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Board of Trustees Physical Plant Committee May 21, 1987

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees

Bangor Civic Center
May 21, 1987

Physical Plant Committee

PRESENT: Chairman Richard Marshall, David Flanagan and Patricia Schroth. Other trustees: Eve Bither, Geneva Kirk, Richard Morin, and Harrison Richardson. Staff: Chancellor Woodbury, William Sullivan, Richard Eustis, Barbara Leondar, Harlan Philippi, Judith Sturnick, and Dale Lick.

Chairman Richard Marshall convened the meeting which was scheduled for discussion of the University's capital requirements. A summary of campus requests from the five-year planning process had been included in the material circulated for the meeting. Chancellor Woodbury noted that the summary, which would be updated again in February, 1988, would give the Committee a sense of what is on the list. He pointed out that appropriations for capital projects have not kept pace with capital needs and the Trustees should consider ways to maintain the University over the long term. Questions were raised about the criteria used for selection of projects, and about apparent discrepancies between the Campuses in terms of the number and scope of projects listed. Mr. Sullivan reported that the list of projects reflect the priorities assigned by the Campuses at the time the list was compiled. He noted that given the number of new Presidents in the System, the project list probably would change considerably when it is updated again next year. In addition, legal imperatives for asbestos removal and provision of access for the handicapped, among others, would increase the dollars involved the next time around. There was discussion of the need for more rigorous evaluation of proposed projects and for establishment of standards and criteria by which these could be measured and defended. The Chancellor said it would be necessary to prepare a much tighter five-year plan and give careful consideration to strategies for implementation. He said the State must begin to support a major project for the University in each biennium and to consider these projects systematically as a capital line budget. Mr. Flanagan noted that the State's capital budget was divided into categories which separate the mandatory or legally required projects from discretionary new programs. Mrs. Bither endorsed this approach for the University as well. She said that mandated projects for the entire system could be pulled together in a single package which would direct attention to the System's needs in a way that every Campus President would support. The staff responded to questions about specific project areas and Mr. Richardson recommended that system-wide criteria be developed immediately to establish priorities, and that the University submit a request for a bond issue to the next session of the Legislature. Mrs. Schroth suggested that the University should work for bonding authority first. Subsequently, the Committee considered the possibility that both objectives could be pursued in the next session. After further discussion of specific needs and strategies, Mr. Flanagan requested an interim report for the July meeting in preparation for a submission to the Legislature this Fall. Mr. Marshall pointed out that it would not be possible to meet even the University's current needs in a single request, and that a number of important issues need to be discussed in greater depth. He suggested that the Physical Plant and Finance Committees schedule a joint workshop this summer, and the staff was directed to make the necessary arrangements.

Adjournment .

JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk