

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS  
MONTANA STATE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 15, 1985

Tape 8 Side B

The meeting of the Joint Subcommittee on Education was called to order by Chairman Gene Donaldson at 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 15, 1985, in Room 104 of the State Capitol.

All members were present.

The Subcommittee took EXECUTIVE ACTION on the budget of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

Representative Hand (8:B:050) moved that the Executive budget's current level for personal services for the Commissioner of Higher Education be adopted. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. The monetary amounts involved are \$585,863 for FY 86 and \$587,075 for FY 87.

Senator Haffey (8:B:065) moved adoption of LFA current level operating expenses for the Commissioner of Higher Education in the amounts of \$841 for FY 86 and \$2,685 for FY 87. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Jacobson (8:B:140) moved that the LFA budget in the amount of \$16,137 for each year, to cover rent, snow removal and janitorial services be adopted. The motion passed 6 - 1 with Representative Peck dissenting. The additional \$16,137 was approved as a modified request.

Representative Hand (8:B:190) moved that the LFA's audit cost of \$9,500, to be spread across all the programs, be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Senator Haffey (8:B:240) moved that the LFA's amounts of \$2,755 for FY 86 and \$5,346 for FY 87 for minor items be removed from the budget. The motion passed 6 - 1 with Senator Jacobson dissenting.

Senator Haffey (8:B:310) moved that LFA current level operating expenses in the amounts of \$202,517 for FY 86 and \$197,241 for FY 87 be adopted. With the modified request included, total operating expenses are approved at \$218,654 for FY 86 and \$213,378 for FY 87. The motion passed unanimously.

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Representative Moore (8:B:405) moved that the budget for equipment, LFA current level, be adopted at \$394 for FY 86 and \$307 for FY 87. The motion carried unanimously.

Before moving to the student assistance portion of the Commissioner's budget, Representative Peck suggested that the pay back issue be discussed. A general discussion by the members of the Subcommittee, Bill Sykes of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's office, and Jack Noble of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, followed (8:B:425).

Representative Moore (8:B:605) moved that student assistance issues be discussed by the Subcommittee without consideration of the pay back issue. The motion passed unanimously.

Tape 9 Side A

Next, Chairman Donaldson introduced Sidney Poole, who was unable to attend yesterday's hearing. Ms. Poole is a student and is specifically interested in the WICHE program. She is interested in studying Library Science, which is not a field currently covered by WICHE at the master's level. According to Mr. Noble, the WICHE commissioners would have to add the field to the program, and then funding for it would have to be obtained. Ms. Poole stated that she is unable to further her education in Montana because of the lack of this program. She asked the Subcommittee if there was a possibility of having all the official WICHE fields covered by the program in the state. Mr. Nobel stated that while Library Science is a low cost field, right now it is difficult to maintain the WICHE program as it is.

Further discussion of the WICHE program followed. Representative Peck asked what the criteria is for putting programs under WICHE. Mr. Noble said that most of the fields covered by WICHE are health related or very special types of professional disciplines. Representative Moore stated that within the 13 western states that comprise the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education and the schools within those 13 states that participate, there are designated sciences, and that sending states belonging to WICHE can send students to study at reduced tuition rates. Since Montana is primarily a sending state, the Montana legislature condensed the list to eight fields in which assistance would be provided under WICHE.

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Based upon the needs of the state for people in these eight fields, slots in the program were allotted, Representative Moore said.

Helen Stoner (9:A:145) of Outlook, Montana, spoke to the Subcommittee urging support of the WAMI program. Ms. Stoner distributed a letter (EXHIBIT #1) from Craig Foss, a second year medical student in the WAMI program.

General discussion of the WICHE program followed (9:A:185).

Representative Moore (9:A:250) moved that nine medical students, two osteopathic medicine students, one dentistry student, 12 veterinary medicine students, six optometry students, one occupational therapy student, one public health student, and one podiatry student be funded for 1986. For 1987, funding would be provided for nine medical students, two osteopathic medicine students, two dentistry students, 12 veterinary medicine students, six optometry students, one occupational therapy student, one public health student, and one podiatry student. This motion reflects the reduction in each year of one veterinary medicine student. The dollar amounts involved in the motion are \$2,018,400 for FY 86 and \$1,990,300 for FY 87. It was noted that the motion states "four dentistry students" and does not specify which program, WICHE or Minnesota Rural Dentistry. The motion passed 6 - 1 with Representative Peck dissenting.

Further discussion of the pay back issue followed (9:A:445). Chairman Donaldson noted that this issue merits further discussion by the Subcommittee and that perhaps such a discussion might be scheduled at a later date.

Representative Moore (9:A:565) moved that the Executive budget for the Regents Coal Tax Fund be accepted in the amounts of \$2,421,642 for FY 86 and \$2,681,373 for FY 87.

Senator Haffey pointed out that it would be necessary to adjust these amounts in accordance with the Legislature's decisions.

Accordingly, Representative Moore added the stipulation to his motion that the above amounts be accepted, but that the amounts are subject to adjustments. The motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

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Tape 9 Side B

Senator Haffey moved that funding be appropriated for the Talent Search budget in the amount of \$165,472 for each year. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Haffey (9:B:060) moved that funding be appropriated for the Guaranteed Student Loan Program in the amounts of \$1,132,947 for FY 86 and \$1,195,119 for FY 87. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Moore (9:B:100) moved that the number of beginning students in the Minnesota Rural Dentistry Program be reduced to three in FY 86 and two in FY 87. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Moore (9:B:154) added an amendment to this motion stating that trade-offs will be allowed between WICHE and the Minnesota Rural Dentistry Program for dental students only. The amendment was approved unanimously.

