

1-24-1988

## Board of Trustees Educational Policy Committee January 24, 1988

University Of Maine System

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/bot-corp-records>



Part of the [Educational Administration and Supervision Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

University Of Maine System. (date).Board of Trustees [Meeting minutes]. Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.

This Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Corporate Records by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact [um.library.technical.services@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.technical.services@maine.edu).

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM  
Board of Trustees

University of Maine  
January 24, 1988

Educational Policy Committee

PRESENT: Chairman Stewart Smith, Eve Bither, Patricia Collins, Geneva Kirk, James Storer, Rodney Cole, Carol-Ann Hall, Sharon Zimmer-Boucher, David Levesque. Other Trustees: David Flanagan, Robert Foster, Joseph Hakanson, Richard Marshall, Thomas Monaghan, Teresa Moore, Richard Morin, and George Wood. Staff: Chancellor Robert Woodbury, Richard Bowers, Dale Lick, Patricia Plante, George Connick, Barbara Leondar, Frederic Reynolds, James Roach and Michael Orenduff. Press and public.

Chairman Stewart Smith convened the meeting and introduced the members of the Committee. In his opening remarks he acknowledged the widespread interest in the agenda for this meeting. He noted that the Committee would not be receiving testimony at this session since public hearings on the Master of Social Work and the engineering program proposals had been held earlier in the month, and this meeting was scheduled to provide an opportunity for the Committee to address these issues and develop recommendations for Board consideration. However, he added that the Committee might have questions for some of those present and, to the extent that time permitted, new information would be welcome.

Master of Social Work, UM and USM. Chancellor Woodbury presented his recommendation for Board approval of an MSW to be offered at the University of Maine. In consideration of concerns raised by the University of New England, he reported that a proposed MSW for the University of Southern Maine would be deferred until July and in the interim, USM would be asked to carry out a more detailed needs assessment in Southern Maine, in conjunction with the University of New England. President Dale Lick spoke to the evidence of need for an MSW at the University of Maine and outlined the major components of the proposed program. He noted that the Campus already had a strong baccalaureate in Social Work and the faculty to support a qualitative master's degree. He said that the program could be offered beginning Fall, 1988 and an enrollment of thirty-five students had been projected for the initial year. During discussion, Professor William Whitaker, who was instrumental in the development of the University of Maine proposal, responded to questions from the Committee and provided information on areas of concentration; accreditation standards; the needs survey and employment opportunities for prospective graduates. He also elaborated on the program planning process, which had incorporated an extensive and ongoing involvement by practitioners in the field, and on other contacts the planners had made with those interested in the program, both within and outside the University System, especially in Northern Maine. Mr. Jack Ketchum, Chairman of the Board of the University of New England, asked for the Trustees' understanding and cooperation and reported that an MSW in Southern Maine would put UNE in a precarious financial position. Since the institution's tuition is substantially higher than that charged in the University System, UNE's own MSW would not be competitive with a similar program offered at USM and this circumstance probably would cause

the UNE program to fail. He said that UNE had not intended to compete with the University and when the MSW was developed the UNE staff had no knowledge that a like program was being planned at USM. Mr. Ketchum said that more inter-institutional cooperation was needed and urged the Committee to recommend termination of planning for a MSW in Southern Maine. Mr. Charles Ford, President of the University of New England concurred with the need for more consultation between the institutions and reiterated that the area was too small to support two MSWs in Southern Maine. Dr. Smith reported that the private interest versus public responsibility issue had been discussed at some length during the public hearings, and the Chancellor's recommendation for cooperative planning between USM and UNE was an attempt to address those issues. The Chancellor said that given the concerns, more should be done to determine the depth and nature of the need for an MSW in Southern Maine. President Plante said she would continue to meet with President Ford and to pursue these issues with UNE. During further discussion, it was determined that UNE's objections were focussed on the planning for an MSW at USM; the Orono Campus program, being some distance away, was not perceived to be as much of a problem. Mr. Ketchum indicated that if the Trustees were to approve the USM program, UNE would probably discontinue their MSW, with a resultant loss of the quarter million dollars the institution had invested in its development. President Ford said it would be better for UNE if the decision on the USM program, pro or con, could be made immediately. In response to questions from Mr. Hakanson, President Ford said that UNE would be able to meet the needs for an MSW in Southern Maine and that the quality of its program was very high. Further, the UNE program is already in place. Mr. Monaghan questioned the need to proceed with further planning in view of Trustee support for cooperation with private colleges. Chancellor Woodbury pointed out that the Orono and Southern Maine Campuses had been cooperating in a coordinated process for the development of the MSW for many months, and that it would have been inappropriate to arbitrarily tell one Campus its proposal would not go forward for Board consideration. He reported that both Campuses understood that the Presidents and the program planners should be prepared to address the difficult questions that would certainly be raised. The Chancellor acknowledged the controversy that has arisen over the awareness issue. He indicated that while perceptions are fairly muddled on both sides, there was evidence during the hearings that UNE did, in fact, have information about the University's planning, and that a MSW program was being developed. President Plante said she would continue to consult with UNE. She pointed out that at the heart of the issue is a serious public policy question, i.e., to what extent does a public university's responsibilities to meet the educational needs give way to a private institution's economic interests? She said that USM had been open in its planning from the outset and that there was no desire to harm a private institution, but she expressed reservations about resolving the problem by denying access to public education. Mr. Monaghan said he could agree with President Plant's position, in terms of undergraduate, but not graduate, education. Dr. Storer said he thought access to graduate programs was even more important in a public university, with its particular responsibility to provide education of very high caliber for the State's citizens. Mr. Hakanson said he would urge the Board to honor UNE's request for action on the USM proposal as soon as possible. On motion of Mr. Marshall, which was seconded, the Committee VOTED to forward the proposed MSW for the University of Maine to the Board with a recommendation for approval.

