

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
49th LEGISLATURE
SPECIAL SESSION III

June 16, 1986

The meeting of the joint subcommittee on Education was called to order by Chairman Gene Donaldson at 8:00 A.M. on Monday, June 16, 1986 in room 312-2 of the Capitol.

ROLL CALL: The roll call was taken and all members were present.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the consolidation of the administration of the Montana Cooperative Extension Service and the Agriculture Experiment Station.

Jane Hamman of the LFA office referred to page F-36 of the LFA book. She reviewed the six reasons for the consolidation of administration as follows; No. 1 State legislation, No. 2 other states, No. 3 on-site review reports, No. 4 work priorities, No. 5 survey of producers, and No. 6 cost savings. These are listed in detail from page F-36 through page F 45 of the LFA book. She concluded her report with the following options from the LFA office; Option A: Consolidate Montana Cooperative Extension Service and Montana Agricultural Experiment Station administration under the College of Agriculture dean for a \$568,923 general fund savings in fy 1987. Option B: Take no action.

There followed a brief discussion regarding the proposal.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

Rep. Peck made a motion that the committee refer the matter of consolidation of the Cooperative Extension Service and the Agriculture Experiment Station's administration to the Commissioner's office for them to evaluate, examine and recommend and then report back to the 50th Legislature. The question was called for and the motion CARRIED unanimously.

There was a brief discussion on the Fire Services Training School, the committee decided to wait for any action at the next legislative session.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the possibility of Havre becoming the main center for vocational technical education.

Chairman Donaldson stated he liked the idea of having Havre take on that role just as Montana State gives the direction to the agriculture experiment stations. He asked if Dr. Krause would like to comment on that.

Carrol Krause (5-1-A 35:30) Commissioner of Higher Education stated that the Board of Regents did submit three different proposals to the interim committee, one was the model of placing the vo-tech centers under Northern Montana College, another was to place them under the board of regents without a sub board and the third was to look at some options whereby they would operate partially out of Northern and perhaps administered with some of the other campuses. He said the committee indicated they want much stronger control and they want to see the vo-techs as part of the post-secondary system under the board of regents.

Chairman Donaldson then turned the subject to Montana Tech. He said although the units have different roles, the committee might be able to perceive how they could come together within the university system in the same perspective. He questioned the declining enrollment in the mineral and petroleum areas and whether the institution could remain viable. He then asked Dr. Norman if he would care to comment briefly.

Dr. Lindsey Norman (5-1-A 41:50) President of Montana Tech. Dr. Norman stressed the importance of getting the focus and visibility on the programs that are the heart and core of the institution. There followed a brief discussion relating to the transferring of programs to the various institution.

Chairman Donaldson asked Dr. Norman if it would be possible for his office to lay out a 10 year plan, with an ultimate goal of saying that Montana Tech will have x number of students, this type of a curricula, and institution and what it is going to take to achieve that, if it could be done in the next six months. Dr. Norman stated if the decision were made to make Montana Tech an exclusive minerals, energy institution, that could be laid out but one of the keys would be to de-couple those programs from formula funding.

Dr. Krause stated one of the things his office has a very serious concern about is the inconsistencies that exist in the current formula funding budget. He stated he would hope to come to the 1987 legislature and ask them to maintain a base plus budget for 1987 then to embark jointly on a new study for funding higher education between 1987 and 1989, involving the LFA, the governor's budget office and the commissioner's office.

Rep. Peck inquired of Dr. Krause whether the board of regents would be recommending some major changes in terms of role and scope with the six units. Dr. Krause replied that from every

indication he has gotten, the board of regents has come to a very definite conclusion that the state doesn't have the resources to fund the system as it currently is, and rather than allowing everything to deteriorate they will reduce the size of the system to maintain quality.

Chairman Donaldson stated he would hope they not only talk in terms of trying to fit the university system within the resources but of the university being an advocate for expansion of the resources. He said he thought that both Montana Tech and a Havre Vo-Ed Tech Center could generate the economic development of the state.

The next item to be discussed was the tax forum that U of M and MSU are co-sponsoring on September 5 and 6. It is a conference not designed to advocate any particular solution to any particular problem but simply to get an intelligent and a wide variety of expertise on issues of revenue, taxation, etc. There will be speakers from out of state as well as from Montana and the primary audience is intended to be legislators and legislative candidates for the 1987 session, although anyone is welcome to attend.

Rep. Moore then read an article regarding the plans for the new telecommunications system for Miles Community College. He stated the college hopes to link schools in nine communities with both audio and video signals allowing the schools to share teachers and classes through television. He then inquired of Dr. Krause what the status of the system for the six university units was. Dr. Krause replied that their study is intended to be completed by October 1. He stated that he is not ready to implement anything at this point because they don't believe they have enough planning or enough information to implement it. There followed a discussion period of the telecommunications possibilities.

Chairman Donaldson then asked Dr. Treadway if he had any comments he would like to make.

Dr. Doug Treadway, President of Western Montana College. Dr. Treadway said he would like to follow up on the discussion of Montana Tech, which centered on returning the six units back to their original missions and specializations. He said the same thing could hold true of Western, that the issue of quality and the issue of focus is important in the preparation of teachers. He said there could be some rationale for the transfer of some programs to Western and perhaps business and liberal arts to some other unit. He stated he didn't think the idea of more specialization and organized consolidated approach is exclusive to the problem at Tech but is a larger question throughout the state.

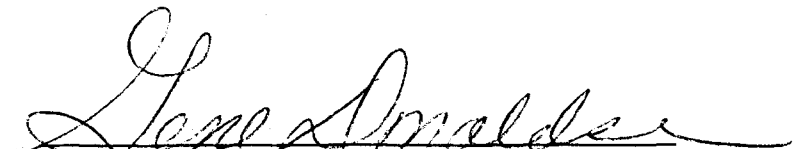
Education Subcommittee

June 16, 1986

Page 4

There followed a brief discussion on the telecommunications system, the lack of adequate facilities for engineering students at MSU and that some research is not being utilized because private industry hasn't taken ahold of it. Dr. Krause stated we need stronger ties with business and industry, so they would jointly embark upon some of the research elements that specifically serve their needs, and also assist the university system in the educational process.

Chairman Donaldson tentatively scheduled the committee to meet again at 1:00 P.M. barring any conflict of schedule from the floor of the House. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 A.M.



Gene Donaldson, Chairman

VISITORS' REGISTER

EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE

DATE _____

6-16-86

[illegible]

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

SUB- COMMITTEE

Date JUNE 16, 1986

[illegible]