

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

March 12, 1979  
7:40 p.m.  
State Capitol Building  
Subject: WORK SESSION  
(6 university units)

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. Ester Bengtson

Also present at the meeting were, Judy Rippingale, Fiscal Analyst; George Bandy, Acting Commissioner; Dr. Tash, Western Montana College; Dr. Erickson, Northern Montana College; Dr. DeMoney, Montana Tech; Dr. Bowers, University of Montana; Dr. VandeWetering, Eastern Montana College; and Dr. Tietz, Montana State University.

George Bandy, acting Commissioner, gave a few brief comments about the university systems. He commented that the Board of Regents thanked the committee for appropriating them \$5,000 travel money. He stated that the Board of Regents think they will have some sort of problems in their budget as does everybody else.

Mr. Bandy said that most of the campuses are concerned about the operations budget, some are concerned about both the source and level of the revenue estimates, but they also feel that faculty salaries are a very high priority. In this time of declining enrollment we have a problem of keeping the quality of education up and not let it decline.

WESTERN MONTANA COLLEGE

Dr. Tash made a few comments about the administrative cuts.

1. He requested that cuts, by proposal, for Western be not line itemed.
2. The 33% of our contract professional and administrative staff that the committee proposed to be cut makes it extremely hard to keep up a few programs we now have.
3. The proposal says WMC should do away with the financial aid and combine it with the registrar. I think federal regulations prohibit that.

Dr. Tash stated, WMC has the lowest equipment budget of all 6 units. He does not think there is a valid argument that the cost of WMC equipment is any lower than the other 6 units, just because WMC is smaller.

In the matter of operating expenses, WMC is down 10.7 from what we had this year. Dr. Tash does not think this takes into account the LFA's cost of living factor of 6-7% each year.

Summing up WMC's testimony, Dr. Tash stated, it is going to make it extremely difficult for WMC to attract new students and maintain an academic program and quality, unless we get some of these things back in.

#### NORTHERN MONTANA COLLEGE

Dr. Erickson hopes that NMC could make the rolling average enrollment projection. Even with the advantage of the rolling average, NMC must make significant faculty reductions. NMC will reduce 4 positions as of June 30. He stated that NMC has 2 staff members that are first year faculty. These two faculty cannot be let go because of our contracts. NMC is asking for the funds to cover these two faculty salaries.

Dr. Erickson stated that NMC has a very serious problem in the area of capital in the proposed budget. NMC is a capital intensive campus. NMC cannot continue to train our students on obsolete equipment. We are asking the committee's help in supplementing the \$225,000 proposed in the budget for the biennium.

#### MONTANA TECH

Dr. DeMoney gave his testimony as follows:

1. The total budget is somewhat less than the Regents approved.
2. The capital request is favorable.
3. Faculty salaries - Montana Tech would like to ask the committee to reconsider the 95% funding.
4. Operating budget - Montana Tech is forecasting some serious problems in this area. The proposed budget is substantially less than MCMST's last years budget.
5. Utilities - Montana Tech feel that they need more money in this area, because they have more buildings to pay electricity on.

#### UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Dr. Bowers commented that the 19:1 faculty ratio would budget 403.68 faculty positions. This compares to 415.88 positions currently on the faculty body at UM. If UM was to comply with that figure, UM would have to further reduce faculty by 12.2.

Mr. Bowers stated that UM is concerned about operation expenses. The figure recommended would provide for the University an increase of 2.8% over what is currently budgeted for operations.

Dr. Bowers talked about the Forest conservation and experiment station. He felt it should be funded. They are a very important part of UM.

#### EASTERN MONTANA COLLEGE

EMC's main concern is faculty salaries. Dr. Vandewatering stated that the committee's decision to use 90% of the Universities average salaries is not beneficial to EMC. He stated that EMC has 3 masters programs, one that is a 90 credit program. EMC has the largest number of years in faculty experience within the professor position. EMC is convinced that this difference is significant. Dr. Vandewatering stated that EMC is very grateful for the approval of the P.E. Complex building.

#### MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Tietz introduced 2 people he had testify on behalf of MSU. First, was Dr. Joe Asleson speaking for the Agriculture Experiment Station. He stated that 2 years ago the committee appropriated a salary increase in the Agriculture Experiment Station that was lower than that of the teaching faculty in other universities.

Dr. Asleson stated that another concern is the income reserve and operation. Some of these funds have already been spent and other comments have been made.

The income estimate that MSU will have to make for the current fiscal year is higher than we have experienced before.

MSU would like to have a microscopist hired in fiscal 1980. The microscopist needs to be on staff about 18 months before he can apply for and receive federal grants.

Mr. Hoffman, representing the cooperative extension service, talked about the Sheep specialist replacing the EDEAM program. He gave a few brief comments on this matter.

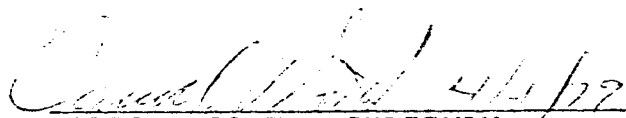
Dr. Tietz also talked about the microscopist. He again stated that they will need him the first year of the biennium, He talked about indirect cost recoveries. MSU is looking at an estimate for the 1981 biennium of an increase of \$187,878 one year and another \$102,000 in the second year of the biennium for a total of \$290,000 and that is anticipation MSU's contracts and grants increase within this period of time.


Dr. Tietz would like to draw attention to the problem of operating expenses. MSU will be below the level in 77-78.

Chairman South ended the meeting by saying that the committee has done the best job they could do in the 6 units budgets. There

might be a few changes, but nothing drastic. He stated that the committee has a job to do also and we have only so much money we can take out of general funds.

He thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

  
CARROLL SOUTH, CHAIRMAN

  
Jeanne Glennon, Secretary