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## Board of Trustees Finance Committee November 16, 1987

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM  
Board of Trustees

University of Maine at Machias  
November 16, 1987

Finance Committee

PRESENT: Chairman David Flanagan; Robert Dunfey, Robert Foster, Joseph Hakanson, James Storer, Jefferson White, Douglas Dunlap, Robert Tracy. Other Trustees: Patricia Collins, Stanley Evans, Geneva Kirk, Richard Marshall, Thomas Monaghan, Stewart Smith. Staff: Chancellor Robert Woodbury, William Sullivan, Richard Bowers, Mary Ann Haas, Russell Smith, Barbara Leondar, George Connick, Dale Lick, James Roach, Frederic Reynolds.

Chairman David Flanagan convened the meeting.

Community College Proposal - Budget. Dr. George Connick initiated discussion of the budget which totalled \$2.2 million for FY'89. The Community College portion amounted to \$1 million, which would provide for new off-campus centers and sites; library and academic support; testing and assessment; learning assistance; and the administrative support structure. The telecommunications portion amounted to \$1.2 million. During discussion, Dr. Connick elaborated on the specific provisions and responded to questions from the Committee, the substance which is summarized below:

- Most of the new sites would be located in high schools where programs could be carried on after the school day had ended. It was expected that space would be provided at minimal cost and in return the high schools would be wired into the system which would be of benefit to their students.
- While faculty workload provisions remain to be worked out, funds have been budgeted to insure that campuses could not be penalized financially for participating in the community college program. Other specific activities remain to be addressed also and these will be resolved through the University's policy processes, rather than through contractual arrangements with the Campuses.
- Implementation of the Community College proposal would be jeopardized by a reduction in the funds requested for the program and, in that event, it would probably have to be discontinued. Like other academic programs, the community college would continue to need state funding and there is no expectation that it could become self-sustaining. The program would begin to produce revenue in FY'90 and after FY'91, the appropriation needed should remain quite stable.
- Computer links for library searches would be available at the centers and at some sites, although not all of the 23 sites would have a terminal; some would have interactive audio systems.

- The proposal provides for evaluation of the program at the end of two years of operation. Mr. Flanagan said he would expect periodic reports to the Board.
- There would be opportunities to generate revenue through delivery of courses to users outside the University.
- Controller Russell Smith reported that funds had been built into the budget to close the satellite system down if state support were not continued. He said the University might well look for support from business and industry were that to occur.
- The proposal was consistent with the report of the Governor's Economic Development Strategy Task Force which recommended that a Telecommunications Education Network be established with implementation responsibility assigned to the Board of Trustees.

On motion of Dr. Storer, which was seconded, the Committee VOTED to recommend Board approval of the proposal.

Appropriation Request. Chancellor Woodbury presented the recommendation, which, in addition to the Community College System, provided for academic program funds and for implementation of the job reclassification program. The Chancellor pointed out that the Governor's Economic Development Strategy Task Force had stressed the importance of University academic program development and had recommended substantially more resources for undergraduate education. The Committee considered whether the University shouldn't acknowledge the Task Force recommendation in some way, in conjunction with the submission of the Appropriation Request. The Chancellor reported that there was broad support for the recommendation and for that investment in education. The Committee agreed that a reference to the Task Force Report could be appropriate. Professor Dunlap said he thought that all of the proposals were worthy; given that the figure for the community college proposal was essential to move that program ahead, he asked where cuts would be made if less than the full amount were received. Mr. Flanagan indicated that the Trustees were deliberating on that same question. Professor Hall recommended that full funding be requested for the job reclassification and if the full amount were not provided that the program be phased in as soon as that could be achieved, but she recommended that the University not resort to only partial funding of the proposal. In response to a question from Mr. Flanagan, Professor Hall said her priorities would accord the community college third place in the event of a shortfall. After further discussion, the Appropriation Request was forwarded to the Board with the Committee's recommendation for approval.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill  
Clerk