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Board of Trustees Educational Policy Committee July 11, 1988

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees

University of Southern Maine
July 11, 1988

Educational Policy Committee

PRESENT: Chairman Stewart Smith; Eve Bither, Patricia Collins, Geneva Kirk, Rodney Cole, Carol Ann Hall, Sharon Zimmer-Boucher. Other trustees: Thomas Dukes, Richard Morin. Staff: Chancellor Robert Woodbury, Richard Bowers, Patricia Plante, Dale Lick and Barbara Leondar.

Chairman Stewart Smith convened the meeting.

1. Master of Wildlife Conservation, UM. Dr. Smith reported that this new degree program would attract students to core programs and provide an opportunity for graduate study for professionals in the field. After discussion the proposal was referred to the Board for action with the Committee's favorable recommendation.
2. A.S. in Business Administration, UMF. President Orenduff indicated that the proposal was designed to replace a program terminated last Spring that had been brokered to Farmington by UMA. In response to questions about the rationale for discontinuing the brokered program, Dr. Orenduff noted that there had been some technical problems concerning student aid but, essentially, it was difficult to maintain a brokered program over time and this one had been initiated in 1978. Given the continuing interest, the Farmington Campus proposed to offer the program itself. He said there would be no added costs since the necessary adjunct faculty were already in place. After discussion the proposal was referred to the Board with the Committee's recommendation for approval.
3. Semi-Annual Review of Academic Affairs. Vice Chancellor Richard Bowers outlined the content of this report of academic activities in the University System:
 - . Undergraduate Conference - this system-wide conference has been very successful and will be continued;
 - . Accreditation - different types of accreditation serve different purposes; some are critical to licensure and obtaining federal funds, others are important to the external value of the degree;
 - . National issues - assessment and requirement for program review are among the foremost notational issues. Program review has been incorporated into University policy for some time and the System had begun to develop the assessment issue as well;
 - . Students' first-year experience - all Campuses are concerned about this issue and all have made efforts to improve the situation;

- . One of the University's highest priorities is the preparation of teachers and the further development of those already in the profession. All Campuses are involved in improvement programs, except UMA which does not offer teacher education.

During discussion, Dr. Smith asked about the impact of the academic program reviews described in the report. Dr. Bowers indicated that most campuses use the program review as part of the budget and planning process, and also to determine whether expectations about the program are being met. Miss Kirk and others had questions about a section of the report that presented enrollments in recently approved programs. On closer inspection it was determined that some of the figures were not correct. The Chairman requested that this part of the document be revised where appropriate, and recirculated to the membership. Other observations from the discussion:

- Intent-to-plan. The Chancellor reported that some opportunities for collaboration have arisen from the outside evaluation component of the process.
- First year experience. In response to questions from the Chair, Dr. Lick agreed that tripling probably has some impact on the first year experience but he pointed out that the impact is not necessarily negative. Both President Lick and President Orenduff cited evidence concluding that the retention rate may be enhanced among the tripled students and that some students form strong, supportive bonds within these groupings.
- Teacher education. Commissioner Bither emphasized the need for Master's level programs throughout the State, noting a clear connection between teacher preparation and student achievement. The University of Maine has begun to establish Centers of Excellence at outlying sites to provide continuing education opportunities for teachers and administrators, including master's degree programs. Professor Hall indicated that the correlation between student achievement and teacher preparation would not apply uniformly to all advanced degrees, and that the M.Ed., for instance, was not particularly useful. President Lick concurred and reported that the University Presidents were aware of the problems and would be studying the issues further. Chancellor Woodbury suggested that this was an area the Board might want to pursue in more depth at a future committee meeting.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk