

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

February 16, 1979
9:10 A.M.
Room 104
State Capitol Building
Subject: Budget of Montana State
University

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 in the meeting were staff member, Judy Rippingale, Fiscal Analyst; Bill Tietz, MSU President; Stewert Knapp, Tom Parac, and Ginny Hunt. (See attached visitors register for further people present)

The meeting began with an opening presentation from Bill Tietz, president of MSU. He started with telling the committee what MSU offers and stated the fact that MSU gets 85% of their students from Montana. On the topic of enrollment, he said that student faculty ratio increased 33%. Salaries in Lewis and Clark County in terms of purchasing power increased 33%. Since 1975 we have had an increase of 1,842 students.

Rep. Bengtson asked if Mr. Tietz favored the open type of enrollment in Montana, and Mr. Tietz answered by saying when Montana has only one good school for each type of degree, it's up to the student to choose the school of his or her choice. I don't think we can avoid an open system in Montana.

Chairman South asked if Mr. Tietz would explain what he means by average implement for enrollment going down. President Tietz said that the decline of enrollment softens the blow and gives them a period of catching up on their budget.

Chairman South stated that one of the problems the committee has is seeing a great deal of optimism in enrollment. The trends show that enrollment is declining not increasing. Mr. Tietz responded by saying their enrollment is going to stabalize, but right at the present time we are overloaded. But, he agreed that enrollment is declining.

Rep. Moore stated that he based his thoughts on students coming up to the elementary system and the high school system and going up to college. In the last five years, 1973-78, A & B in the elementary state has declined. So I see a decline in student

enrollment. I think your average enrollment is either going to stabilize or drop. Mr. Tietz agreed with Rep. Moore. Chairman South added that even though Billings is growing, the school enrollment is declining.

Chairman South then stated that once the money is appropriated, the money is spent. Even though you may not need it all at once, no one ever reduces the expenditure. Mr. Tietz returned by saying that he feels that if the money is given to them all at once, that it would work for them. They would put the excess money in a pool to solve some of the problems - it would be an immediate dollar pool that would not have FTE's attached to it.

Mr. Tietz then started talking about two more important areas of concern. The first was nursing capitation money. He said MSU had intended as a state institution to provide a sound nursing program. It has been going on since 1973. (A handout was given) We request that this would really obligate the state in the sense of starting a new program and be supportive of an on going program in recognition of our needs.

Chairman South asked what the enrollment in the Nursing Program is this year. Mr. Tietz answered by saying 663 FTE. Rep. Moore asked what their capacity is, and Mr. Tietz said we maintain an enrollment of 750 headcount. To maintain the federal building funds, MSU must have 122 freshman each year.

Rep. Moore asked what kind of increase in faculty are you asking. Mr. Tietz said that they have 8 as of now and they want to add 10.5 which would be a total of 18 faculty.

The second important area covered by Mr. Tietz was Farm and Ranch Management. They are underfunded to run this organization properly. (A handout was given)

Chairman South stated that he thought another area the committee should look at is the financial aid program. There are those who already think we are giving too much assistance with financial aid. He then asked Mr. Tietz if the committee reduced financial aid would they no longer have intercollegiate athletics for men. Mr. Tietz replied by saying MSU would maintain the program.

Rep. Kvaalen stated that some states give fee waivers to rodeo clubs. Mr. Tietz said that they do offer fee waivers to some of the students.

Rep. Kvaalen then asked how self-supportive is the inter-collegiate rodeo system. Mr. Tietz said that the students have to pay for their own entrance fees and have their own equipment and horses.

Sen. Fasbender asked if Mr. Tietz would be in favor of giving fee waivers to only those in need of it and of academic achievement, in the Big Sky Conference. Mr. Tietz said that if the other schools in the area did this then he would be agreeable.

Chairman South adjourned the meeting for a 10 minute break.

The meeting was called back to order by Chairman South at 10:50.

Chairman South asked how many in-state athletic fee waivers have they had in the past year. Tom Parac said 43 men and 16 women.

Chairman South then stated that they should talk about the computer. He told them of the vote to raise 1 million to help them buy the 2.3 million dollar computer, but they would have to raise the 1.3 million dollars locally. The only problem is that we don't have the 1 million readily on hand.

The topic of raising the funds for the computer was passed around the room, determining how MSU would come up with the 1.3 million.

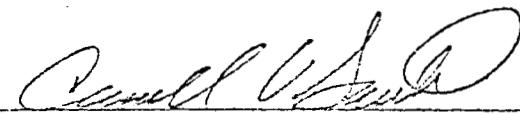
Chairman South said that they might use the students funds for the computer. And Mr. Tietz replied that they didn't think the students would want to use their money for the computer.

Mr. Tietz stated that he had heard that the University of Montana borrowed the money from the student fund but didn't know if this was true. A student from the University of Montana rose to say that it was actually expended by them and it was not a loan. There have been loans given, but this was not one of them.

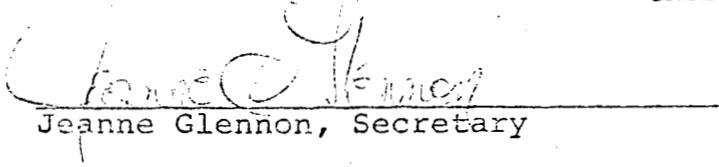
Chairman South asked Mr. Tietz if they could do this and Mr. Tietz said he didn't think that the students of MSU would agree to expend the money to this cause.

Chairman South asked if they had any further questions from the students and they replied that they would have some tomorrow.

Due to lack of time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 and will continue Wednesday, February 21, at 8:15 a.m.



CARROLL SOUTH, CHAIRMAN



Jeanne Glenmon, Secretary