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CURRENTS

University of Southern Maine

Volume 8, Number 13

March 26, 1990

CORE Relief

The Faculty Senate has adopted a set of proposals in an effort to relieve pressure on a Core Curriculum burdened by financial shortfalls and increased student enrollments.

The Senate, meeting in special session on Friday, March 16, approved the proposals 27-0, with three abstentions. An ad hoc committee of more than 20 faculty and administrators developed the proposals in a 10-hour session held earlier in the week. The committee hopes that the proposals will enable the University to meet the demand for Core seats. It's been estimated that anywhere from 1,260 to 4,700 seats cannot be funded in the upcoming fall semester.

The proposals are: To allow the COR interdisciplinary requirement to meet the requirements of the Ways of Knowing/Methods of Inquiry component of the Core Curriculum as it did before 1984. To immediately adopt the Core Transfer Policy, which allows transfer credits to satisfy the distributive character of the Core, adopted by the Faculty Senate on October 9, 1989. To allow students to use one Core-designated course in their major area to partially fulfill their Core requirements. To return the D designation to MAT 100, 131 and 140 and allow these math courses to fulfill a Core requirement as they did last academic year. To make the Add/Drop period equal one week in length. (Currently the add period is one week; drop is two. Hence, a student who drops a course at the end of the second week leaves a seat vacant for the remainder of the semester.) To ask departments if there are any courses in their major not already Core-designated that might fulfill the Core spirit. To ask departments if they would be willing to provide additional new introductory Core courses. And to increase class sizes of courses as needed and as possible. The latter proposal was presented as a "safety valve" in the event that the previous

seven are not sufficient to meet the demand on Core seats.

Buying Time

"We hope this (set of proposals) will be sufficient," said ad hoc committee spokesperson Michael Derby. "It will not correct all the problems, but it buys us the time to consider the revitalization of the Core." He emphasized throughout the Senate meeting that the proposals would have to be implemented immediately. Once implemented, Derby said, the faculty could continue the long-range task of revitalizing the Core.

In a memo that Core Director Henry Amoroso wrote in response to an earlier proposal from the Deans' Council to reinstate prescribed distribution requirements, he referred to the need to sustain Core reform efforts and a "cost-effective Core Curriculum marked by a coherent set of values, (and) high standards...."

Financial problems combined with enrollment gains have caused "significant problems" for the six-year-old Core Curriculum, according to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs John Deegan Jr.

In the last five years, enrollments have jumped from 8,800 to 10,500. In the same period, the number of available Core seats has decreased from about 15,200 to 14,600. Those figures, when considered in the context of "a chronic structural financial deficit in the College of Arts and Sciences, which also provides 98 percent of all Core-satisfying course seats," and the \$210 million state budget shortfall, have created a Core crisis, said Deegan. He reminded Senate members that the University could be facing further program cuts if an inability to offer sufficient Core seats forces us to turn away students and suffer a consequent decrease in tuition revenues.

A Dead Parrot?

Near the close of the Senate meeting, Professor of Education Will Callender referred to a "Monty

Barringer Announces Resignation

Richard E. Barringer has decided



not to accept another two-year term as director of the graduate program in public policy and management. He was named to the post in September of 1988, after

holding top posts in the areas of conservation and state planning under Governors Kenneth M. Curtis, James B. Longley and Joseph E. Brennan. More recently, Barringer had served as an independent consultant on planning and public policy.

"My reason for wishing to leave this responsibility is, simply, that after almost two decades of administrative duties, I am no longer energized by the prospect of continuing. Thus, for the sake of the program and my spirit, it is time for me to turn these duties over to others and to devote myself to more personal pursuits." He will remain as director until August of 1990. Though there has been no final agreement, Barringer may remain with the program as a part-time faculty member.

Barringer said that he and USM Vice President for Academic Affairs John Deegan Jr. spoke last fall about the possibility of his continuing as director for another two-year term. After talking with his family over the Christmas holiday, Barringer decided to explore other opportunities. The decision was not made public early in the New Year, said Barringer, because he did not want people to "mistakenly link my resignation with the controversy surrounding the Maine Public Policy Survey."

Deegan announced Barringer's resignation at the Faculty Senate

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Environmental Activist at USM

Environmental activist Harvey Wasserman will speak about ecological crisis at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 29 in Luther Bonney Auditorium on the Portland campus.

One of the original anti-establish-



ment crusaders of the 1960s, Wasserman is a journalist, author and radio commentator. Wasserman began his career as Chicago correspondent for the Liberation News Service in 1967. He served on the media committee of the anti-nuclear group, Clamshell Alliance, from 1976 to 1978, and has continued to write and speak on nuclear issues. He has appeared on the Today Show, CBS Nightwatch, the Phil Donahue Show and National Public Radio and has written articles for most of the major papers in the country, including The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, The Boston Globe, USA Today, San Francisco Examiner and Miami News. His books include "Energy War" on the history of the anti-nuclear power movement and "Killing Our Own" about the damage radiation has done in America.

