

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

LEGISLATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR EDUCATION

February 7, 1979

8:15 a.m.

Room 104

State Capitol Building

Subject: Agriculture Experiment  
Station.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carroll South with the following members present:

Sen. Larry Fasbender  
Sen. Harold Nelson  
Rep. Oscar Kvaalen  
Rep. Jack Moore  
Rep. Esther Bengtson

Also present at the meeting were, Judy Rippingale, Fiscal Analyst; Dr. Tietz, MSU; Joe Asleson, Director of Agriculture.

EXPERIMENT STATION

Dr. Tietz stated that the agriculture experiment station was funded by combinations of dollars. Some appropriated by the state and some appropriated by the federal government. The experiment station interacts with the academic program and the academic departments. This makes it not infrequent that the individuals in the experiment station carry academic diplomas in the academic departments. They are actually funded through stated academic dollars as part of their academic fees. The research they conduct largely combines with the problems of Montana. There are 8 of these experiment stations outside Bozeman.

Joe Asleson, director of Agriculture Experiment Station, feels the budget of the experiment station is an investment rather than a cost. He reviewed their budgeting process. First, getting ready for the legislative session and the long range building plan is prepared. Second, the budget for continuing operations is proposed. Third, request for modified programs is prepared.

LFA provides reductions in FTE; we have not come up with the same figures. The budget also provides for a decrease of 3% vacancy in all employees.

Mr. Asleson kept talking about the budget of the LFA and the agriculture experiment station's budget production.

Dr. Tietz stated that in their last meeting they discussed the microscope. The income on the research laboratory in 1975 has gone to \$2,000 a year.

Rep. Moore stated that he has known about the Electron Microscope and the requirements for over a year and doesn't disagree that MSU needs the electron microscope and the operator for it. But, he hasn't heard about another \$200,000 for some repair building.

Dr. Tietz responded to Rep. Moore's statement by saying that the principal interest was the microscope, but the microscope and the repair building is considered as a package deal.

Rep. Moore asked what has been done with this \$200,000 on the repair building and what state is it in.

Dr. Tietz answered that it hasn't been built that it is still a dream, they came to the committee to get his approved.

Dr. Tietz stated that the old west system proposed a school of veterinary medicine at the University of Nebraska and that MSU would be an element. The bottom line came to doing business to about 3.7 million dollars. MSU said that we ought to do it with a system that would fit in with our system.

Rep. Moore stated that it is his understanding that the equipment and building for the electron microscope could possibly be amortized within a period of a few years. Is that correct:

Dr. Tietz stated that it could be directed to contract services. There are some proposals for grants and etc. to get this going.

Joe Asleson asked to cover another area. This was the use of plant funds. These funds cover a leaky roof and other things in this type of situation.

#### RESERVE FUND

Rep. Moore stated that it was his intent, if the committee establish a specified amount for reserve, it could not be used for the hiring of people.

Dr. Tietz stated that one of the toughest things to do is get the incentive to do a better job. One of the advantages of the reserve is it does provide the incentive to do the better job and do it faster.

Rep. Bengtson asked if the reserve fund they build up had to be approved by the Board of Regents. Dr. Tietz said that they have to have part of it approved by the Board of Regents.

Chairman South stated that they are asking for 2 FTE to be taken our of general funds money to operate the microscope. He asked how firm the commitment is on the microscope. Dr. Tietz said they ordered the microscope on the 26th of December in order to save \$30,000.

Rep. Moore asked if there was a way the salaries, fees and benefits, and the cost of operations be funded from some source other than general fund money.

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Dr. Tietz said that they are trying to find some other source.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Transcribed by Linda Berg

 4/3/79  
CARROLL V. SOUTH, CHAIRMAN

  
Jeanne Glennon, Acting Secretary