

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

January 27, 1977

8:00 A. M.

Room 132

State Capitol Building

Subject: Continuing Education,
Student/Faculty Ratio,
Contingency

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Matt Himsl.
The following members were present:

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

Vice-Chairman Matt Himsl called upon Dr. Pettit to review the continuing education program and give the committee some background information about the programs offered. We need to know just what this program is and then if each unit will tell us what they are doing in this area.

Dr. Pettit said that this is one of the areas where they have an inter-unit committee that has been working for years. They have come up with a new Regents policy on continuing education. At least two of the experts in continuing education who have been on that committee are here, George Bandy and Patricia Douglas.

Patricia Douglas, Chairman, spoke to the committee. She said that continuing education covered four areas: (1) up-dating kind of education for adults--they have at one time received some kind of certification and they have come back for re-training; (2) Public service to communities--that is where individual faculty members go out and help communities solve problems; (3) the non-traditional student--age category of 18-21 year old who typically takes a 2-year or 4-year degree program but because of special reasons or needs, that individual wants to study off campus, in a foreign country or another state but still be part of the system; (4) A person who has received a bachelor's degree and wants to go on into a graduate program but has not yet fulfilled all of the requirements of graduation. This part of the program depends upon the school and just what each school will allow to be accomplished off campus when the individual is pursuing a master's degree. Historically, these people have been on a self-supporting basis. Faculty costs, indirect costs are supported by fees charged the student. Those fees, currently, are \$21.00 per student per credit hour. From that fee we pay the faculty costs, the administrative cost of the program and each institution disagrees about the cost of administration and what portion comes out of the fees. It ranges from everything excluding heat and lights and office space to partly state-supported, partly fee-supported.

Because of the way that the courses are offered out of the fees, a limit must be set on the enrollment. Every program offered those

people must generate fees covering a portion of the indirect cost, the total year's operation and the direct cost of offering that specific course in that specific community. This area is growing very rapidly and enrollments have sky-rocketed since 1972.

Dr. Bandy said that in the past continuing education carried with it non-resident credit in almost all cases. The proposal that was developed would have it in the future that no distinction be made between resident and non-resident credit. That is not to say that it would be appropriate to take all types of courses off campus-- it would not but that the courses taken off-campus be not down-graded by giving notice of non-resident credit. Precise records must be kept. The plan that was submitted to the Regents called for a fundamental change and that is that continuing education could carry resident credit even if it were being offered off campus or in another community. The other very important change that was recommended was that the student taking the continuing education at an off-campus site pay the registration and incidental fees that the on-campus student presently pays. At the present time the student is not expected to pay these fees. They pay only the credit fee per credit hour.

It was further recommended that in lieu of the building fees that a regular on-campus student pays, there be charged a service fee for taking the course to the student's home. In making these changes the off-campus student would be carrying the same fee level as the student working on campus. It is believed that this service fee could generate quite a little income toward the support of these off-campus courses.

There is another factor. The fiscal analyst said we should wait until more complete analysis is made. Presently we don't give resident credit for courses taken off campus. We cannot know what the effect will be until we implement such a policy. We are confident that the whole area of continuing education is going to be a very big thing in the future across the country and the whole idea is that the university through this policy change can be of better service to the citizens of the state. That is the basic motivation for the policy change.

Vice-Chairman Hims1 asked if there were any relationship between the non-traditional student program and adult basic education programs in another area. Do students go into that elementary type of program? She answered that it was not the same type of student or the same type of program. They would not go into Basic Education if they finished a non-traditional program. Hims1 also asked how the extension program differed from the community continuing education program. He said that he specifically referred to people from the university who come out to conduct special courses for teachers for which they are given credit to qualify for additional work. This is the same program that was out-lined in the No. 1 part of continuing education. It is called extension and they are trying to get away from that word so there will be less confusion. The trend is to call all four categories 'continuing education'.

Continuing education provides both credit and non-credit courses off campus. The proposal to which Dr. Bandy referred pertains only to credit courses. We want to continue to handle non-credit courses but the service fees would involve only those courses which offer credit.

Last year the increase in students went from 1973-75 total of 6,674 students to 7,296 for credit courses. For the same period of time the non-credit courses went from 283 students to 921. This represented credit hours from 21,455 to 21,855. The reason for the slight increase there is the fact that Eastern Montana College changed its policies within that period so that everything that was on-campus, they considered their regular program so theirs actually declined from 6,986 to 2,482 credit hours. Otherwise, the same kind of increase would have been seen for that period. At the University of Montana student credit hours in 1973 were 8,930. By 1976 they were 16,144.

