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Board of Trustees Student Affairs Committee March 27, 1988

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees

University of at Augusta
March 27, 1988

Student Affairs Committee

PRESENT: Geneva Kirk, Chair; Teresa Moore, Stewart Smith, George Wood, Ralph Jans, Walter Leblanc, Norma Abbott. Staff: Mary Ann Haas.

Trustee Kirk convened the meeting and introduced the members of the Committee to the audience.

1. UMOSG Constitution. David Levesque, Student Representative from UMF and President of the University of Maine Organization of Student Governments (UMOSG), presented the Constitution and briefed the Committee on the proposed revisions to the document. During discussion, two further amendments were considered by the Committee: 1) to change a requirement that the Student Trustee attend UMOSSG meetings, to more permissive language; 2) to add '1983' to Article XI, Section A, to complete the citation. There was discussion of whether or not UMOSSG, which has been inactive in the past, would be a viable organization to recommend a slate of nominations for student trustee to the Governor. Mr. Levesque assured those present that UMOSSG would live up to its responsibilities. The Committee agreed to recommend Board approval of these further amendments.

2. UMA Presentation. John Schlenker, Dean of Student Services, UMA, introduced the support staff for Student Services and gave a brief overview of their areas of responsibility. He then introduced, individually, students who would be giving a brief presentation to the Trustees. A summary of their comments follows:

Dawn Clifford, President, Student Government Association (SGA). Ms. Clifford stated that she is a third year, part-time student and single parent. She said that UMA is a small, friendly campus with a dedicated staff and faculty geared to the non-traditional student. With regard to her position as SGA President, Ms. Clifford said that the organization is planning a job fair involving local businesses; has gotten together with the Lewiston/Auburn Center SGA to put together a policies and procedures manual; and is involved in awarding child-care grants.

Pat Lacey, fifth year, part-time student. Ms. Lacey stated that she is an older student, a former full-time homemaker and single parent who started college after the last of her six children began school. She said that she has taken advantage of all the services offered at UMA and has had good academic counselling. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Fraternity and has been a member of the SGA for three years. She concluded by saying that the faculty and staff at UMA focus on helping the student succeed.

Betty Trask, worker for Displaced Homemakers, said that she became associated with UMA two years ago by taking a course and doing volunteer work with Displaced Homemakers. She acquired a permanent position with Displaced Homemakers through VISTA. She said that through Displaced Homemakers she works with the UMA service staff who give generously of their time and experience to help women who are encountering major problems in their lives.

Penny Wilson, graduate student, social service program. Ms. Wilson, who is dyslexic, stated that after attending several colleges, she chose UMA because of the faculty and the caring student service personnel. She has been in the honor society, has worked part-time in the student counselling office and has been student coordinator for the campus drug/alcohol abuse program. She, too, stated that UMA is a good school.

Wayne Snow, student and SGA member. In answer to a question from a Committee member, Mr. Snow stated that it is hard to get students involved in the student government association because of time conflicts. The older, non-traditional student must juggle school, family and job. He cited himself as an example -- not only does he take five courses and run a retail store, but he has also been president of SGA.

Syldra Sims, President, SGA, coastal campus. Ms. Sims spoke to several problems encountered by the students from the mid-coastal area: 1) transportation becomes problematic because third and fourth year students are required to take all their courses from the Augusta campus and there is no scheduled daily transportation. Not all students have private vehicles or, if they do have cars, can afford the fuel needed to travel; 2) It is not always possible to find adequate child care; 3) UMA has no campus housing for out-of-state students. The student government association has been assembling a rental list. 4) Photography students find it difficult to purchase expensive equipment and the campus lacks equipment which can be loaned.

Ian MacKinnon, Recreation and Athletics Director, spoke briefly on campus athletics. He said that both the Augusta campus and the Lewiston/Auburn campus have arrangements with either the local YMCA or fitness studios for student use of facilities.

Chairman Kirk thanked the people of the UMA campus and the meeting was adjourned.

Sandra F. Johnson
for JoAnne R. Magill, Clerk