

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 8, 1977

The second meeting of the Senate Education Committee was called to order by Senator Chet Blaylock, Chairman, on the above date in Room 402 of the State Capitol Building at 11:00 A. M.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Senator Larry Fasbender who was excused.

The Chiarmman announced that as no bills were to be considered at this meeting, he had asked Lawrence K. Pettit, Commissioner of Higher Education, to report on the progress of the Post-Secondary Education Commission study of the university systems in Montana.

Mr. Pettit was introduced and a Status Report on Postsecondary Commission Recommendations was passed out to all persons in attendance, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Mr. Paul Dunham of the Education Commissioner's staff was introduced.

Mr. Pettit explained the purpose and scope of this Status Report and the purposes of the recommendations proposed. He stated a uniform accounting system had been implemented to give legislators and the public more reliable data and to better control fiscal activities of the various campuses.

The recommendations set out in the Report were briefly reviewed, along with the catagories set out in Appendix E to the Report. Senators Mather and McCallum questioned the video tape educational programs to be expanded by the universities, to which Mr. Pettit stated the initial cost of equipment would be the largest expense and that the programs would have color capability, be compatible with commercial television and available to all units with compatible facilities for running the films.

Management and control of the university system and staff selection procedures were explained; Mr. Pettit reported a director had been appointed to handle programs pertaining to federal plans and requirements. Under the Financing catagory, it is recommended Montana establish a financial assistance program to take advantage of the student aid and matching funds programs provided by federal grants; they also advocate faculty competency should be based on merit.

Regarding the intègration of Western Montana College with Missoula, it was stated Western is intended to remain primarily a teachers' college and is using its existing facilities in conjunction with Missoula's, and that this program is progressing well; also, a federal grant for rural education is anticipated. It was stated that every five years, a review of the programs of the university system would be done.

Mr. Pettit explained the great need for support of Montana's health education programs and cooperation with WAMI and WICHE programs, and that his department

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is interested in protecting Montana's opportunity to participate in student exchange programs using other states' facilities, particularly affiliation for veterinary medicine programs.

An Indian Culture Master Plan has been instituted and is functioning on campuses at the present, Mr. Pettit reported.

The Commissioner stated he was pleased with the progress of the uniform accounting system, and he and his staff are working with the state budget department. Senator Blaylock asked about the differential treatment accorded the athletic budget as it had not been integrated into the system. Mr. Pettit discussed interscholastic sports' financial situations and the difficulty in fiscal control and management because of great variance in handling of this among the various institutions.

Senator Boylan questioned if a comparison of teaching staff requirements and compensation with other professions was done or contemplated. Mr. Pettit replied that because of economic status and limitations, his staff did not have the ability to make such a study prior to now; he would like to have a study made of duties and salaries comparison in the near future.

Cooperation between the various campuses for use of library facilities and co-operation of the State Archives with the university system was mentioned by Senator Warden.

Duplication of certain academic programs was questioned by Senator Blaylock; Mr. Pettit stated that these technical training programs offering Phd's. by several of the campuses were not necessarily duplications; that the Study Commission thought these programs essential for different but complementary fields and also for the reason that these programs bring in federal grant money.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 P. M.


Chet Blaylock, chairman

ROLL CALL

EDUCATION

COMMITTEE

45th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 1977

Date *Jan 8-77*

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Chet Blaylock, Chairman	✓		
Senator Ed Smith, Vice Chairman	✓		
Senator George McCallum	✓		
Senator Bill Mathers	✓		
Senator William E. Murray	✓		
Senator Frank Dunkle	✓		
Senator Paul Boylan	✓		
Senator Larry Fasbender			✓
Senator Bill Thomas	✓		
Senator Margaret Warden	✓		

Each day attach to minutes

Status Report on Postsecondary Commission Recommendations

Board of Regents
and
Commissioner of Higher Education
January 7, 1977

Recommendation 1. Goals: We continue to agree with the goals of the Postsecondary report in terms of their basic philosophy. Our responses to specific educational policies and recommendations constitute a more specific statement of our position.

Recommendation 2.

- a. Early Admission of High School Students to College:
Some units of the Montana University System have programs for concurrent enrollment of qualified high school juniors and seniors. CLEP (College Level Entrance Placement) is being utilized at the units.
- b. Time-Shortened Baccalaureates: The Regents support experimentation with the time-shortened baccalaureate degree on a small scale and only for students who have demonstrated, through testing and exceptional grades, that they could gain from such a program. Before a system-wide program is implemented, inquiries should be made into similar programs elsewhere in the United States. As an example, Northern Montana

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APPENDIX E

RECOMMENDATIONS

(FROM THE FINAL REPORT ON MONTANA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION)