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Board of Trustees Student Affairs Committee January 24, 1988

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
Board of Trustees

January 24, 1988
University of Maine

Student Affairs Committee

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

Geneva Kirk, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee convened the meeting. Each member of the Committee introduced himself or herself to the assembled student and staff.

Dr. John Halstead, Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Maine welcomed the Trustees, the Chancellor and the staff. He opened the presentation with a review of material covering the various organizations and activities offered by the University of Maine, which had been sent out prior to the meeting. This was followed by a film "The Maine Difference."

After the film, Dr. Halstead briefly introduced the heads of departments offering programs and services to the students. They were Adrian Sewall, Career Planning and Placement; Charles Grant, Counseling Center; Dr. Roberta Berrien, Cutler Health Center; Dwight Rideout, Center for Student Services; and Scott Anchors, Residential Life. He said these people are helping to meet the challenges and diverse needs of the students.

UM Student Government. Christopher Boothby, President of the University of Maine Student Government, spoke about how the student government uses the funds it receives from the Student Activity Fee. He said that monies received from the fee are redistributed to the many boards and organizations on campus. There were five major organizations listed for the Student Affairs Committee, but he said that there are at least 100 different clubs which were not listed and which have as few as five or as many as twenty-five members. All of these organizations are funded from the Student Government budget. He went on to say that a major concern of the Student Government is expansion of the Memorial Union. He said that the student body had grown from 3,000 to 12,000 students since it was built and that the facilities are no longer adequate, especially in the area of office space. He added that the Student Government is also working on support of the current bond issue.

Graduate Students. Steven Gillett, head of the Graduate Student Organization, said that there are 800 full-time graduate students and 500 part-time. Fees for the organization are collected only from the full-time students, however, and the monies are distributed back to the students. He went on to say that the graduate students meet bi-weekly on a departmental basis and that they have from thirty to forty students per meeting. He said that the two big issues facing the graduate students is inadequate housing and daycare facilities.

Steve Philbrick, a graduate student and a member of the Graduate Student Organization, said that he is on the committee which disburses funds from the

activity fee back to the students on a competitive grant basis. He added that it is difficult to get money outside of department grants and that the GSO is looking to alternative means for funding sources.

Off-campus Board. Michael Scott, President of the Off-campus Board, explained that his organization funds activities and functions for those students who live off-campus. Some of those activities include dances, a food cooperative, workshops, spring and fall concerts and Bumstock, an outdoor concert now in its 18th year. He said that problems experienced by the off-campus student are inadequate child-care, especially for the part-time student; lack of space at the Memorial Union for socializing; lack of space for lockers where the student can leave belongings, including food; and the current policy of searching bookbags at the entrance of the library. He said that without a safe place to leave one's things, the off-campus student must take the days books and food with him around campus and that includes the library. If food is found in the bookbag, then the bag must be left in the open at the entrance of the building. He said that not only is the search degrading, but the unattended possessions are a target for theft. He went on to say that off-campus students tend to live in substandard housing. The Off-campus Board is there to provide a mechanism for communications between the tenant and the landlord, or the local police should problems arise. He ended by saying that the Board meets once a week and that an office was available staffed with people who can help meet daily concerns.

Fraternities and Sororities. Christopher Boothby spoke for the Fraternities and Sororities on campus. He said that there were approximately eighteen fraternities and twelve sororities and that they raise more money for charities than all the other campus organizations combined.

Guest Lecture Series. Christopher Boothby said the Student Government Board has a \$30,000 budget for attracting a wide variety of speakers. He said that because space on campus is a problem, it has not been able to increase programming, which it would like to do.

Student Legal Services. Barbara Butler, a student paralegal, spoke for the office of Student Legal Services (SLS). She said that the organization has a \$35,000 budget and the office is staffed by nine people, including a full-time attorney. It is a walk-in service and has handled 553 advice-only matters in the past year. She said that the SLS does not handle criminal cases or student versus student cases. It does offer services related to divorce, purchase and sale of property, opening of businesses, etc. It also handles cases involving students versus their institution, which is unique to the University of Maine. She added that the service demystifies the law for students by having members visit fraternities, sororities and dormitories to convey the full extent of the services offered. Classes are conducted in consumer law and there are lunch-time forums. She said that the services are free except for complicated cases or those which deliver high monetary returns. For the former there is a \$25 charge and for the latter \$25 is charged for every \$2,000 won in the case.

Memorial Union Board. Charlie Caruso, President of the Memorial Union Board, spoke about the newly-formed board. He said that it is budgeted from the Student Life Fee and offers the students dances, films, festivals, and other entertainment. He said that at the present time there are fifty members on the Board.

Inter-dormitory Board. Spokesperson Alan Painter said that this particular board operated on a \$20,000 budget with membership made up of representatives from each dorm. He said that the organization sets policies and programs for the dorms, sponsors social activities, and acts as a liaison with the administration.

Following the formal presentations by the students there was a period of open discussion.

Separation of Graduate Students from General Student Government. The graduate students chose to leave the general student government and form their own organization so that the monies involved could be used for grants rather than the usual activities. According to one student present, the split from the General Student Government has weakened the parent organization. He suggested that the University should be doing more for the graduate student to enable them to meet their financial needs.

Library Policy. The current policy of no food in the library and the search of student book bags prior to entering the building has caused considerable consternation among the students. Students stated that the searches were in violation of their rights. Several alternatives were suggested.

The final discussion issue centered around the desire of the students to have more open communication with the administration and the Trustees. Trustee Kirk suggested that Trustees could be invited to the campus. Trustee George Wood volunteered to meet with the students later in the week. UM Student Representative Steven Moore invited all interested students to attend the Faculty/Student Representatives Forum meeting on Monday.

Vice President John Halstead thanked all those in attendance as did Chairman Kirk.

Adjournment.

Sandra F. Johnson for
JoAnne R. Magill, Clerk

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