MINUTES OF THE MEETING APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MONTANA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 18, 1985

The meeting of the Appropriations Committee was called to order by Chariman Bardanouve on April 18, 1985 at 10:05 a.m. in Room 104 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present except Representative Donaldson, who was absent, and Representative Winslow, who was excused.

(Tape 87:A:000)

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 60: "A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENT TIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND TO THE LEGISLATURE METHODS OF ACHIEVING A TRULY INTEGRATED UNIVERSITY SYSTEM; REQUIRING A REPORT OF THE STUDY TO THE 50TH LEGISLATURE."

Representative Ramirez presented his bill. He said the statutes say Montana is to have, for all purposes, one University. The statute is 20-25-301. He said there is a need to assess whether this objective is being achieved. The Governor has suggested to the Board of Regents that they undertake a management study similar to the Council on Management Study which was done for state government. Since a very large portion of the budget goes to the University System, it seems this is a very timely resolution, he said. He asked if we are providing the kind of service we want to, are we really providing a quality university system in the state of Montana.

Proponents: None.

Opponents:

Carrol Krause, Montana State University System, said he is not sure he wants to be an opponent, because he thinks it is the right of the Legislature to study any segment to which they

to fund the Management Council. He suggested an alternative to this, might be that Legislators on the interim study be a combination of business, Legislators and some representation from Higher Education.

Representative Peck (096), referring to Page 2, lines 6 and 7 of the bill - "similar degrees", concerns him. Representative Ramirez said one of his concerns is that there are same degrees, but different requirements. He said there should be easy transfer of work from one unit to another unit, so there is a need to study the reason for those differences and if we can affort these kinds of differences. He said he would have no problem with changing "similar" to "same".

Representative Quilici (129) asked how we can fund a study, when

a Blue Ribbon study way back in 1973 cost thousands and thousands of dollars. Representative Ramirez said this is one of the reasons it is so important now to take advantage of the Management Study he hopes will be conducted by this committee.

Representative Hand (153) said the Constitution give the Board of Regents full responsibility and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the University System. He asked if we are stepping on the toes of the Constitution with this Resolution. Representative Ramirez said he doesn't think so. He said this is one provision in the Constitution he would like to get back, if he could because he thinks it was a mistake. There is no question but that the Regents have the control, but there is also the question that we have to provide the money. He said we need to know what we are paying for.

Representative Hand (176) asked if the Management Council gets going, would this interim study be too early. Representative Ramirez said the interim study group should work along with them. He said other states are really taking a look at their higher education systems.

Representative Connelly (286) asked if this study also includes Community Colleges. Representative Ramirez said no.

Representative Swift (305) asked Representative Ramirez what caused him to draft this bill. Representative Ramirez said complaints from students and mainly faculty.

Carrol Krause (323) asked if he could clarify a point. He said the Regents has a policy that all credit generated within the system will transfer at its face value to any other institution in the system. However, there is a case - in business, for example - where you get 300 and 400 level courses, there are two of the business courses accredited by the National Business Accrediting Association. If those 300 and 400 courses are taken at an institution which doesn't have an accredited business program, the credits will count toward a graduation requirement. Most of the problems relate to some very specific requirements of accrediting bodies.

Representative Pariseculosed on his bill. He said the Parents get so close to the problems of academia that they lose their objectivity and thinks that periodically the Legislature must make its own evaluation on what's going on.

Representative Bardanouve (364) said Representative Ramirez is right, but not necessarily the Board of Regents, but any Board associated with any agency, almost develops tunnel vision - any Board.

Representative Lory (379) said the Resolution does not address the problem. The Legislature has to address the question of the higher education system, which includes the vocational schools, school taxes, Community Colleges and the University System - what kind of higher education system is wanted, he said.

Representative Waldron (431) said we don't need a study to know what the problem is - too many educational facilities for the population to support.

Representative Quilici (476) said he saw this same question raise its head in 1973 when the Blue Ribbon Commission was formed. They spent hundreds of thousands of dollars looking at exactly what Representative Waldron was talking about. But, the people of Montana rejected that because the people in the state wanted six university units.

Representative Bardanouve said the Legislature rejected that.

Representative Peck (534) said he wants to speak in support of the Resolution. He said he thinks it goes down to the basic control of public education and the Legislature should have more authority. He said too much authority is delegated to the Board of Regents.

EXECUTIVE ACTION:

Representative Peck made a motion that House Joint Resolution 60 DO PASS.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried, with Representatives Hand, Lory, Menahan, Quilici and Waldron voting no.

(Tape 87:B:000)

HOUSE BILL 433: Representative Quilici (010) made a motion the committee reconsider its action on Crime Stoppers.

Representative Waldron said Mason's rules considers it dead.

Representative Bardanouve (114) said the committee will vote to reconsider its action, but a 2/3 vote will be required.

reconsider committee action on House Bill 433. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed with 10 members voting yes and 6 members voting no.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

FRANCIS BARDANOUVE, Chairman

DAILY ROLL CALL

APPROPRIATIONS	COMMITTEE
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49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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MR. SPEAKER			
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STATE PUB. CO. Helena, Mont.		Cha	irman.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

ROLL CALL VOTE

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VISITORS' REGISTER

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

BILL NO.	FB HJR 60	DATE	4-17-85-

SPONSOR RAMIREZ SUPPORT NAME (please print) RESIDENCE OPPOSE CARROL KRAYER HELENA X

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.