

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

February 20, 1979  
8:25 A.M.  
Room 104  
State Capitol Building  
Subject: Budget of 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; Dick Bowers, President of UM; Daniel Kemmis, Rep. of Missoula; Dick Barra, Mike Dahlem, Associated Students of UM; Bill Bronsen, Associated Students of UM; Ellen Micheals, President Forest Service Association; Tom Batrice; Pat Douglas, and Donald Habley.

Chairman South stated that the committee will be coming and going because they have bills coming up today, but we will try and give you our complete attention. He then introduced Rep. Kemmis and gave him the floor.

Rep. Kemmis spoke about UM. He thinks its important for the committee to know that UM has gone through a crisis. One problem is that many people at UM feel the state no longer has a commitment.

Dick Barra, President of the University Teachers Union and Dick Vanabeur, Legislative Chairperson were next to testify for UM. Dick Barra stated that there are basically two issues they would like to talk about. The first is Budget Finance and the second is Faculty Salaries. He said that we understand the neccesity of the budget formula, but we are concerned about it. What has been most upsetting is the program being adequately staffed. Basically, when you cut the faculty of one program, you don't just reduce the ability to produce student credit hours, in many cases it means reducing the entire ability to offer courses in a certain area.

In the area of faculty salaries, the last ten years have caused the real value of faculty salaries have deteriorated seriously. We are happy to see the faculty adjustments in the Fiscal Analyst budget. The salaries need to increase in order to keep up with the cost of living.

Next, two students from UM, Mike Dahlem and Bill Bronsen gave a presentation. The first to speak was Bill Bronsen. Mr. Bronsen told the committee that they welcome the opportunity to speak

on behalf of UM. First, we will present a general overview of UM's staff. Second, Mike and some other students will address specific programs they are representing.

The general overview of the sub-committee is that you budget so many dollars so we are able to offer so many courses. He stated that the committees view of a solution may differ completely from our solution. What we would like to do is set up an apposing concept. There is some level of education which has to be funded with out regard to enrollment.

Mike Dahlem said his presentation is going to look at those areas concerning academic positions. I think we have some serious problems with the formula. He stated that the quality of education is a very serious matter to the students at UM. He feels that if UM wants to keep up their reputation, they need more funding - especially for faculty. In order to fully meet the students needs, our present faculty must be maintained. Hopefully, the faculty could increase by 10 professors.

Mike then introduced Ms. Ellen Micheals, President of the Forest Service Association. Her main topic was the struggle they have had with faculty reduction. She stated that the forest program is one of the best. If it is to stay this way, UM will need more funds. To begin courses that have been dropped and to take all courses required to get the complete education in this field.

Tom Batric, representing the Geology Department, then gave a presentation. He explained that this department has been cut down to an unbelievably extreme of faculty. Even though it is by far the largest department it has been cut in faculty. They are asking for funding so that they may keep up their excellent reputation of a highly rated department.

Mr. Bronsen rapped up the student presentation by discussing title IX. He said UM feels that if there is a choice between a good football team and a good academic quality school, they would rather have a good academic quality school. It's going to be inter-collegiate athletics that is going to take it in the shorts and not the academic quality.

Chairman South stated the committees position. Their policy option is very limited. He said that all the sub-committee can do is bring this budget to the full appropriations committee, who will decide.


A teacher from UM, Dean Van Stout, gave a short talk on his feelings about the faculty salary level. He stated that he had a family to raise just as anybody else. He welcomed the Fiscal Analyst's recommendation to adjust faculty salaries. There is no possible way they can have any further reductions.

President Bowers summed up their presentation by saying their faculty have suffered the last few years and they were very happy to see the Fiscal Analyst recommendation to adjust the faculty salaries. We are very deeply concerned that our operations budget be increased to at least maintain our current operations budget.

And finally, we do want to stress that it would be very difficult to experience further staff reductions and hopefully we might have some relief.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54.

  
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CARROLL SOUTH, CHAIRMAN

  
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Jeanne Glennon, Secretary