B.S. in Electrical Engineering, USM. Chancellor Woodbury had prepared a statement which summarized the background of this issue, outlined the available options, and presented his position and recommendation to the Committee and the Board. To serve as a basis for the Committee's discussion, he read the statement and it is reprinted here in its entirety:

"In response to a report by two ABET consultants, the University of Southern Maine proposed that the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree program being offered at the University of Southern Maine be administratively separated from the University of Maine at the conclusion of the 1987-88 academic year. It was recommended that the program be established as a program within the School of Applied Science at the University of Southern Maine.

"Subsequently, President Dale Lick of the University of Maine and President Patricia Plante of the University of Southern Maine developed and agreed upon a Proposed Statement of Understanding Between the University of Maine and the University of Southern Maine that addressed the larger issues of engineering and technology education in the southern part of the State (see below). This statement consists of nine points regarding the offering of engineering courses and programs in Southern Maine.

"A hearing was held by the Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Trustees the evening of January 19, 1988, in Augusta at which testimony was received both in support and opposition to the USM proposal and/or the proposed Statement of Understanding. The testimony was illustrative of the complexity of the issues and the deep controversy regarding the delivery of engineering education in Southern Maine.

"There would appear to be five options available to the Board of Trustees:

1. Approve the University of Southern Maine proposal,
2. Accept the University of Maine/University of Southern Maine Nine-Point Statement of Understanding, as principles that will serve in the future as the framework for a more detailed plan for offering engineering education in Southern Maine,
3. Appoint a task force, with representation from the University of Maine, the University of Southern Maine, and the community, to carry out an assessment of engineering education needs in Maine and recommend the assignment of responsibility for meeting these needs to specific campuses of the University of Maine System,
4. Continue to offer the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree program at the University of Southern Maine in accord with the ten principles approved by the Board of Trustees in July 1986,
5. Begin a phase out of the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree program at the University of Southern Maine.

"After consideration of available documents as well as the testimony presented at the January 19, 1988 Educational Policy Committee hearing and after discussions with the Presidents of the University of Maine and the University of Southern Maine and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Chancellor recommends that the Board of Trustees approve option 2.

"The Statement of Understanding articulates a framework for the future of engineering and technology education in southern Maine that enhances the capacity of the University System to respond effectively. It would reaffirm, strengthen, and provide direction to the flagship role in Engineering of the University of Maine by providing an opportunity to move beyond its current configuration. It would also clarify the role of Southern Maine in its region by reaffirming the future of the electrical engineering program as a critical part, not of a comprehensive School of Engineering, but of a School of Applied Science. Further, it more realistically outlines the cooperative mission for the University of Maine and University of Southern Maine that lies ahead.

"The essential features of this option are that it would continue the offering of the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering program at the University of Southern Maine (as a USM program), that all other engineering offerings would be under the control of the University of Maine, that a UM Engineering Education Center would be established on the USM campus to facilitate the offering of all other engineering programs, courses (credit and noncredit), and workshops in Southern Maine and that there would be a careful analysis of engineering education needs in Southern Maine and a plan developed for meeting these needs. If approved, we would proceed immediately, as Point #8 indicates, to involve a broad spectrum of people in a planning effort regarding the implementation of the several principles as appropriate and needed.

"Chancellor's Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees accept the University of Maine/University of Southern Maine Nine-Point Statement of Understanding, as principles that will serve in the future as the framework for a more detailed plan for offering engineering education in Southern Maine."

PROPOSED STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

ENGINEERING

1. USM will offer a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering.
2. UM will establish a Center for Engineering Studies in Portland.
3. USM will neither plan nor propose additional degree programs in Engineering.
4. In all degree programs in Engineering other than Electrical, UM and USM will establish 2+2 and 3+2 programs.