Representative Moore (9:B:165) moved that the Commissioner's budget for the WAMI program in the amounts of \$1,853,635 for FY 86 and \$1,938,938 for FY 87 be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Haffey (9:B:195) moved that \$385,000 for each year be approved for the State Student Incentive Grants program. The motion passed 6 - 1 with Senator Hammond dissenting.

Senator Haffey (9:B:199) moved that \$60,000 for each year be approved for the state match of the National Direct Student Loan program. The motion passed 6 - 1 with Senator Hammond dissenting.

There being no further business before the Subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

  
Gene Donaldson, Chairman

DAILY ROLL CALL

EDUCATION      SUB    COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date January 15, 1985

[illegible]

# VISITOR'S REGISTER

HOUSE      EDUCATION      SUB      COMMITTEE

BILL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE Jan. 15, 1985

SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

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

WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

4407 Thackeray NE  
Seattle, WA 98105  
January 7, 1985

To: Interested Montana Legislators and Administrators  
From: Craig Foss, Second Year Medical Student, WAMI Program  
RE: WAMI Medical Education

Since 1974 the states of Montana and Washington have had an agreement to provide medical education to qualified Montana students. Every academic year the University of Washington accepts 20 Montana applicants to its medical school. These 20 students spend their first year of medical school at Montana State University in Bozeman. The next three years are centered in Seattle, but all students have opportunities to take clerkships in Missoula, Whitefish, Great Falls and Billings. In return for allowing Montanans to use Washington medical and educational facilities, the State of Montana supports the medical education of its medical students by funding a small percent of the University of Washington Medical School.

Recently, some legislators have suggested cuts in WAMI funding. Others have proposed student tuition hikes, \$10,000 entrance fees or saddling the future physicians with huge debts which would only be partially "forgiven" if the physician returns to practice in rural Montana. Such proposals must be based on the assumption that either the WAMI medical program or the physicians it produces are currently not worth the state's investment. This assumption is wrong.

For example, one criticism leveled is that the WAMI-produced physicians do not return to practice in their native state of Montana. In actuality, approximately 50 percent of physicians who have completed their medical training are now practicing in Montana. These physicians are mainly primary care physicians and are distributed throughout the state. In addition, the WAMI clerkships in four Montana cities which are open to all University of Washington medical students have attracted 15 non-Montanans to practice in Montana.

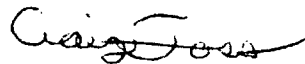
Also, Montana is only witnessing the beginning of the fruits of the WAMI program. The program has only been in existence for a little over 10 years, which is almost as long as the time needed for a physician to complete his education. Physician education does not end with four years of medical school. After schooling the physician must complete an average of three years of residency and he may opt for fellowships and other postgraduate education after his residency.

Proposals to increase tuition or saddle medical students with increased debts could have serious consequences. Some of today's WAMI students face \$50,000 in debts upon completion of medical school. Raising tuition or requiring a \$10,000 entrance fee may mean that we would be educating students from the wealthiest families instead of the best students. In addition, further debt burden would result in a loss of the young physician's autonomy. Younger physicians are in general more altruistic and "fresher" than their elder colleagues. These physicians should be left free to follow their interests and talents. A physician who shows an aptitude for research should be allowed to pursue research--for example, cancer research in a major urban center. The discoveries he makes in the treatment or prevention of disease would certainly benefit Montanans as well as 230 million other Americans. A young physician who feels called to practice medicine in an underserved area of Africa because of personal, moral or religious beliefs should be given the autonomy to do so. Producing such people would certainly be good for the moral strength of Montana.

An assumption that Montana WAMI medical students use state funds to obtain an M.D. and then "run off to lucrative practices in California or Florida" is not based on facts. The general consensus of my class is that we much prefer the lifestyle of Montana to that of other states and we feel grateful to Montana for providing a means for its residents to become physicians. Some of us may indeed have other goals which we can only achieve outside of Montana, but most of us want to eventually return to practice medicine and live in Montana.

Finally, only seven states place fewer students in medical school per capita than Montana. Without the WAMI students Montana would have had by far the worst placement record for students in medical schools of any state in 1984.\* Does Montana consider affordable medical education a privilege which it should assure qualified students as do other states? I hope for the sake of both higher education and of health care in Montana that the answer is a resounding "yes."

Sincerely,



Craig Foss

\*Annual Report on Medical Education in the United States. September 28, 1984. Journal of the American Medical Association, 252 (12): 1604-7.



January 8, 1985

We, the undersigned, are members of the 1983 entering Montana WAMI class. We very much appreciate the opportunity to attend medical school which Montana gives us through the WAMI program. Increased tuition, however, would add significantly to the already weighty debts many of us will carry out of medical school along with our M.D. degrees.

We support the attached letter by Craig Foss and thank you for your consideration of it.

Sincerely,

Margaret Magone

Timothy W. Wyse

Angela J. Vander Aarde-Scholten

Karen A. Bossler

Stephen F. Jun

James Whit

Jean Gustaf

Douglas Elger

Tom Kestler

Melchisedek L. Mangione

Maurice Murdoch

Deborah A. Turner

Freeman J. Minahan

Lindy Minkard

Joan Krummeyer

Jay Gause

Jeffrey R. Haller

Valerie Wohl