

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

January 24, 1977
8:00 A. M.
Room 132
State Capitol Building
Subject: University Students

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carroll South.
The following members were present:

Sen. Matt Himsel
Sen. Larry Fasbender
Rep. Oscar Kvaalen
Rep. Jack Moore
Rep. Ora Halvorson

Chairman South welcomed the members of the student senates from six units of the universities. Those present who testified were:

Pete Jivelekas, ASEM, Vice President
Beau Bradley, ASMSU, President
Ron VandenBoom, Co-Director MSL, NMC (speaking for Montana Tech)
Jerry Brady, ASNMC, President
Dave Hill, ASUM, President
Mark Neill, ASWMC, President

Also present in the meeting were Judy Rippingale, Fiscal Analyst, and John Krutar, Budget Analyst.

Mae Nann Ellingson, Montana Student Lobbyist, was also present. Other members of student senate staff were present but did not testify in the meeting.

Chairman South introduced Mae Nann Ellingson, Lobbyist, who expressed appreciation for the meeting. She said that she had wanted this meeting so that students might meet the legislators. She said that she felt it was a good thing for the students to come before the Legislative Committee and discuss some of their needs and ideas and to find out first hand how the Legislators are feeling in different areas of concern. She mentioned that she had heard much discussion regarding the student activity fee and also the student building funds. She briefly discussed both. She pointed out that the student activity fee is the one that the students through their voting can control or withdraw from use. It is the fund that has been used for athletic purposes. Students vote on whether to begin a new building project and certain fees may be paid by them toward a building fund, but the fund itself is not controlled by the students as the activity fee is.

Ms. Ellingson introduced Dave Hill, ASUM, who spoke first. Dave Hill discussed the need for students to assume a more active part in what is going on in their school. He feels this is a

necessary thing since there are many programs and needs that the students can become aware of. They are then in a better position to know what the needs are and can develop programs to help themselves. He spoke of a new program which offers legal services to students which is partly preventative law and partly clinical services. He mentioned that students are now becoming involved more in civic and community affairs and are not the isolated group that they once were. He thinks that this is a good start and that they should be encouraged to become more involved in many areas.

He said that another area that is being developed at UM is the services of a certified public accountant to help with budgeting procedures, open books and a special election system. He said that although they have the right to lower student activity fees, or to withdraw them and re-direct their use, this has not been done this year. In fact, he said, it was voted on by students and a \$5.00 additional fee was attached to the regular student activity fee for this quarter. He said that students are demanding more in-put into the management of these funds.

Chairman South led in a discussion directed to Beau Bradley in regard to student activity fee funds. He said that some schools rely heavily on student fee money and other schools feel that those who attend should be the primary supporters of the athletic program. He asked Beau Bradley if he could justify that line of thinking. Bradley said that many Booster Clubs were larger and there were larger gate receipts which could be quite supportive to an athletic program. In cases of this kind, he felt that there would be less need to use student activity fee funds. However, some schools cannot support the activities any other way but to use the activity fees. He said that there aren't many more funds that they can use besides these funds. He said, for example, that MSU doesn't have the funds from gate receipts and Booster Club that UM has and must turn to student activity fees. They conducted a poll at MSU to see how students felt about the use of these fees. There were 275 who voted and 66.7% were in favor of using student activity fees for athletic purposes. About \$10,000 will be used for intercollegiate athletics. He said that the student body there shows a trend in participation in sports and that they are quite interested in financially supporting these programs. He said that when he has talked with members of student senates from other schools, he didn't think that there was as much support in some of the other schools. It seems to be general concensus that the people who go to the athletic functions are the ones who should be supporting them.

There was continued discussion regarding the use of student activity fees. Dave Hill, MSU, further discussed this: He said that on their campus, students are able to supplement those programs that they think are in need of it. For example, he said, in the fine arts area in numerous cases, a student must participate either in a drama production or fine arts program in order to receive a degree and yet the Department does not receive any appropriations for those events. As a result the student activity fee is used to supplement. In the case of drama, we gave \$16,000 from student activity funds to supplement this. We continually work to get the Administration to fund

these programs. We still need help in other areas such as child care for student parents, for one.

Senator Himsl directed a question to Pete Jivelekas, Billings: He asked Jivelekas if student fees are financing buildings in which academic classes are being held. Jivelekas answered that this was true. Mae Nann Ellingson asked to be able to qualify that statement. She said that student activity fees are not actually financing the operational costs of those buildings. For about seven years now the portion of student fees allocated to general building fees are going into operational maintenance of the P. E. complex to the tune of about \$150,000 each year--not the student activity fee but the student building fee.