Wasserman holds a master's degree in American History from the University of Chicago, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, and he has written two histories of the United States.

His multimedia lecture, "Planet Earth: How It Works — How to Save It" details the ecological crisis of our times and suggests how we can stop damaging our environment. Wasserman presents a message of hope as well as horror, and clear directions for action.

His presentation is free and open to

the public. It is cosponsored by USM's Portland Events Board, Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) and the Board of Student Organizations. The lecture ushers in Earth Day Celebration events in April.

Some 15 environmental films will be shown on both campuses between Monday, April 9 and Thursday, April 12, including "For Export Only: Pesticides," "Power and Struggle — Energy Efficiency and Energy Supply" and "Gaia: The Living Planet." Films will be shown continuously between 3 and 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, in the back lobby of Bailey Hall, Gorham and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the College Room of the Campus Center, Portland. They will also be shown from 1 to 7 p.m. in the lounge area in front of Campus Center Rooms A, B and C, Portland.

Additional Earth Day activities will be listed in the next issue of Currents.

Campus Notes

■ As part of a graduate course in business taught by William Dill, director of USM's Office of Global Enterprise, guest lecturer Melvyn R. Copen, rector of IN-CAE, the major business school in Central America, will speak on business conditions and opportunities in Latin America at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 29 in Room 41 of Payson Smith on the Portland campus. Copen was previously academic vice president at Babson College, worked in overseas offices of Gould and Westinghouse companies and was on the faculty at the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad, India. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call William Dill at 780-4519.

■ The Honors Program's "Texts That Matter" discussion series continues with Wendy Shilton of the University of Toronto, Honors Program student Lisa Brooks and George Caffentzis, assistant professor of philosophy, speaking on "Kepler's Magic, Music and Mechanics" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 28, in the Honors House on the Portland campus. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 780-4330.

■ Upcoming Convocation events include a discussion led by USM staff member Wendy Lamb on "The Sugar That Built Portland: J.B. Brown's Caribbean Connections" at 12 noon, Tuesday, March 27 in Campus Center Room C,

Portland. "Crossing Borders," a documentary on the life and views of Mexican writer, Carlos Fuentes, will be shown at 12 noon, Thursday, March 29 in Campus Center C, Portland. And Fernando Solanas's "Hour of the Furnaces," Part 1, an impassioned documentary portrait of neocolonialism and violence in 20th Century Argentina, will be shown at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 12 in Luther Bonney Auditorium, Portland. Events are free and open to the public. Call 780-4440, for more information.

■ USM's Lewiston-Auburn College is starting an ongoing series of workshops on college teaching that is open to faculty, staff, and students. Bob Schaible, assistant professor of literature and writing, will present the first workshop from 1-3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28, in Room 116, Lewiston-Auburn College. His topic is "College Teaching: The Importance of Being Unimpressive and How to Do It." Anyone interested in offering a workshop or with suggestions for future topics is encouraged to contact David E. Whiteside, at 783-4860.

■ Faculty in all disciplines are invited to join a series of informal discussions on improving student writing, supported by the English Department, Learning Assistance and Dean's Office, College of Arts and Sciences. The next discussion hour will be on "Reforming the Curriculum Across the Disciplines" to be held at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 28 in Room 302, Payson Smith, Portland. It is hoped specific and realistic proposals for implementation will be developed to present to CAS faculty or the Faculty Senate in September. President Plante will attend the following meeting, at 2:30 p.m., Friday, April 20 in Room 300 of Payson Smith, to discuss proposals. For more information, contact Frank Carner at 780-4589 or 4228.

■ Robert Fulghum, best-selling author of "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," will speak at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 5 in the Portland Gym. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door and \$10 for senior citizens and groups of 10 or more. Call Community Programs, 874-6500.

■ Smoking areas have been opened on both campuses. On the Gorham campus, the lounge off the lobby on the first floor of Corthell Hall (near the women's restroom) is designated for smokers' use. The lounge on the bottom floor of Payson Smith, next to the central stairway, will be the Portland smoking area.

New Policies on Special Students

The Registrar's Office has announced new policies on special (non-degree) students to be implemented for the Fall, 1990 semester. These policies are based on recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Implementation of Academic Policies Concerning Special Students, which has concluded its study.

In the past, special students (those who register for courses during open registration but do not matriculate) might include students who have been rejected by the Admissions Department. Overall, though, according to Admissions staff, as a group special students have held the second highest grade point averages, following seniors in GPA ranking.

