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Board of Trustees Physical Plant and Finance Committee March 26, 1987

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees

University of Maine at Presque Isle
March 26, 1987

Joint Session
Physical Plant and Finance Committees

PRESENT: Richard Marshall, Chair, Physical Plant; Thomas Monaghan and Patricia Schroth. David Flanagan, Chair, Finance; Robert Dunfey, Harrison Richardson. Other Trustees: Eve Bither, Joseph Hakanson, Geneva Kirk, Teresa Moore, Richard Morin and James Storer. Faculty Representatives: Carol-Ann Hall, Douglas Dunlap, Julia Watkins, Sharon Zimmer-Boucher

Student Housing, USM. The joint session opened with a presentation of the proposed student housing at Gorham by Mr. Samuel Andrews, Executive Director, Financial Resources, USM, and Mr. John Keysor, Dean for Educational Services, USM. Mr. Keysor briefed the committees on the inadequacy of campus housing since 1980. He said that despite tripling of students, there is a waiting list of 200 freshman. One hundred transfer students were denied access to USM due to lack of space. He added that the problem will continue to grow. Mr. Andrews informed the committees that since the Board had approved development of a student housing plan in November of 1986, the campus had reviewed 31 proposals. The developer chosen by the Campus Review Committee proposes a townhouse layout located on a wooded lot adjacent to the Gorham Campus. It would utilize university parking and have access to campus fire and police services. The 11 units would be within walking distance of campus activities and public transportation and would house 400 people.

The following points were made during the discussion following the presentation:

- the project would house only upperclassmen at an approximate cost of \$2,000 per year paid to the developer;
- the cost would be 25 to 30% above the traditional dorm room rate;
- the townhouses would not serve meals initially, but eventually a meal plan could be offered;
- the University could buy out the developer over a 5-10-15 year period. At the present time, the University does not own the land on which the housing project would be situated;

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- the University is currently trying to introduce legislation empowering it to borrow money for such projects;
- summer programs would keep the units occupied, but not to full capacity.

The housing project required Board input, but was not on the agenda for action.

Saco Lease. Trustee Richard Morin questioned moving the Saco Center from Thornton Academy to Factory Island. He was concerned about lack of community involvement regarding the move and also what impact such a move would have on the proposed Community College concept. He was informed that the move did not signify a new center, but was an immediate response to space problems. He was also told that USM, which coordinates the Saco program, is represented on the Community College Planning Committee.

Research Facility, UM. UM President Dale Lick presented the proposal for expansion of a previously approved research facility at the University of Maine to house the multi-million dollar acid rain project and the Laboratory for Surface Science Technology. He explained about the chronic lack of space for research projects which has resulted in the loss of some significant grant money. The Campus looked at the long-range needs of the research department and decided to build a major facility coupling the environmental chemistry lab with LASST, and leave room for further expansion. It would be a \$3 million project taking two years to complete. One half million dollars would come from existing monies including a federal grant, \$1.5 million from indirect cost recovery, and \$1 million from a fund drive to solicit private contributions for the project. Dr. Charles Tarr, UM Vice President for Research, presented the floor plan to the Trustees indicating that LASST and joint library/conference rooms would be housed on the first floor and environmental chemistry would occupy the second.

After the presentation, Trustee Flanagan noted that the Committee should consider having a prioritized capital project calendar submitted once a year. Vice Chancellor Sullivan stated that the System does have a Capital Budget Plan, which is contingent on Legislative funding. It was agreed that the System needs to be looking at creative ways to relieve the shortage of funds for capital projects.

Mr. Sullivan reported that, at Trustee Flanagan's suggestion, the performance of the non-contributory retirement fund would be monitored by a firm retained for that purpose. He said proposals for this work were being solicited from several firms.

Adjournment.

Sandra Johnson
for the Clerk of the Board