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# Board of Trustees Educational Policy Commitee January 27, 1985

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 27, 1985  
University of Southern Maine

EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

PRESENT: Chairman Francis Brown, Geneva Kirk. Faculty Representatives: Harry Kerr, Sharon Zimmer-Boucher, Ralph Jans. Student Representatives: Robert Sezak, Nancy Scott. Staff: Chancellor McCarthy, Harlan Philippi, William Sullivan, Byron Skinner, Robert Woodbury, Constance Carlson, Judith Sturnick.

Chairman Brown convened the meeting.

Relocation of Midcoast Community College Services. There was discussion of UMA's proposal to relocate the Campus's Midcoast Community College Services Center from Rockland to Thomaston. President Skinner reported that the Rockland Center, which was established in 1975, is now inadequate to house the growing program. The larger Thomaston facility would enhance the program and would actually cost less per square foot than the present site. In Thomaston, the Center would occupy the Thomaston Academy building as a joint tenant with the Town library. The proposed facility would also provide a small gym, art studio, computer laboratory and parking space. President Skinner responded to questions of interest about projected enrollment and community support for the Center. He noted also that safeguards have been built into the proposal which include a five year lease and a commitment for review of the program in the third year of the lease period. After further discussion, Mr. Brown determined that there was consensus that the proposal should be referred for action in the public meeting with a favorable recommendation from the Committee.

Campus Mission Statements. The current Five-Year Planning process required each Campus to review its mission and updated mission statements have been reviewed by the Staff and the Administrative Council. On the agenda for Trustee review at the Board's January meeting were the updated mission statements for the University of Maine at Augusta and the University of Southern Maine.

UMA Mission Statement. Mr. Brown opened the floor for discussion of the statement which had been circulated with the materials for the Board meeting. Miss Kirk inquired about a reference to three-year baccalaureate degree programs which are limited to practicing professionals who meet prerequisites for work experience. President Skinner explained that these programs are restricted to working professionals who have achieved their positions through hard work and native intelligence but without formal training. He elaborated on the mechanisms for evaluation of such students and indicated that the Campus needs to further refine its techniques for prior learning assessment. Mr. Sezak, Student Representative from UMA, raised a number of questions about the document, on behalf of UMA students:

- The mission and goals statement seems too stringent.

- Limiting the three-year baccalaureate may decrease enrollment in these programs and it is feared that UMA will not be serving the community's needs. UMA should be able to expand existing programs and make them more accessible to others.
- With respect to the provision for receiving brokered programs, students are uncertain whether UMA would have input to the decision-making process or if these programs would simply be assigned as campus responsibilities.

Mr. Sezak also reported that the proposed mission statement had not been circulated on Campus, and that it differed from the one developed and approved by the Campus earlier. He provided a copy of the earlier statement for perusal. In response to these concerns, Vice Chancellor Harlan Philippi reported that

- the new mission statement was prepared in his office from material submitted by the Campus in its Five-Year Plan. Establishment of missions is a responsibility of the Board of Trustees. The particular mission statement being presented for Board consideration was not circulated on the Campus but it was based wholly on material from the UMA planning process in which there was extensive Campus involvement;
- the three-year baccalaureate program is restrictive because that is the way the program was approved initially by the Board and any changes in the nature of the program would be subject to Board approval. This is not to say that changes could not be made, but to point out that Board policy provides a mechanism for change through its duly constituted program approval process;
- brokered programs are developed only in response to Campus initiative and UMA would not be designated as a site for such programs arbitrarily. Parenthetically, Dr. Philippi noted that there have been some problems with existing brokered programs and the Chancellor and the Administrative Council have imposed a moratorium on new brokered programs until these problems can be reviewed and resolved.

President Skinner noted that UMA has been assured that the Chancellor's Office is not opposed to modifications in the three-year baccalaureate and the Campus would be involved in the development of any proposals through the program approval process. He noted also that prospects for a four-year degree program in Classical Jazz are promising. Based on the concept that the Campuses should develop their strengths, he said UMA has the talents available to be among the best in this field. After further discussion, the Chairman indicated that the Committee should move on with its agenda in the interest of time, and he said he would report to the Board the substance of the discussion on this item.

USM Mission Statement. President Woodbury reported that the five-year

planning process had involved the institution's faculty, students and staff and the mission statement was an amalgam of the planning discussions, a statement of USM's goals and aspirations at the present time. He said he viewed the missions document as a statement of purpose and one which should be reviewed from time to time. Mr. Brown noted that even though the missions will change over time, the mission statements are very worthwhile. Chancellor McCarthy said the mission statement is very important to the kind of planning the University has undertaken. Within the Five Year Plan, the University is attempting to develop four discrete levels of institutions that are not interchangeable, based on the realization that it will not be possible to do all that would be desirable or offer all programs at all Campuses. He pointed out that changes will be made and that it will be difficult to make the necessary decisions to effect those changes. In that respect, the missions statements become an integral and important component of the planning process.

Adjournment.

JoAnne R. Magill  
Clerk