Applicants to USM who are rejected for substandard credentials will be blocked through the computer system from registering for any course. Conditional applicants may have a decision on admissions deferred while earning 12 credits in 12 months. These "contract" students, if they earn a grade point average of 2.0 or higher during this time, can be admitted later.

Standards applicable to students matriculated in two-year programs will apply to non-degree students. No more than 30 credits can be applied to a degree if these students matriculate.

John Keysor, registrar and chair of the committee, said the committee would like to see minimum qualification requirements established for special student status. However, the committee did not make recommendations to that effect at this time because of the difficulty of screening non-matriculated students.

For information or clarification of this policy, call 780-5230.

CORE

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Python" skit in which comedian/actor Eric Idle attempts to sell a dead parrot to a skeptical customer. "I'm asking if we have a dead parrot here or a live parrot?" said Callender.

In discussing the motion to accept the proposals, Senate members indicated that they wanted to take steps to keep it alive.

For information on the implementation of the newly approved proposals, faculty and staff can contact the Core Council at 780-4586.



Paul W. Cadigan (left) and John B. Lucy, Class of 1990, were the first students from the School of Law to win the William B. Spong Jr. Moot Court Competition. They were overall first place winners and also won first place for the best brief in the annual invitational competition, sponsored by the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at William and Mary, held on February 23 and 24. Thirteen teams from law schools across the country argued before judges of the Virginia Supreme Court and of the Federal District Court. The problem chosen for the competition this year was the constitutionality of a juvenile curfew ordinance. *Erhun photo*

Brush Up a Foreign Language

The Foreign Languages and Classics Department is sponsoring "Language Tables," an opportunity for students, staff, faculty and the general public to practice speaking a foreign language. The leader of the group staffing each table is fluent in the language spoken and is very often a native speaker. Since there is no set agenda, and since the setting is outside the classroom, it is hoped that even beginners in a language will find the atmosphere supportive and relaxed.

This semester, the Italian table, coordinated by Ann Norris, will be held in the Boiler Room in the Portland Campus Center from 4 to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays. The German table, led by Vera Valdivia, will be held on Wednesdays from 10:20 to 11:20 a.m., 55 Exeter Street, Portland. The Spanish Table, coordinated by Gonzalo Penna, offers a beginners' session on Wednesdays, 12 noon to 1 p.m., and an upper level session from 1 to 2 p.m., 55 Exeter. Russian, with coordinator Victoria Kamennaya, a visiting professor on exchange from the Soviet Union, is offered on Tuesdays, 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. in the Portland Campus Center. French, with coordinator Daniel Grenier, is offered on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Campus Center's Boiler Room, Portland campus, and on Mondays, 2 to 3 p.m. in 108 Bailey on the Gorham campus. For more information, call Lucia diBenedetto at 780-4337 or 4290.

Barringer

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meeting on Friday, March 9.

Barringer referred to an upcoming effort to gain national accreditation for the program as an additional reason for wishing to leave the directorship at this time. "Were I to accept another two-year term as director," he said, "my tenure would end right in the middle of the accreditation process, creating the potential for disruption in leadership at a crucial time."

Among Barringer's accomplishments of the past two years, are a revised curriculum, recruitment of two new, full-time faculty members, establishment of an annual lecture series and creation of a public policy alumni association. "None of this would have come to pass were it not for the quality of people associated with the program at every level and their commitment to its success," said Barringer. The program, which was established in 1982, focuses on regional, state and local issues in such areas as growth management and economic development.

"I congratulate Dr. Barringer for having provided outstanding academic leadership to the Public Policy and Management Program throughout his entire affiliation with USM and, as director, for having ably guided the program through a critical period of growth, definition and stabilization," Deegan said to the Faculty Senate.

Deegan expects a successor to be named in the near future.

What We're Doing

SARAH A. BROWN, research associate, Human Services Development Institute, presented a workshop, "And What About the Fathers," at the Children's Defense Fund Conference in Washington, D. C. on March 7-9.

JOSEPH CAPELLUTI, assistant professor of education, recently gave a presentation on "What Secondary Principals Need to Know About Middle Level Education," at the National Association of Secondary School Principals annual conference in San Diego. The speech was taped and is being distributed nationally by the organization.

LUCIA A. diBENEDETTO, associate professor of French, gave a paper, "The Progress of the Voyage, from Diderot's 'Supplément au Voyage de Bougainville' to 'Jacques le Fataliste et son Maître,'" at the 15th annual meeting of the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque on March 3.

VALARIE C. LAMONT, director of the Institute for Real Estate Research and Education, spoke on the "Maine Home Buyer Profile and Housing Activity in Southern Maine" at the York County Board of Realtors, Kittery, on March 6.

