

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE LEGISLATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION APPROPRIATION

February 9, 1977
8:00 A. M.
Room 132
State Capitol Building

Subject: University Athletics

Chairman Carroll South called the meeting to order.

Members of committee present were:

Sen. Matt Hims1
Sen. Larry Fasbender
Rep. Ora Halvorson
Rep. Jack Moore
Rep. Oscar Kvaalen

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

The following persons were present in the meeting:

John Van de Wetering, Eastern Montana College
Larry Pettit, Commissioner of Higher Education
Vic Burt, Montana School of Mineral and Science Technology
Larry Clinton, Northern Montana College
Duane M. Leach, Northern Montana College
Richard C. Bowers, University of Montana
Carl W. McIntosh, Montana State University
George R. Bandy, Western Montana College
Mae Nann Ellingson, Montana Student Lobby

There is concern that students might elect to support an athletic program and after it is started, they withdraw support leaving a program that people assume will be picked up with general fund monies. South said this is why the committee is concerned about things that are supposedly none of its business. In the year that this happens, you would either have to cut the program drastically or use Operating Expense money to keep it going.

Dr. Bowers said that the University of Montana is the unit that went through this. At the time it was a rather difficult situation. He said that he thought that they came through it very well. Two and one half years ago the student government decided to reduce to zero from about \$95,000 support of athletic activities; i. e., intercollegiate sports. Dr. Bowers said that he decided not to recommend to the Board of Regents that a mandatory fee be imposed on the student body since this was the way in which they had voted.

Instead, he said, I recommended that we revise our ticket-pricing policy at the gates and try to recover as much of this \$95,000 as we could in that way. We have now recovered more than this amount from increased gate receipts and contributions from the Booster Club. We stabilized our program in that way and I feel that we are quite stable at this time. I feel, after going through that experience, that this is probably the only way for a school to recover should they have students withdraw support.

Dr. Bowers said that he thought there ought not to be a mandatory fee to support intercollegiate athletics but rather that it should be a university program with control and with support through the regular budget as well as gate receipts and booster club contributions.

Dr. Van de Wetering, Eastern Montana College, said that the students are contributing about \$95,000 a year toward intercollegiate sports which is a large amount of money for a student body that size.

Dr. Van de Wetering said that he looks forward to a time when the basis of funding can be altered in such a way to permit us to include that as a regular program and to get student funding out of it. In fact, students will be voting on this very soon and I expect that they will decide to withdraw all support for intercollegiate sports. Instead, they will elect to spend that money on sports that are normally held on campus such as tennis, golf, etc., and other sports that involve local students on campus.

Dr. Van de Wetering would like a decision from the Committee regarding what they feel they can do regarding this matter. He indicated that he is under considerable pressure from students to try to accomplish a change of policy without their having to withdraw support as such.

Mae Nann Ellingson was present in the meeting and she explained to the committee the difference between fees. The subject of student activity fees, athletic fees, etc., has come up many times, she said. There seems to have developed some confusion during the course of the past weeks about the difference between activity fees and student building fees. These are two completely separate things. The students have never had any direct control over student building fees. The only control they have had is over the student activity fees.

Dr. McIntosh, Montana State University, said that some schools rely heavily on student fee money and other schools feel that those who attend sports function such as the public, alumni, booster clubs, etc., should support or seek ways of supporting the intercollegiate activities. He said that MSU has tried to keep gate prices as low as possible so MSU doesn't have the funds from gate receipts and Booster Club that UM does. MSU has had to rely heavily on student activity fees to fund intercollegiate athletics. In a poll at MSU it was said that 36.7 percent of the 275 who voted were in favor of using student activity fees to fund athletics which would seem to indicate that students would rather withdraw from the program if it were possible to do that.

He said at this time students show considerable interest in supporting athletic programs but in actual voting, they didn't. Right now there will be funds of about \$10,000 in student activity fees that will go toward the support of athletics. He seemed to feel that there is more student support at MSU than there are at some of the other schools.

Dr. Bandy, WMC; Dr. Leach, NMC; and Dr. de Money, TECH, seemed to be in agreement that their students would withdraw support in the form of student activity fees in voting right away. They seemed to be in agreement that it was the general opinion and feeling throughout their schools that those persons who attend athletic functions are the ones that should support them financially.

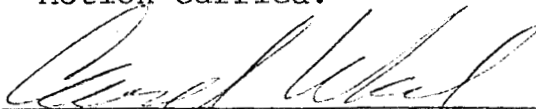
The Board of Regents have voted to increase student fees and have gone on record as wanting the student participation taken out of athletic programs. They vote each year whether to participate that year in intercollegiate athletic programs. At the University of Montana, the unit is paying the full amount for athletics since their students withdrew support two and one half years ago. At the other five schools the student activity fees are still going toward support but as indicated there is considerable feeling that students will withdraw support at all units except MSU for right at the present time.


Chairman South said the Committee must make a decision as to whether they want to pick this up and if this is what we want to do, he said, we will have to appropriate into five categories. The total is \$247,315 which includes \$90,000 - MSU; \$94,880 - EMC; \$26,170 - TECH; \$12,265 - WMC; and \$24,000 - NMC. The request from the Units is that student fees not be considered when the committee is computing the budget.

Sen. Himsl said that he was concerned that any decision made by Committee could be overridden by the Board of Regents; however, it was pointed out that the Board of Regents has gone on record as wanting the students in all units taken out of the intercollegiate athletic programs.

A motion was made by Sen. Himsl that the Committee go along with the recommendation made by the Board of Regents and incorporate intercollegiate athletics into the budget in the amount of \$247,315.

All voted aye. None opposed. Motion carried.


CARROLL V. SOUTH, CHAIRMAN


Betsy Clark, Secretary