

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
January 15, 1983

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education met at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 15, 1983 in Room 104 of the State Capitol. With Chairman Rep. Esther G. Bengtson presiding, all members were present. The Montana Arts Council budget was acted on.

Montana Arts Council: The Executive and LFA budgets are the same except for the proposed move to Helena and the contracted services for FTE's.

Rep. Peck wanted to know if there was further justification for the move and the related project of writing up job descriptions, etc. Mr. David Nelson, Executive Director of the Arts Council, said the growth of the agency was witnessed by the people who had been employed there since its inception. Job descriptions and manuals for their positions would be very valuable.

Rep. Peck wanted to know what the specific advantages would be of the move to Helena. Mr. Nelson replied that the amount of activity in economic development, the agency's interaction with other elements of government, and evidence of the time already spent in Helena were all justifications. Rep. Donaldson pointed out that perhaps the move might be advantageous regarding better coordination of activities with the Historical Society.

Sen. Haffey wanted to know where the Council would be located, etc., if the move was approved. Mr. Nelson replied that \$5.50 per square foot was the rental in Missoula; comparable space in Helena should be available. They assume they would be renting rather than being in a State building.

Sen. Haffey said he had a lot of problems with the job description part of the proposal. He didn't understand why the people should have to contract for this.

Chairman Bengtson entertained a motion regarding the move. Discussion took place. Sen. Haffey made a motion that the move to Helena be approved. Sen. Jacobson seconded the motion.

Rep. Bengtson said she felt the move would in the long run, be good for the Arts Council. However, due to the state of the economy and the ongoing expense, the time was not right to approve the \$10,000 allocation for writing the job descriptions.

Rep. Ernst said that he wasn't opposed to the move philosophically, but it was another addition to current level funding and he felt the move should be postponed.

The question was called for. It was brought out that the \$10,000 allocation for contracted services was not included in the motion.

Motion failed, with Reps. Bengtson, Donaldson, Ernst and Peck and Sens. Hammond and Tveit opposed; see roll call vote sheet.

Ms. Pam Joehler (LFA) then explained the other differences between the OBPP and LFA budgets. The LFA was higher than OBPP in the Contracted Services category. When the budget was worked up, federal funds were expected to be less than they are now expected to be.

A corrected copy of the Governor's recommendation which no longer included the Folklife Project was considered.

Ms. Joehler stated that another difference in the LFA and OBPP's budgets was in the rent expenditure category. The agency requested that they wanted to change to lease/purchase on their copier and they want to change it to the equipment area instead of the rent area. The Governor's office moved it but the LFA didn't.

Ms. Joehler said that another difference was on the grants. The Governor's office left \$20,275 unadjusted for inflation; the LFA gave the amount an inflationary increase for both years.

Rep. Donaldson moved to accept the LFA budget of \$509,200 and \$509,245 for the two years of the biennium. Discussion took place. Mr. Nelson said that the lease/purchase of the copier could be accomplished regardless of where the money was placed.

Sen. Haffey wanted it clarified what programs were being approved and their funding sources. Ms. Joehler explained that the AIS Project was funded by general fund, federal funds, and community match. If the current level funding is approved, a sum total of \$116,545 in 1984 and slightly more in the second year of the biennium would be granted. The Community grants general fund portion was \$22,068 in the first year. AIS shows up as contracted services.

Sen. Haffey wanted to know how much of the total program amount was general fund appropriation for 1984 and Ms. Joehler replied that it came to \$118,546. The total difference between the two offices for the biennium is \$2,500, with the LFA being higher. The differences are for inflationary factors being included by the LFA.

Rep. Peck wanted to know what would happen if federal funds didn't come in like they were expected to. Rep. Donaldson said that if there was a shortfall, the agency would have to ask for a supplemental.

The general fund expenditure couldn't be exceeded in the budget.

Mr. Tom Crosser (OBPP) said that there had been some reductions in the agency's federal grant program before, and they hadn't asked for supplementals. Particularly, this problem has affected the flow-through program and it would affect the flow-through grants to the communities.

Rep. Donaldson pointed out that if more federal funds came in than expected, there would have to be a budget amendment done. This wouldn't require a vote of the Legislature; it only needed approval from the Governor. The Legislature reviews budget amendments. For budget amendments that occurred in the past interim, Ms. Joehler explained that in FY 1983, there is a budget amendment bill in the Legislature to address this. It is the LFA's policy to note any change and to bring it up. Many times this will show up in their tables.

The question was called for on the motion to approve the LFA budget, totaling \$1,018,445; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Olson clarified to the Committee that the Executive budget also pulled out the budget amended items.

The Chairman announced that the budgets for the Board of Public Education, the Fire Services Training School, and the Advisory Council for Vocational Education would be considered on Monday, January 17, 1983. Ms. Joehler announced that new comparison sheets would be handed out at that time, with some minor changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Rep Esther G. Bengtson *Chairman*

Representative Esther G. Bengtson, Chairman