

State of Montana
46th Legislative Session

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

A meeting of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives was called to order at 11:00 a.m. in Room 436, Capitol Building, on Friday, March 30, 1979 by Chairman Peter J. Gilligan.

The roll was taken and shows Representatives Daily, Yardley and Lund excused. All other committee members were present.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear House Joint Resolution 58.

Chairman Gilligan requested Representative Dussault, chief sponsor of HJR 58, to explain the resolution to the committee. Representative Dussault told the committee this resolution would request the committee on priorities to appoint a joint committee to conduct an interim study on the funding of the Montana University System.

Proponents of HJR 58 were:

George Bandy, Acting Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System, 33 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, Mt. - Dr. Bandy spoke in support of this resolution and urged passage.

Curt Johnson, Montana Student Lobby, 1008 11th Ave, Apt. 6, Helena, Mt. - "There has not been in Montana a single comprehensive study to investigate an equitable funding formula for financing the University System that would treat and take into account all factions involved in the process...It would be premature to predict what kind of formula that might result from this study, but we are certain that if nothing else develops from such insights that at least communication would be enhanced between opposing groups and comparisons of relevant data by all parties involved would more than justify such a study." (For complete written testimony, see Exhibit 1)

Bill Bronson, 2480 E. Broadway, Helena, Mt. (Representing the Associated Students, University of Montana) - Mr. Bronson presented an amendment to the committee. The amendment submitted would include the administration, faculty and students of the various units of the Montana University System, as well as, the other bodies involved in the study as the bill was written. (See Exhibit 2)

Mike Dahlem, 1836 Flowerree, Helena, Mt. - (Associated Students, University of Montana) Mr. Dahlem reiterated points made in previous testimony and urged the committee to pass this resolution. (See Exhibit 3)

Representative Kemmis stood in support of the resolution and urged the committee to pass it saying, "until we adjust the formula, we are playing dangerous games with graduate education in Montana. It is imperative we have this study."


Representative Nordtvedt also rose in support of HJR 58.

Representative Teague urged support of HJR 58 and feels that a look at the formula used, and the pay plan is necessary.

There were no opponents to HJR 58 present. Representative Dussault in closing urged the committee to support HJR 58. The committee was allowed to question the witnesses and the hearing was closed.

The committee went into Executive Session. Representative Oberg moved to amend HJR 58 as requested by Mr. Bronson. The motion carried unanimously. Representative Oberg moved HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 58 AS AMENDED, DO PASS. The motion carried, 13-1, with Representative Pistoria voting no.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.


Peter J. Gilligan, Jr., Chairman

MJW