Sen. Fasbender inquired about the change of policy at EMC. He wanted to know if when they changed policy, if that change generated additional FTE at Eastern. Dr. Van de Wetering said that it did generate additional FTE. It became part of the regular program. Sen. Fasbender said that it was difficult to determine which programs are part of the cost structure and which ones are self-supporting. Mrs. Douglas said that in speaking for U of M-- anytime you have a course that is developed because a faculty member wants to do something special or because we have enough people in the community, it is considered to be continuing education. We consider the faculty's load as running from 8 to 5 so all of these types of courses must be offered after these hours. Dr. Bandy said that over-time is paid to a faculty member teaching in these courses. Sen. Fasbender said that this situation would generate FTE for the unit but Dr. Bandy said that this is not the case. Dr. Bandy said that is what they are proposing--that they become part of the academic load as well as receiving no extra compensation. Sen. Fasbender said that if they generate credit, they would be counted as FTE but Dr. Bandy and Mrs. Douglas said no, not unless it is part of the faculty member's regular load. The only reason that EMC generated FTE is because their continuing education was put in as part of the regular academic teaching. Dr. Van de Wetering said that all of their after-hour courses are part of the regular system and that they are scheduled so that someone could actually graduate by going to night school.

Sen. Fasbender asked if when they made that switch in policy, did the program then cease to be self-supporting. Dr. Van de Wetering said that they simply extended their day and all students were enrolled as full-time students paying full tuition and student fees. Courses are distributed over a time of 8 a. m. to 10 p. m. Students go through the regular registration process. There is no continuing education on campus. Only off-campus would be considered to be continuing education. Sen. Fasbender pointed out that this changed policy brought into the system over 400 students.

Rep. Moore asked if at the other colleges the \$21.00 per credit is still being offered, does it cover the cost of paying the faculty? Dr. Bandy answered that is true. Mrs. Douglas said that if you don't get enough students, you simply cancel the courses because it

won't be enough to pay the faculty and part of the overhead.

Rep. Halvorson said that many of the schools in the east caught on to continuing education earlier and they knew that if they had the students coming onto campus for various programs and part of the course, they could expect more money from them. It kept many of the smaller schools from going under financially. Why can't Montana do something like that? It could be quite lucrative. Dr. Bandy said that he wasn't sure that they could generate much from out-of-state students since so much is offered at the other schools. But the idea has been considered.

Vice-Chairman Himsel turned the chair over to Chairman South and he was briefed on what had been said in the meeting.

Dr. McIntosh said that MSU has a small number of part-time students. Some classes are scheduled in the evening as regular courses. Continuing education is not an academic offering and does not offer credit.

Dr. Bowers said that in the evening U of M offers some regular credit courses and some continuing education courses. There is an increasing obligation on the part of the universities across the country to offer continuing education for some of the professions that are licensed. Many states in the country require continuing education for various professions such as CPA's, pharmacists, and different teaching professions.

Chairman South said that the question he would have is why is the state being asked to pick up the tab if these courses are self-supporting. Dr. Bowers said that perhaps the fee structure for continuing education should be examined in regard to those who are licenses and need continued education in order to keep their license and these should be distinguished from those who do not have those means. Much continuing education is designed for those people who have not had an opportunity to get higher education. Dr. Bowers said that he would argue that the state has the same obligation to those people as it does to younger students. Dr. Bandy said that under the new policy discussed, the state is only being asked to pay for those courses which offer academic credit. The salaried professional coming back would fall into another, probably non-credit, category. What is being done with continuing education is the reaching of people off campus who want to continue their education with credit.

Chairman South asked if they were making an attempt to utilize personnel in a community who could be certified to teach rather than sending faculty from the units. Mrs. Douglas answered yes. She said some would argue that they have gone so far into that, that the courses are no longer creditable.

Sen. Fasbender said that he thought any courses being taken by professionals would be courses offering credit and thereby the state would be paying part of the cost. Dr. Pettit said that there were other kinds of certification other than academic credit. There is a continuing education unit that is not credit toward a degree but it does provide certification for a profession. Sen. Fasbender asked about teachers taking these courses. Dr. Pettit said that most teachers would be taking regular courses in summer session.

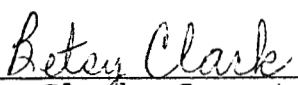
Teacher education refuses to accept continuing education as credits toward certification. The school boards decide what the teachers need and even though the continuing education unit is becoming a national standard for professionals, the school boards still refuse to accept this type of education for certification of teachers.

Chairman South asked if the university system now contracts with certain state agencies especially in the area of social work where the DD centers around the state have social workers who would like to advance their credits. I have had many of them talk to me about that. I was under the impression that there is a program whereby SRS would pick up the bill for time allowed for their social workers to extend their educations. Mrs. Douglas said that the U of M had such a program. Dr. Pettit said that they had tried to arrange a closer relationship with the Department of Institutions. We have appointed a committee to address itself to this concern.

A full tape has been made of this meeting and is on file in the office of the fiscal analyst.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A. M.



CARROLL V. SOUTH, CHAIRMAN

Betsy Clark, Secretary