The students feel that the money should go into a fund for the cost of new buildings and not for the operational costs of buildings that are already in use.

Senator Himsl said, "Can you answer specifically: Are student fee monies being used to finance buildings that are in any way now being used by classes."

Mae Nann Ellingson and Jivelekas both answered that this was true, that classes are being held in buildings that student fee monies have financed.

Senator Himsl asked students if they could give an idea of what happens at registration and what is paid. Dave Hill, UM, answered that he thought the total fee for registration is now \$183.00 per quarter. Most students don't know where this goes or what the breakdown is--they just pay it. About \$99.00 is actually going for tuition. The rest of the fee is for health services, new buildings and the student activity fee so that means that about \$80.00 is going for other things besides tuition.

There was a discussion regarding the tenure system. Senator Fasbender asked Dave Hill, UM, what he meant when he said that UM was losing teachers and Dave Hill further said that he felt the unit was losing teachers because of the low salary scale. Senator Fasbender said that perhaps this is the fault of administration and the tenure system that is being used. Senator Kvaalen said that it seemed to him that he had heard that in a ten-year period of time, only ten faculty members had left. He said that if this is true he wouldn't think that was a serious turn-over. Francis Bardanouye was in the meeting and he said that he thought that there would always be a certain amount of shifting in the teaching profession. He said that he thought many better teachers change because of better job offers or wanting to further their education.

Beau Bradley went on to say that there was inadequate funding in library services, field trips for Agriculture and Engineering. Practical experience is needed in these areas and the trips are important. There is a shortage of lab supplies. He felt that we may have been able to retain good faculty based on environmental values even though they might have gotten better salaries someplace else. He said that there is much unrest because of salaries and he expects that there will be salary increases when new contracts are

signed. Chairman South said that he thought from the standpoint of the Legislators that many of the problems we are talking about are managerial problems at the units. For example, he said, the people who maintain the buildings are making \$1.00 more an hour than any other state employee doing this same type of work. Yet they are state employees. Also, recently the Commissioner's Office negotiated with the six units of the university system to give their non-academic employees a \$30 increase in insurance payment premiums. This increases the amount that the University pays for each employee for insurance to \$40 while other state employees across the state are only paid \$10 on their insurance policies. In fact, they chose to pay non-academic employees more for their insurance policies than they did for faculty. South said that the legislators have no control over this and it isn't right because all state employees should have the same wage scale and the same benefits. The Executive Branch of government is not negotiating with any university employees because of the constitutional problem. We simply have a group of state employees who are not accountable to the Executive Branch or to the Legislature. Those policies will be set by the Commissioner's Office and by the University system. Chairman South said that the Legislature could appropriate more money for salaries for faculty but it doesn't mean that the money will reach them.

Rep. Moore asked if the students thought that some of the faculty unrest could be due to union agitation in that they are putting on pressure to go under the union for salaries. Students answered that they didn't think that this was true. MSU is at the present time non-unionized. They will begin bargaining in May or June and at that time there will be a vote. He said that he thought any unrest was due to managerial problems and promises made at the time contracts were signed that were unfulfilled. For example, he was talking about the fact that the faculty has had to pay the same use fee for the P. E. Complex as the students pay. Faculty members who felt and understood that this would be a fringe benefit were not very happy about the situation. There are 130 faculty using these facilities.

Jerry Brady, NMC, says that their teachers are under the union. He said that negotiations were hard. Everyone knew how many dollars were available but this seemed to be irrelevant. It seemed to him that they went into negotiations with no feeling that money was limited--he felt like the union figured that whatever salaries they decided were needed that the money would be made available.

Rep. Moore asked who decided this policy. He said, "Are you saying that the pre-budget negotiations that they come up with now, we will have to meet the price of those negotiations regardless of what they are?"

Jerry Brady said that he felt this was true and this it was the law regarding collective bargaining.

Chairman South said that he would like to know where the law was that states that any negotiated salary must be met.

Brady said that after a contract is signed, salaries must be met and then whatever money is left can go to other places, such as, buildings, maintenance, supplies, etc., but that the salary must be met first out of whatever monies you have appropriated at the legislature. He said that through a proper compromise of union and employees, it was found that a lack of benefits was the major dissatisfaction although there was a certain salary increase because of negotiations. He expects that salaries will go even higher the next time they go to the bargaining table.

Rep. Moore said that the last contract negotiations held at EMC were done after "we all went home" and they had to take \$55,000 out of the operations fund in order to meet this. So, you lost this amount of operation and maintenance funds and the contract was signed after we went home.

Pete Jivelekas, EMC, said that he wasn't aware that this had happened.

