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Board of Trustees Educational Policy Commitee March 24, 1985

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
Board of Trustees

University of Maine at Orono
March 24, 1985

Educational Policy Committee

PRESENT: Chairman Francis Brown; Geneva Kirk, Barbara Sanford. Other Trustees: Richard Marshall, Richard Morin. Faculty Representatives: Frankin Grady, Andrew Anderson, Harry Kerr, Ralph Jans, Carol-Ann Hall. Student Representatives: Clayton Grindle, Bradford Payne, Nancy Scott, Michael Saltz, Kenneth Fredette, Dena Merrill. Staff: Harlan Philippi, Constance Carlson, Byron Skinner, Frederic Reynolds, Judith Sturnick and Helen Greenwood.

Chairman Brown convened the meeting.

School of Applied Science, USM. Provost Helen Greenwood presented the recommendation for establishment of a School of Applied Science. She reported that USM is actually requesting permission to initiate a reorganization which would bring together under a single academic structure three related programs which are currently being administered by separate divisions: the Department of Computer Science, Department of Technology, and the graduate program in Electrical Engineering. Dr. Greenwood said that a Dean would be recruited perhaps from within USM or the University system. She indicated that among other advantages, the reorganization would improve the visibility of the respective programs in the community, and make them more attractive to students as well. In response to questions about the engineering program, Vice Chancellor Harlan Philippi reported that USM will continue to offer the graduate program which is brokered from UMO, and that USM has a BSEE in the planning stage. Mr. Brown took note of comments he said have been circulating to the effect that the BSEE for USM has already been given approval, and he pointed out that this is not the case. The Campus has been given permission to undertake the planning process which is a preliminary requirement for consideration of new program proposals. He acknowledged that there is strong pressure in the area for delivery of engineering programs at USM but he cautioned that industry sometimes has expectations which are beyond the University's capacity to fill. He said the program planners must analyze the demands very thoroughly to determine what the specific needs are and whether these

can be met within the resources available. After further discussion, and on motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to recommend Board approval of the proposed School.

Student Admission/Readmission Policy. Vice Chancellor Harlan Philippi presented the proposal for establishment of a system-wide policy to govern the admission or readmission of students dismissed or suspended either by a University Campus or by another college or university. Dr. Philippi noted that the proposed statement was being resubmitted after it was tabled by the Board at the December meeting to permit further discussion of student concerns about the policy. He reported that in the interim the students who objected to the proposal met with the Chief Academic Officers (CAO) and after an exchange of views, the CAO and student positions were both reaffirmed. The CAO position is that the University should have policy, uniformly applicable on all Campuses, governing the readmission of dismissed or suspended students. The major provision of the policy developed by the CAO is that students who have been dismissed or suspended are ineligible for admission to any Campus in the system for the next academic semester. However, the policy would permit such students to have recourse to a petition for an interview in which they could seek to persuade an admissions officer that immediate readmission is justified. The student position on the proposal is that each Campus now has procedures governing readmission and a system-wide policy is not necessary or desirable. Mr. Brown noted that he had circulated the student position paper to the Educational Policy Committee prior to the meeting, and he invited Student Representative Michael Saltz, who prepared the paper, to address the students' position. Mr. Saltz reported that the policy proposed by the CAO was opposed by the USM Student Senate and the University of Maine Organization of Student Governments. He said these student representatives believe that each Campus should discipline students in accordance with local policies. Cases should be addressed on a one-to-one basis and a general rule should not be applied to every individual. Mr. Saltz said that extended suspension may discourage students from pursuing their studies. He reported that the students prefer that no system-wide policy be imposed, and they recommend that the Board require that

- all campuses include notice of academic sanctions on student transcripts;
- the following question be included on application forms for admission to all Campuses of the University:

'Have you been dismissed, expelled or suspended from any college or university for any reason or

placed on probation? Yes. No. If yes, supply full details on a separate sheet and request appropriate college or university official to provide any information in his possession.'

- the following disclosure statement be appended at the end of all application forms for admission to the University of Maine:

'IMPORTANT: SHOULD ANY OF YOUR ANSWERS TO THE PRECEDING QUESTIONS CHANGE, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO NOTIFY THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE IN WRITING.'

I understand and agree that omission, misrepresentation or concealment of any significant fact in any statement or answers may be considered sufficient reason for refusal of admission or expulsion after admission.'

Date

Signature

Mr. Saltz indicated that the inclusion of this information on the application form would assist admissions officers and inform the applicant of the need to answer all questions as completely as possible. There was extensive discussion of both the CAO and the students' positions on the proposed policy. Dr. Sanford observed that both would seem to produce the same result although the students' recommendation seemed more complicated. Concerns were expressed that disciplinary sanctions not be included on transcripts. It was pointed out that some Campuses impose more rigorous academic sanctions than others and in some instances an academic sanction can be triggered merely by obtaining a "c" grade. Dr. Philippi noted that the petition/interview provision provides an opportunity for students to justify their performance and the position of the CAO is simply that this opportunity should be provided formally and uniformly on all campuses in the system. Professor Kerr suggested that the CAO proposal be amended by adding the words "for any reason" at the end of number 2 of the Attending Procedures. Mr. Brown called for and tallied a straw vote in which Faculty and Student Representatives participated. With Mr. Saltz dissenting, the others favored recommending adoption of the CAO proposal, as amended by Professor Kerr. Mr. Brown said he would convey the majority and minority views on this issue in the Committee's report to the full Board.

University of Maine at Farmington Mission Statement. President Sturnick presented the statement which she said reflected UMF's commitment to teacher education and human services programs, among others, and to meeting the diverse educational and cultural needs of the region

served by the institution. Professor Kerr reported that the UMF faculty have had ample input to the development of the statement, and support its adoption. On motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to recommend Board approval.

Academic Calendars. The 1985-86 Academic Calendars were presented for information. Mr. Morin objected to the scheduling of so many Campus Commencements on the same day, pointing out that this schedule makes it difficult for Trustees to attend as many commencements as they might like. President Carlson explained that there are a number of commencement activities which must be accommodated within the weekend's schedule, which must also allow for travel time for students' families who attend the ceremonies. To extend the activities into the work week creates a hardship for many of the graduates' parents.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

JoAnne R. Magill
Clerk