5. All graduate degree programs in Engineering will be offered by UM.
6. All degree and non-degree courses in Engineering other than Electrical needed in the Portland area will be offered by UM. USM will offer such courses only at the request of UM.
7. USM will withdraw its intent to plan a degree in Manufacturing Engineering.
8. USM and UM will conduct an assessment of the short term and long term needs in Engineering education in Southern Maine.
9. UM and USM will cooperate in sharing resources, facilities and faculty in meeting the Engineering educational needs of the people of Southern Maine in keeping with the guidelines stated in this document.

Executed by

Dale W. Lick  
President  
University of Maine

and

Patricia R. Plante  
President  
University of Southern Maine

- - - - -

Following the Chancellor's presentation, USM President Patricia Plante and UM President Dale Lick spoke to the Chancellor's recommendation and to the Statement of Understanding (the so-called Nine-Point Proposal) they had developed together. President Plante addressed the controversy which had arisen over the numbers of students in the program, or likely to be in the program, and reviewed USM's enrollment figures for the BSEE, which is now in its third semester. She also discussed the obligation inherent in the institution's mission not only to respond to the educational needs in the area but to articulate these in ways which raise aspirations, as well. She reported that the average age of students at USM is 26, and many are enrolled part-time, characteristics which are typical of urban universities like USM, and which tend to differentiate urban and land-grant institutions. She noted that, nationally, the potential for conflict between urban and land-grant institutions is coming to be regarded as a major issue for academe over the next decade. She said, however, that competition was not a formula for success and indicated that the Nine-Point Proposal represented the kind of cooperative planning which must occur to meet the challenges of the future. President Lick noted that educational needs vary widely around the State and he said the issue in Southern Maine is that the need for electrical engineering education has not been fully met. Regardless of the numbers of students enrolled at the present time, the prospect for growth in the BSEE lies in the numbers of potential students employed in Southern Maine's engineering industries, and also in the number of students enrolled in other programs who would have preferred electrical engineering. He said the program at USM which is oriented to part-time place-bound students, would not hurt the program at Orono. During discussion, the staff responded to questions from Mrs. Bither on the specifics of student costs, needs for equipment, availability and condition of laboratories. She requested better information on projected costs beyond the first-year of the program. In response to an inquiry about

the potential job market for engineering graduates, President Lick reported that local industries still hire a lot of engineers from out-of-state and one of the objectives is to develop relationships that will expand the in-State job market for Maine graduates. Dean Norman Smith, on behalf of the College of Engineering and Science at the University of Maine, presented a resolution unanimously supported by the College which recommended deferring action on any proposals on engineering education until a panel representative of all concerned groups could evaluate needs, costs and options for providing engineering education in the State. The panel would be expected to make its recommendations to the Board in July. He said this approach would continue delivery of existing programs at USM while the Panel was at work and would assure the Board that the College would support the recommendations of the panel, since these would have been developed by all concerned including the engineering staff from both Campuses. Dean Smith said the Nine-Point Proposal which had not been discussed with the EE faculty at Orono would have far-reaching implications for the curriculum and for resource allocation, among others, and had not been subjected to evaluation of costs or benefits. He said the whole issue of engineering education had become enmeshed in emotional and regional contention and he urged the Trustees to provide time for more planning and study before further action was taken. Dr. Lick replied that the components of the Nine-Point Proposal were basic and straightforward, and that many of the provisions, such as 2 + 2 programs, for instance, were standard all over the country. He pointed out that this issue had been under debate for nearly two years and that he had sought to raise the discussion from its focus on a single course to consideration of ways to serve the needs in Southern Maine. He reported that virtually every issue in the document had been discussed with the College in one way or another. President Plante said USM faculty really had not wanted all the graduate engineering programs at USM to be assigned to Orono but they had been persuaded that this approach was best since no institution could do all it would like. In response to questions from the Committee about evidence of need for a freestanding program, Dr. Lick said that the need couldn't be accurately determined until after the program had been in place for a time. If experience showed there was no need for the program as it stood, there would be no serious loss of resources to replace it with engineering technology. With the caveat that the Committee had already heard a lot of testimony, Chairman Stewart Smith allowed a few individuals in the audience to comment on the issue and the substance of these remarks is summarized below.

- Wayne Hamilton, Associate Dean of the College of Engineering & Science, UM, said the Trustees will need to take into account the cost to Orono of establishing the program at USM:
- Michael Pearson, State Senator, Old Town - disturbed that the proposal had been made into a North-South issue which he said wouldn't serve the University or State well; concerned to hear about the costs of the program and that the University had funds it could move around to support new programs. In response, Provost Helen Greenwood reported that the funds for the program were budgeted when it was proposed two years ago and that funds are reallocated within the budget for any of a number of legitimate reasons such as a drop in program enrollment or retirement of a faculty

member, for instance. Trustee Smith explained that the fundraising for engineering education in Southern Maine, which Mr. Pearson also asked about, was undertaken by industry after Trustees suggested that the community show its support for the program.

