

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE LEGISLATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR EDUCATION

January 20, 1977

8:00 A. M.

Room 132

State Capitol Building

Subject: Unit Presidents

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carroll South with the following members present:

Senator Matt Himsl
Senator Larry Fasbender
Representative Oscar S. Kvaalen
Representative Jack K. Moore

Representative Ora Halvorson was excused from the meeting.

Also present in the meeting were staff members, Judy Rippingale, Fiscal Analyst, and John Krutar, Budget Analyst. The Committee met with the following university presidents:

George R. Bandy, Western Montana College
Duane M. Leach, Northern Montana College
Richard C. Bowers, University of Montana
Carl W. McIntosh, Montana State University
Fred W. De Money, Montana Technical School of Mines
John Van de Wetering, Eastern Montana College

Each member of the committee was supplied with exhibits which explained receipts and disbursements of student fee funds, property purchases, remodeling and maintenance, projects financed from student building funds, budget requests, and the analysis of computer purchase for the University of Montana.

Chairman Carroll South made a brief statement directed to the presidents in which he asked that the presidents be very candid with the Committee. He said that the Committee is concerned that the treatment of the universities be equitable. He expressed the hope that there would be a great deal of trust between the six universities, the Board of Regents and the legislators. He urged that in their budget requests they ask for everything that they need and that they be very specific in making requests. He expressed concern that tuition fees not be raised to supplement any budget needs later on. Legislators are concerned about any monies spent for travel, entertainment, paid leave, etc., because it means that much less money is then spent on education. He said that legislators want to be assured that each university is running a "tight ship" and that they want to know that students are consulted regarding any fee increase or plans for any building projects.

The topic of entertainment was discussed. All of the presidents testified. They seemed to agree that it was necessary to spend some money on the travel and meals of prospective faculty, hiring, advertising and interviews. Also some money, mainly on meals, must be spent on alumni and donors of sums of money to the school. They try to keep this to a minimum but in appreciation and courtesy some money must be spent in this area. Several examples of money spent in entertainment were cited in the budget and the legitimacy of the expenditures was discussed. No specific unit was cited as being responsible for specific items but a general discussion was held. The presidents agreed that most entertainment money is spent in recruiting faculty and the legal advertising which must be done in hiring.

Senator Himsl asked if there was a shortage of teachers and Dr. McIntosh, MSU, said that in most fields there is no shortage but they must be quite selective and they must advertise for 30 days in order to fill a position. It is estimated that it costs about \$500 to bring a person to the campus for interview. In selecting a new faculty member, two or three persons might be brought to Bozeman for interviews. By the time the position is filled it is possible that it has cost five to six thousand dollars.

The presidents were asked by Representatives Kvaalen and Moore about trips that the presidents had made prior to January into the eastern part of the state to talk to legislators. The presidents said that it is necessary for them to gather a certain amount of information before they come to the hearing; that they want to give people in their particular area information about the schools they represent and that any entertainment of legislators or anyone else on these trips was at their own expense.

Policies governing fee waivers were discussed. Dr. McIntosh said that if an employee is working three-fourths of a workload, he is considered to be full-time. Faculty members and full-time employees have free tuition. The presidents agreed that this was the policy at each school. Fee waivers do not extend to family members. Also, it was agreed that a faculty member cannot get an advanced degree in his field at the school where he is a faculty member. He must limit this to another field or another school. The presidents seemed to agree that there had been no abuse of this policy by faculty or employees or that their particular positions suffered because of time spent in taking a course at the school. Representative Francis Bardanoue was present during this time and took part in this conversation.

Senator Fasbender opened a discussion regarding scholarships and the waiver of fees. He inquired upon what basis fees are waived. It was said that the Board of Regents had reviewed this program in 1975 but had not done an in-depth evaluation. Senator Fasbender asked that this present policy of fee waiver and scholarship be evaluated. President Bowers expressed concern that fee waivers not only be given to those in financial need but that there also be the incentive of scholarship given to those students who have worked hard and earned them on the basis of grades, honor, etc., It was agreed that probably the greatest number of scholarships

are in the area of athletics. Representative Moore asked if the policy of fee waiver increased fees for paying students and Dr. Bowers, University of Montana, said that it probably did increase fees for all paying students. Dr. Bandy, Western Montana College, also spoke of the need for incentive in offering fee waivers and that not all of this be done for the needy student only.

Representative Bardanouve asked for information regarding the National Merit Exam that is given to students and why Eastern Montana College seemed to be the only school involved in using this. Dr. Van de Wetering, president of that college, said that the Billings students had been encouraged to take this test and a great number of them had stayed in Billings to go to school.

There was a discussion regarding the motor pool that is maintained at each university, costs of vehicles, mileage paid for use of private cars, when private cars were used instead of state cars and the use of funds held in reserve from the motor pool. There are about 40 cars in each motor pool besides other types of vehicles. They do their own maintenance at the school. It is not contracted. Dr. Bowers said that any funds in reserve from the motor pool is audited although it is not under the control of the legislature at the present time.

Chairman South led in a discussion regarding the policies set forth in bargaining with employees. Members of the committee wanted to know by what authority bargaining is done and if any other compensation is promised other than that which is provided by the legislature. Wage uniformity was discussed and rules regarding students living on campus was discussed. No students are required to live in dormitories on any university campus.

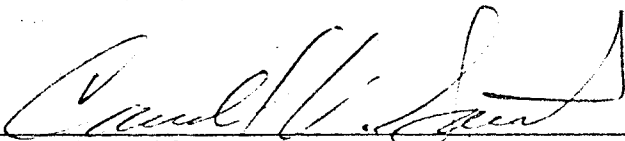
Senator Fasbender led in a discussion regarding the tenure of teachers and whether or not the universities now find themselves locked into a tenure/wage situation that they can't get out of. The fact that state-wide the number of enrolled students is lower than it has been was discussed. Student-faculty ratio was discussed and its relationship to bargaining. At the present time there is a 19-1 student-faculty ratio bargained at Eastern Montana College.

Representative Bardanouve led a discussion regarding fire safety. He questioned the safety of the "high-rise" type of structure. He said that he had heard a discussion by fire-prevention groups in Bozeman that this type of structure was very unsafe. He questioned the wisdom in building any more structures like these and he directed his remarks to Dr. McIntosh. Dr. McIntosh said that he did not know of any plans to build any more structures like the ones at MSU. He said that the structures are suppose to be relatively fire-proof and that he was sorry to report that they had been tested in this respect. He pointed out that there had been an instance of a fire in an apartment on the top floor of one of the buildings. Even though considerable damage was done to the aptment where the fire occured, the fire was controlled and limited to that area.

The building programs of the universities was discussed. Any building project that costs over \$200,000 is to be voted on by the student body. The purchase of a computer by University of Montana was discussed. An analysis of this purchase was presented and is attached to these minutes. The university sold the old computer to Eastern Montana College.

The meeting was recessed at 11:20 a. m. The committee will meet again with the unit presidents at 8:00 a. m., Friday, January 21.

A tape recording of this meeting is on file in the office of the Fiscal Analyst.


CARROLL SOUTH, CHAIRMAN


Betsy Clark, Secretary