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Board of Trustees Ad Hoc Committee April 25, 1988

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees

April 25, 1988
University of Southern Maine
Portland

Ad hoc Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics

PRESENT: Harrison Richardson, Chairman; Richard Marshall, George Wood, Geneva Kirk, Stewart Smith. Staff: George Connick, Barbara Leondar, Dale Lick, Patricia Plante, James Roach, Richard Bowers, Mary Ann Haas.

Harrison Richardson convened the meeting. The Presidents reported on intercollegiate sports programs on their campuses.

USM. President Patricia Plante stated that the campus plan is to stay within Division III athletics for the next four years. She said there were no plans to establish a football team, nor would there be for some time. She said that at this time academic goals must take priority.

UM. President Dale Lick said that enrollment for the Fall semester was up and that there was unsubstantiated evidence that it was due in part to the sports programs offered at the campus. There was discussion of how much athletics spilled over into academics, i.e., if the campus had losing sports teams would prospective students assume that the academic curriculum was not up-to-par or vice versa. It was agreed that with Maine's scarce resources it would be better to build a strong academic reputation rather than to depend on athletics as a draw. He added that the grade point average was up for students on athletic scholarships. To insure the integrity of the scholarship program, the campus will hire a person from the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs to work with the athletic department. Trustees Monaghan and Wood requested a breakdown of exactly what courses the athletes are taking and what degree programs they are in.

UMF. President Michael Orenduff responded to a question regarding whether or not it is appropriate for the Farmington Campus to be in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). He said that membership in the NAIA was inherited from the time when Farmington was a former teachers college. He said they compete against small schools that are in the Association.

UMFK. President Barbara Leondar remarked that there were seven people on the women's basketball team and that all seven of them are on the dean's list. She also added that the Fort Kent soccer team included several foreign students and she listed the countries for the Committee.

UMPI. President James Roach spoke briefly to the need for a field house. The campus needs the facility for its physical education program and for general community use. He said that the money needed for the addition to the gymnasium did not make the last appropriation request. He added that the campus athletic director was doing an excellent job.

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Women Coaches. Chancellor Woodbury asked the Presidents if they had observed a decline in the number of women coaches on their campuses. President Orenduff said that his campus is currently recruiting for a woman soccer coach and had not been able to fill the position. President Plante said that there were fewer women going into Physical Education. It was noted that at one point there was an overabundance of male coaches who crossed over into women's sports.

UMA. Dr. George Connick said that due to the nature of the campus, athletics are not a priority.

Chairman Richardson asked if the Committee wanted to draft a policy on intercollegiate athletics which would be applicable to all campuses in the System. Presently, Orono is the only campus which reports to the Board once a year. It was decided that a System-wide policy be drafted.

Adjournment.

Sandra F. Johnson
for JoAnne R. Magill, Clark