- John Bott, State Representative, Orono, urged the Trustees to adopt the resolution offered by the UM College of Engineering and Science and avoid political repercussions from Augusta.
- Stephen Bost, State Representative, Orono - disturbed about the process and what he saw as a lack of input. Urged consideration of the College of Engineering & Science recommendation. Warned that there would be fiscal and political ramifications in the Legislature.
- Carlton Brown, Professor of Electrical Engineering, UM, refuted implications expressed at the public hearing that the Orono program was elitist.

Trustee Smith pointed out that the comments were supportive of more coordination and planning for engineering education in Southern Maine, and that was what the Nine-Point Proposal purported to do. The one area of disagreement appeared to be at what point the BSEE should stand alone. Chancellor Woodbury said the intent of the proposal was to create a framework within which people could work together. Mrs. Collins said she was impressed by the Nine-Point Plan but since it had not come as the culmination of a consultative process she thought it would not be successful, and she moved adoption of the College of Engineering and Science resolution:

"That the Trustees not act on any of the specific proposals on Engineering Education before it at this time, but instead appoint a panel consisting of representatives of all concerned groups to evaluate the needs, costs, and options for providing quality Engineering/Technology Education within the University of Maine System. The panel should include but not be limited to UM and USM faculty, affected students, representatives of industry, Legislators and Trustees.

That the panel make its recommendations to the July meeting of the Board of Trustees."

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bither.

Dr. Storer said he had some reservations about the proposal but he could not support Mrs. Collins' motion. He pointed out that the Board has already made a decision about an engineering degree program at USM and the Trustees must reaffirm their commitment to that program and move on from there. Mrs. Bither said she assumed that the delivery of the BSEE already in place could continue and that the proposed delay would not be long. After further discussion, the vote on the motion was taken. With Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Bither voting in favor, and Dr. Smith, Miss Kirk and Dr. Storer voting against, the motion failed to carry. Dr. Storer moved the Chancellor's recommendation and the motion was seconded. With Mrs. Collins dissenting and Mrs. Bither abstaining, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Trustees accept the University of Maine/University of Southern Maine Nine-Point Statement of Understanding, as principles that will serve in the future as the framework for a more detailed plan for offering engineering education in Southern Maine.

A.A. in Architectural Studies, UMA. Mrs. Collins commended the development of this program, which would be the first of its kind in the State to be offered at a public institution. She raised questions about a criticism from one evaluator that the math component was weak. UMA Professor Robert Katz reported that there are wide variations among requirements for the field and that this program had been articulated with the Boston Architectural Center. UMA graduates would be able to transfer credits to the BAC and continue studies there, if they wished to do so. In her capacity as Trustee of the Vocational Technical Institute Board, Miss Kirk noted that procedures for an exchange of information about program development should be reinstituted. Mr. Flanagan pointed out that cost projections for all the proposed programs on the agenda were simply repetitions of the first year budget, and that such projections probably were not realistic. Chancellor Woodbury said the staff would revise the budget development process for program planning to address his concerns. On motion of Miss Kirk, which was seconded, the Committee voted to forward the proposal to the Board with a favorable recommendation for action.

B.A. in Behavioral Science, UMM. President Reynolds presented the proposal and reported that several concerns expressed by the ad hoc Committee which evaluated the proposal had been addressed by the Campus. He handed out copies of a letter he had sent to Vice Chancellor Bowers which detailed the steps the Campus would take to satisfy these concerns. With the understanding that the substance of the Campus's intentions would be incorporated into the language of the action on the proposal, it was forwarded to the Board with a recommendation for approval.

PhD, Geological Science, UM. Professor Bradford Hall responded to questions of interest from the Committee and after discussion the committee VOTED to forward the proposal for Board action with a recommendation for approval.

Named Professorships. After brief discussion, the proposal was forwarded for Board action with a recommendation for approval.

Name Change for the University College of Education. Chancellor Woodbury indicated that the recommended changes would reflect more accurately what has become the agency's mission. After discussion, the proposal was forwarded to the Board with a recommendation for approval.

Dr. Smith called attention to the Campuses' academic calendars which were submitted for information. On behalf of the University of Maine Organization of Student Governments, Student Representative David Levesque conveyed their request that the observance of Veteran's Day and Martin Luther King's birthday be extended to faculty and students, as well as University staff. Dr. Smith said he would include the request in the Committee's report.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill  
Clerk