

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

February 10, 1977

8:00 A. M.

Room 132

State Capitol Building

Subject: Student Assistance,
Commissioners Office,
Regents, WAMI.

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

Sen. Matt Hims1

Rep. Jack Moore

Rep. Oscar Kvaalen

Sen. Larry Fasbender

Rep. Ora Halvorson

The minutes of the meeting were taken by Colleen Marcs, Senate
Steno Pool, in the absence of the Committee Secretary, Betsy Clark.

The attached minutes is a record of the meeting.

Board of Regents member Ted James stated that the Regents felt that a good deal of progress has been made. If there are cuts in the budget made, it should be on the campus and not to the Commissioner of Higher Education.

Discussion followed on the collective bargaining process. Senator Himsl questioned how many people are involved and how much time is spent on this. Mr. Pettit explained that each lawyer has participated in bargaining at one time or another. No one is working full time at bargaining. It is done in addition to other duties.

Mr. Pettit informed the sub-committee that a proposal was made to the Regents concerning allocation of funds. The Regents will have this proposal on their agenda on Monday and should have a proposal to the legislature by Tuesday.

Representative South asked Mr. Pettit what the original request for full time employees was. Mr. Pettit stated that 24 full-time employees were requested. He feels that this will impose a hardship on some of the professional staff but this could fill the need for about 6 years.

Representative South feels that the Director of Information appears to be doing a lot of things that should be done by the press.

Mr. Pettit said that every state agency has at least one person in this area and most are paid a great deal more than this one is. The Director of Information does more than work with the press. He handles all information sent out to high schools and the public at large, is in charge of all publications that go out of the office and is a watchdog that we are in compliance with open meeting laws and the right-to-know laws. Because of this we have been able to cut down on the number of Public Information people on campus.

Discussion of the relationship between the Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Higher Education then came up. Mr. James explained that the Regents are not familiar on a day-to-day basis. It is an impossibility. Most of the information that they act on at the meetings is information that they have had long before they meet. They don't have the knowledge to deal with the university presidents on a day-to-day basis.

Sid Thomas pointed out that our campuses are very active and any action the Regents or Commissioner take is carefully followed by all concerned. The notion that the Regents are a rubber stamp of what the Commissioner wants is a mistake. The only alternative to having no Commissioner is having no central control at all.

Representative Halverson brought the matter of the veto power of these boards.

Mr. James said that they haven't often exercised their veto power but for example they didn't agree on the Commissioner. It ended in a tie vote. They have the power to hire and fire the Commissioner. In most instances they agree.

General discussion on how budget amendments are made followed. Rep. South wanted to know how budget amendments were made and if any were turned down. Mr. James and Mr. Thomas explained the process and cited examples of when amendments were turned down.

Representative Halverson pointed out that years ago there was a position known as that of Chancellor and asked Mr. Pettit to explain the difference between his position and the one of the Chancellor. Mr. Pettit stated the major difference is that the Chancellor was very easily eliminated whenever there was a conflict. Now the Commissioner is a matter of constitutionality. It is, therefore, easy to eliminate the man but not the position.

Representative Bardanouve stated he feels that as long as it is a matter of constitutionality, the position of Commissioner is untouchable.

Mr. James said the Regents intend to discuss this at their meeting on Monday.

Mr. Thomas feels that if you eliminate the constitutionality of the position you take away the "guts" of it - you eliminate control.

General discussion of budget requests followed. Rep. South questioned the way it is handled. For instance, the new library at Butte. Someone should have anticipated the extra costs of a newer and larger building so that the legislature wouldn't have to now. Mr. Pettit agreed and stated that he feels that this should be the responsibility of the campus. By the time the budget gets to the Commissioner is has been cut considerably from what the original department request was. Mr. James explained that the Regents are obligated to first listen to the campus administrators requests. They attempt to convince the Board how much money they need to offer high quality education. If the Regents are convinced that they need the money, then we are obligated to request it from the legislature. So much money is needed to provide a high quality education. Rep. Bardanouve remarked that he has been told time and again that we do have high quality education. A discussion opened then on the interference by some of the professional societies in the university system. Mr. James and Rep. Bardanouve expressed concern that they should be able to set salary schedules. Rep. Bardanouve state that the legislature is concerned with the entire tenure system in the university.

Discussion of the tenure system in the university system followed. Sen. Fasbender asked why collective bargaining hadn't been contracted back to the State. Louis Forsell, chief attorney for the Commissioner of Higher Education, stated that legally you cannot delegate responsibility to some other agency. The only way it can be done is to contract the work but retain the right to review.

Rep. South recessed the meeting for ten minutes.

The meeting resumed at 11:10 with Mr. Pettit introducing Dr. Allaire of the WICHE Commission. Dr. Allaire stated the big increase will be in the student support fees and support of students leaving the State for training in professional areas in the WICHE program. There is increasing pressure from receiving states that the sending states support their own students.

The State of Montana receives students in pharmacy, forestry, law and

graduate nursing. The WICHE program just approved architecture as a new program for Montana. Montana is the biggest exporter of students in the WICHE program.

Rep. Jack Moore expressed concern that we spend the bulk of the money on medical students yet two years ago only 4 people out of 100 returned to the state after completing their medical education. He asked if there is a possibility that we could phase out medicine in WICHE now that we have the WAMI program on the road. He explained it appears that the return of medical students to the state would be greater than under the WICHE program.

Dr. Allaire pointed out that the WICHE program offers more freedom of choice to the medical students.

Mr. MacIntosh rose and stated that the WAMI program provides a chance to practice in more wide open areas and encourages the practice of rural medicine. He recommended the program to the committee.

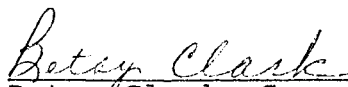
Mr. Frank Newman of the WAMI program explained to the committee that there is a contract between the states of Washington and Montana that was signed in 1975. It is a formal document that guarantees slots and rights of students. The slots are good on a continuing basis as long as the State of Montana buys into the program.

Rep. South stated that the committee members support the program and said he felt the program was well worth the taxpayers money.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40.



CARROLL SOUTH, CHAIRMAN



Betsy Clark, Secretary