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Board of Trustees Finance and Physical Plant Committee July 11, 1988

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees

University of Southern Maine
July 11, 1988

Joint Session Finance and Physical Plant Committees

PRESENT: Finance Committee Chairman David Flanagan, Physical Plant Committee Chairman Richard Marshall, Robert Dunfey, Robert Foster, Patricia Collins, Brian Lajoie, Robert Tracy, Jefferson White. Other trustees Eve Bither, Thomas Dukes, Harrison Richardson. Staff: Robert Woodbury, William Sullivan, Russell Smith, Richard Eustis; and University Presidents Reynolds, Leonard, Lick, Plante and Roach.

Mr. David Flanagan, Chairman of the Finance Committee, convened the meeting.

Preliminary Biennium Plan. Chancellor Woodbury outlined the planning process which has been underway for the past year and a half and which will culminate in the development of a budget request for appropriations for the next biennium. He said the Board would need to act on the biennium request at the next meeting and he asked for reaction to preliminary financial and program plans to guide the staff in the preparation of the final document. The material circulated for the meeting contained historical data comparing requested increases to actual appropriations, and the Chancellor elaborated on the program priorities which should be addressed in the budget, and on the level of appropriations which would be required to meet these needs. In response to questions about the inflation factor, the Chancellor indicated that the figure incorporated would be based on the best estimate the staff could get in September. Mr. Flanagan suggested that the staff determine what number the State Planning Office is using as well as the guidelines from the Governor's Office. There was further discussion of the rapid escalation of health and social security costs and of projections for state revenues. There was consensus that the general parameters of the preliminary plan were acceptable.

Additional Student Housing, UM. With Mr. Richard Marshall, Chairman of the Physical Plant Committee presiding, President Dale Lick spoke to a request for engineering and design services for additional student housing at Orono. He reported that all freshman rooms will be triples at Orono this fall and two dorms at University College in Bangor will be reopened, and that the Campus should move forward with new housing to meet the needs. In response to questions about financing, Vice Chancellor William Sullivan indicated that if the feasibility study, which is underway, confirms the need, the Campus would present a detailed proposal for the Board to consider and decide whether the regular bonding process or a borrowing program would be the better option. President Lick noted that if the Campus were authorized to move ahead at once, it would still be two years at the earliest before a new facility would be ready for occupancy. Mrs. Bither inquired about prospects for leasing a facility and Mr. Sullivan reported that tax benefits for builders are no longer available and it is unlikely that this option would be best, but all alternatives will be reviewed before the project proposal is presented to the Board. After further discussion of the tripling situation at Orono, the Committee VOTED to recommend Board approval of the proposal.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk