

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

February 19, 1979
8:40 A.M.
Room 104
State Capitol Building
Subject: Budget for University of
Montana

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, Judy Rippingale, Fiscal Analyst; Patricia Douglas, Dick Bowers, Donald Habley, and Darryll Sorenson.

The president of the University of Montana, Dick Bowers, opened their presentation by telling the committee what will be their main topics for their budgeting debate. He started talking about the reductions they have made in faculty and staff during the 1979 biennium. UM's concern now is how to continue to provide academic programs for the public. We have very little flexibility left after so many reductions in staff.

Rep. Bengtson asked President Bowers if there were any specific academic areas that are really feeling a pinch. He stated that they were having problems in Business Administration, Economics, Accounting, Forestry and Computer Science. In addition to these areas we have special problems in Geology and Pharmacy.

Chairman South stated that President Bowers had mentioned earlier that UM was \$647,000 above the 1978 appropriation for operations in actual expenditures. What did UM actually spend. President Bowers said they spent \$8,000 more in operations than was appropriated or due to starting designated accounts. This would make it \$655,000 above HB 145.

Chairman South stated that looking at your cost of supplies and materials, there is a real disparity between increases in some programs and decreases in others, and one of the decreases is in the instructional area. If the supplies had increased generally in the same amount why would you have decreases in certain programs and tremendous increases in others. Mr. Sorenson said that in a large part, I think that it is due to program decisions made. For example, we moved our radio station from one program to another, which made a large decrease in one program and a large increase in another program.

Chairman South then asked how many faculty did they take from the instructional area. Mr. Bowers answered eight.

Chairman South asked in general terms what type of faculty were these. Mr. Sorenson answered by saying Geology, Chemistry, and Home Economics.

Chairman South stated that he mentioned early that you had a net reduction of faculty, do you think the 415 you currently have are considered legitimate faculty and are they computed in currently with the student faculty. President Bowers said they were legitimate and they were computed in with the student faculty.

President Bowers then talked about expanding utilities and custodial service for new buildings such as the law school and the 3rd and 4th floors of the library. The construction of the science building will start in spring and should be ready by the fall of 1981.

Another area that President Bowers covered was the program modifications. The UM requested program modification in seven areas. These are in priority as follows:

1. Organized Research
2. Deferred Maintenance
3. Physical Therapy Program
4. Additional Computer Equipment
5. Academic Assistance
6. Library Acquisitions
7. New Equipment

In addition to these Program Modifications, which were requested by UM and approved by Board of Regents, UM also has an interest in some system requests in Program Modification. Such as the Master of Public Administration request, continuing education, and for funds to aid the administration. The Physical Therapy has been recommended by LFA and is simply a transfer from WICHE funds for students who go out of state to UM. This allows UM to develop a complete program in Physical Therapy. UM could then take care of all the students going out of state.

Rep. Bengtson asked if the Physical Therapy Program is going to allow UM to hire additional faculty. President Bowers said they could hire one additional faculty.

Chairman South asked President Bowers what research area would UM increase if added research money was available. He said that right now the biggest organized research budget is in Business and Economic Research. Some of these dollars would go to increase that program.

Chairman South asked if they have noticed a trend, in the last few years, where students are coming to the University more poorly equipped for the University system or better equipped. Mr. Donald Habley answered that they are going to have to require more writing skills and reading ability.

President Bowers went on to talk about the MPA program. He said that they have 32 students at Missoula and 26 in Helena. MSU has 22 students at Bozeman and 11 at Helena. Most of these are state and government employees and are very well satisfied with the program.

We are providing education programs which are not supported by the state but are being self-supportive. We support the WMC request for funds to aid in the integration of UM and WMC. The efforts in this program have served students well and we are eager to continue the integration effort. But, it does need support.

Chairman South asked how the cooperative program benefited the students. President Bowers said that one of the major things it has done is to integrate individual programs. This means that UM faculty have gotten together with WMC faculty who teach in the same area and have made adjustments in courses offering, so that a student who desires or needs to go to such a small college; they will take a few courses at WMC and then transfer to UM.

Rep. Moore asked how many FTE faculty are involved in these 21 programs. President Bowers did not have any answer to this question. Pat Douglas asked Rep. Moore if he would clarify this question and Rep. Moore asked when did these 21 programs start. Pat Douglas answered that the programs started in the later part of 1977 and then build up.

Rep. Bengtson asked how they work foreign language. President Bowers said that they provide graduate assistance for WMC. UM's faculty supervise and provide help to the graduate teaching assistances. Chairman South asked if they could provide their travel cost for this program. Pat Douglas answered \$1,600

President Bowers said the final topic they would like to comment on was athletics. (A five minute break was taken) He stressed the fact that the UM has been staying within its budget. We have a very serious responsibility to our students to continue to provide a quality athletics program.

We have a very urgent need to increase our faculty salary and make sure we don't have to under go further faculty reductions. Program Modifications are extremely important also, and we would like the committee to take this into consideration.

Chairman South asked how much of the \$210,000 UM is requesting for athletics is for financial assistance and fee waivers. President Bowers said \$124,923 per year for financial assistance and I don't think we have any fee waivers.

Rep. Kvaalen said that the committee got the impression that MSU's booster club would help them with this assistance. President Bowers said that their booster club would help, but they couldn't pay the whole ticket.

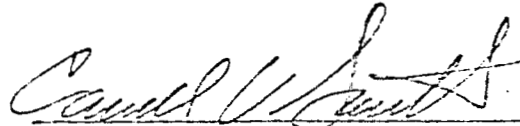
President Bowers told the committee that the UM can assure them that they will work on this problem at all levels.


Chairman South stated that they have 30 more fee waivers than MSU. Any particular reason for this. President Bowers said that they have a broader program - more sports for men.

Chairman South stated that they certainly don't have the money to bring the womens club up to the mens. He then asked when does the compliance become necessary. President Bowers said July 1.

Rep. Kvaalen stated that he couldn't understand why they could not charge fees for the MPA program. President Bowers said that the state had subsidized education and they want all the students to have available educations to them. The MPA program is offered in Helena, which is a non-resident center.

Being no further business at the time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05. It will continue February 20, 1979.


CARROLL SOUTH, CHAIRMAN


Jeanne Glennon, Secretary