

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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September 28, 1948

To Mr. John Seeley, University of Maine
Re: Alumni Trustee - "Graduate"

Agreeably to our conversation on the telephone, I have checked the letter from this office, dated September 15th, addressed to Mr. Hazen H. Ayer, 50 Congress Street, Boston. . You stated that it was possible that my Deputy did not know that Mr. Shaw had received an honorary degree of M. S. from the University.

Chapter 196 of the Public Laws of 1883, which provided that one additional member shall be added to the board of trustees, selected by the Alumni Association, provided that he should be a graduate of the college. The word "graduate" in legal terminology means one who has successfully passed through the prescribed course of study and has received a diploma certifying to that effect. Therefore I must agree with the opinion of Deputy Breitbard. . . that a person, to be eligible under the 1883 statute, must be a graduate of the University, having completed the customary four years' course of study and received a diploma therefrom.

I regret that I cannot make any other interpretation of this statute, for I know that Mr. Shaw has been very active in the Alumni Association and would make an excellent trustee.

Ralph W. Farris
Attorney General

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