. Smith reiterated that this session was scheduled only to receive preliminary material and that the program would be discussed in detail at the January meeting. Vice Chancellor Bowers briefed the Committee on the background of the program which was initiated in the Fall, 1986. Recently, two consultants from the accreditation body for engineering programs, recommended that USM assume full responsibility for the program as soon as possible and they contended that the University of Maine would jeopardize accreditation of its engineering program if it continued to deliver the B.S.E.E. at the University of Southern Maine. Subsequently since the issue was reopened, questions have surfaced again about the advisability of a second engineering program in the System. During discussion, questions were raised about the extent to which the administration of the joint program has adhered to the ten principles on which the Board's initial approval was based, and Vice Chairman Harrison Richardson asked the Committee to make very sure that these principles had been followed. Dr. Smith concurred that analyses should be undertaken to determine whether the Board's criteria were met. Miss Kirk requested that copies of the consultants' report be made available to the Trustees. President Plante pointed out that the program had been operating for a year and that the Southern Maine community has accepted the University's commitment in good faith. Southern Maine industries are preparing, at considerable cost, to set up a laboratory to support the program and she said that additional contributions would be

forthcoming. Further, the program was designed for part-time place-bound individuals and she said that it would take time to have graduates. Dr. Brian Hodgkin, Dean, School of Applied Sciences, USM, said the need is for faculty whose primary responsibility is the B.S.E.E. program and, further, than the ten principles cannot be rigorously followed and still move toward an accredited program. Dr. Norman Smith, Dean, College of Engineering and Science, UM, expressed reservations about the need for the electrical engineering program in Southern Maine. He maintained that there was a need there for continuing education for engineers but he wondered if other students wouldn't do better with a program in electrical engineering technology. Mr. Flanagan requested information on operating costs, and several position papers from the Engineering Department at the University of Maine were distributed to the Committee for background information. Dr. Smith said the Committee would be discussing the issues in detail at the January meeting.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk