

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Attention: Sally Tubbesing

Date: 5/13/99

Company: Legislative Executive Director

Number of Pages: 1

Fax Number: 287-1621

Voice Number:

From: Libby Mitchell

Company:

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Subject: Proposal for Legislative Council

Comments:

Dear Sally,
Thanks so very much for your time today. At the first Council meeting after the session I would like to present formally this proposal to the Council if possible. Each member has seen it already and initial response is positive.

Look forward to seeing you soon.
Libby Mitchell

LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT Draft Proposal

The Muskie School in partnership with the University of Maine and the Maine Legislature will plan and organize a summit for the fall of 1999 to give legislators the opportunity to explore in depth public policy issues between sessions. The content will be based exclusively on what legislators view as basic, unfinished business for their work in the January session. Muskie will set up an advisory committee of key legislators and staff to help develop the content of the workshops. University faculty will participate on this committee, offering their expertise and recommendations to develop the best possible program for legislators. The talented resources of the entire University system, including the Margaret Chase Smith Center, will be available to make this project worthy of the valuable time of state policy makers.

POSSIBLE THEMES:

- How do we raise Maine's per capital income?
- Investing in Maine's future
- Children and families
- Technology
- Environmental challenges
- Healthy Maine

TIME AND LOCATION:

- September 26th and 27th
- The University of Southern Maine's Stone House Conference Center in Freeport. There are no overnight accommodations but for leadership and those living a great distance from the site, local rooms are available at reasonable rates.
- Sunday: Leadership arrives for afternoon of work sessions and dinner. Opportunity to reflect on accomplishments of previous sessions and to define work to be accomplished in second session.
- Monday: Legislators join leadership for in-depth workshops designed in partnership with legislative leaders or their designees and University personnel. A keynote speaker could set the theme followed by breakout sessions and lunch. A final series of breakout sessions after lunch could be followed by a closing session summarizing the day's discussions.

COSTS:

- The cost for Sunday's events at the Stone House is \$20 per person. This includes an afternoon refreshment break. There is an additional charge of \$15 per hour after 5:00 P.M. The Stone House serves complete dinners ranging in price from \$18.95 to \$23.00.
- The Stone House charges \$21.00 per person for the Monday event with the legislators. This price includes a continental breakfast, mid-morning coffee, luncheon, audio-visual needs, and an afternoon break of cookies and soda.
- Shared expenses/expertise: we will need to negotiate a cost sharing that works for both institutions. Legislative expense reimbursements can be reduced by requiring overnights for only those who must travel a great distance. The goal is to host a meaningful summit in a cost-efficient manner. Faculty members would contribute their time.

POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS:

- Publication of proceedings for distribution to legislators unable to attend and to the public at large.
- Survey (poll) of public opinion on issues being discussed
- Opportunity for having a panel from the Judiciary, the Executive, and the Legislative to discuss a topic crossing all three branches: sentencing, prison construction, or any other topic of interest.