Chairman South said that he would like to comment on the fact that the amount of money available has no relevancy on bargaining. He said that he thought they must get practical for a minute because he had sat on both sides of the table and when it comes to any bargaining, it does matter how much money you have, or how much is available. That is always a consideration. He said that the problem we are faced with here is that requests come in on a pre-budget negotiation but contracts aren't final. They have to go back and be re-negotiated if we don't approve what they've done in the pre-budget negotiations. Then bargaining could depend on what we have appropriated. Of course, if they think that there is more money in operations, then that is where they'll look--it's a simple fact of collective bargaining.

Brady said that he still feels, and also that is backed by law, that the unions pretty much bargain for whatever they see fit and it is up to the state to meet it. He said that he felt that is one of the dangers of teachers going into the union--that it is bound to cost more money as the years go by.

Chairman South asked when this bargaining was done. Brady said that the bargaining was done last year. He negotiated, he said, a master contract for eight months.

Chairman South said that they wouldn't have known how much money you were getting until the legislature had acted upon it in appropriating. Brady asked if South was referring to the next biennium because at the time of negotiations, the money had already been appropriated so there was a fixed amount of money and the union has the same figures.

Chairman South said that he was talking about the coming biennium. Jerry Brady said that South was right--that no idea was had at this time what appropriations you will make, but he said, "you must remember that whatever you decide to appropriate, the union faculty salaries must be met first."

Rep. Moore asked Brady if when the contract was signed was any money taken out of Equipment, Motor Pool or Operational Budget to meet this, and Brady answered that as far as he knew, no money was taken out of those places to make up the deficit.

Sen. Fasbender said that when it is said that the universities are under-funded, there are a lot of variables and aspects that would come into play and to a degree all of you students are going to be used as a propaganda arm to try to get the funding that the school wants. He said that he hoped that they would understand that if we, the committee, feel that requests are too high, we will not be able to grant the requests. We hope you will understand what our positions are. If in the case where collective bargaining is going on, they choose not to take it out of the Operations which was the case at EMC but to include student-faculty ratio, i. e., instead of paying the same number of teachers a certain salary, they simply paid fewer teachers a higher salary, that student-faculty ratio should have quite an impact on students.

Senator Fasbender asked if the students had found places where they could not take the courses that they wanted to take because of lack of faculty? In other words, he said, had the students found places where lack of teachers affected their ability to get a quality education?

Dave Hill said that this would be hard to qualify and he didn't know how it could be measured.

Senator Fasbender said, "Well, have you been turned away from taking courses and for what reasons?" The students discussed this and they seemed to agree that on a freshman level of schooling, there are a larger number of students wanting to take courses. They often find themselves turned away for periods of time that range from two or three quarters to two years, but they think it is mainly due to a large number of persons wanting to take entry-level courses. They are usually required subjects and the classes are large. At the top where the upper-class courses are being offered, there is more room and there are fewer students trying to take these courses. Students have input into these situations and sometimes a department decides to enlarge introduction courses so there will be more room in the upper-class courses.

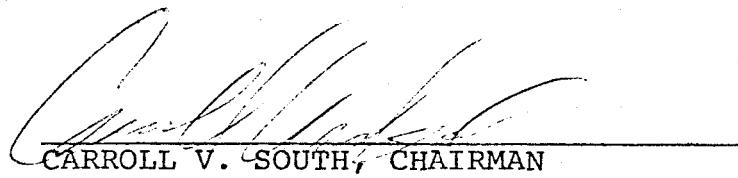
Rep. Halvorson said that she noted as the students were talking, that there is a big difference between the schools. She said that it was obvious that it would be very difficult to compare them and she thinks it is good for the state, the units and the students if the schools are considered on an individual basis.

The meeting came to a close with Rep. Moore making a statement to the students that he wondered if they were aware that two years ago when the Legislature met, the Committee recommended that four million dollars be appropriated for the universities. He said that

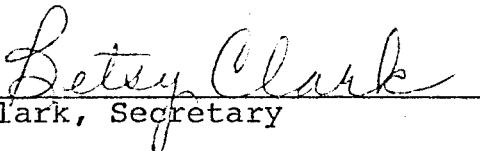
he wondered if the students were aware that the Legislature did approve and appropriate this amount of money through the Board of Regents and they now have found out that 1.4 million dollars of the money never reached the university system. Students were not aware that this had happened and there was some disccusion regarding this. Rep. Moore said that he for one is very upset over this and he intends to look into it further. He feels it should be investigated and that there should be some explanations.

A tape was made of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Fiscal Analyst.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A. M.



CARROLL V. SOUTH, CHAIRMAN



Betsy Clark
Betsy Clark, Secretary