ROBERT LEMELIN, director of learning assistance, organized and chaired the first international program for the National Association for Developmental Education Conference in Boston, March 1-4. Forty colleagues from twelve countries joined together to present papers and form an International Access to Higher Education Network. For the next two years, Lemelin will be one of the leaders of the network.

LINDA R. MEYER, associate professor, Therapeutic Recreation Programs, recently gave a presentation on "Sport and Recreation Activities for Persons with Disabilities" at the Eastern District Conference of the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, held in Lancaster, Penn. Meyer will be given an award of appreciation by the Portland City Council for work she has done as a member of the city's Friends of the Parks Commission.

DOROTHY D. MOORE, dean of the College of Education, recently gave a presentation titled "How Do We Challenge the Conventional Wisdom in Our Field?" at a forum for education deans on "The Challenges of

Deaning."

IVAN G. MOST, director, Production Technology Center, spoke on "How the University of Southern Maine Production Technology Center Serves Maine Industries," at the APICS meeting on March 1 in South Portland.

AH-KAU NG, associate professor of applied medical sciences, recently returned from Malaysia where he lectured at the University of Malaya on recent developments in tumor immunology research and participated in research discussions at the Institute of Medical Research (World Health Organization Regional Center) and at the University of Kebangsaan, in Kuala Lumpur. He also lectured on tumor immunology at the Cancer Institute in Beijing, China and delivered a lecture on "Potential Role of Cytoadhesion Molecules in Tumor Immunity" at the Institute of Biochemistry, Shanghai, China. He gave a presentation at the second International Systemic Lupus Erythematosus meeting in Singapore and co-chaired a scientific session at the meeting.

ANDREW J. POTTS, professor of accounting, has been nominated to be one of 15 candidates for five positions on the National Association of Certified Fraud Examiners Board of Regents. Elections will be held in March, 1990.

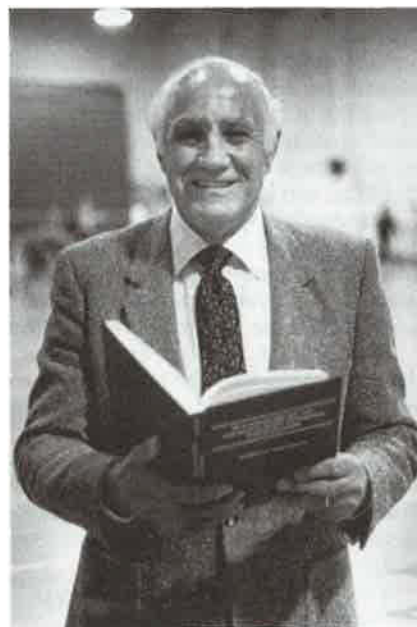
EUGENE P. A. SCHLEH, professor of history, and alumna Mary Lou Quinn, co-authored an article, "Popular Crime in Africa: The Macmillan Education Program," that was published in the Fall/Winter 1989 issue of *Clues: A Journal of Detection*.

WILLIAM H. SLAVICK, professor of English, provided a paper, "Memphis Radio Music After Handy and Before Elvis: The Garrett Snuff Variety Gang, Bob McKnight, and Royal Crown Hair Dressing with Olive Oil" for the Radio Section of the Popular Culture Association meeting in Toronto on March 7.

DAVID WAGNER, assistant professor of social work, presented a paper titled "Social Work and Labor: Partners in Assisting Dislocated Workers," at the annual conference of the Council on Social Work Education in Reno, Nevada on March 5. He was an invited panelist to a "Meeting the Authors" forum to present his forthcoming book on activists in the social services.

BETH I. WARREN, associate vice president, Human Resources, has been appointed new chair of the Human Rights Commission by Governor John R. McKernan.

L. KINVIN WROTH, dean, School of Law, was co-facilitator of the panel on International Relations in the University System/State Government Partnership Program conference, "Serving Maine Together," held at the Augusta Civic Center on February 8. Also in the conference's International Relations session, **CHARLES S. COLGAN**, associate professor of public policy and management, presented introductory remarks, and **WILLIAM R. DILL**, interim director of the Office of Global Enterprise, School of Business, Economics, and Management, chaired a discussion group on issue analysis needs and opportunities. On February 23, Wroth served as co-moderator at a continuing legal education program titled "Evidence Law and Practice in Vermont Under the Vermont Rules of Evidence," held in Montpelier. Wroth also made a presentation on the creation of privileges in current evidence law. Wroth was reporter on the original draft of the Vermont Rules of Evidence prepared in 1977 and was co-reporter on the Vermont Rules of Evidence as adopted by the Vermont Supreme Court effective in 1983.



James V. Sullivan, coordinator and professor of therapeutic recreation programs, is author of "Management of Health and Fitness Programs," recently published by Charles C. Thomas. It's considered one of the first books in the field to apply management techniques to the development of health and fitness programs. *Caswell photo*

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