

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION  
COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN ETHEL HARDING**, on March 29, 1995,  
at 10:30 AM

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Ethel M. Harding, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Kenneth "Ken" Mesaros, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Mack Cole (R)  
Sen. Mike Foster (R)  
Sen. Don Hargrove (R)  
Sen. Vivian M. Brooke (D)  
Sen. Bob Pipinich (D)  
Sen. Jeff Weldon (D)

**Members Excused:** N/A

**Members Absent:** N/A

**Staff Present:** David Niss, Legislative Council  
Gail Moser, Committee Secretary

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and  
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing: SJR 23, SJR 22  
Executive Action: SJR 23 DO PASS  
SJR 22 DO PASS

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Counter: 37.5}*

**HEARING ON SJR 23**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

**SEN. DELWYN GAGE**, Senate District 23, Cut Bank, said SJR 23 requests that, during the interim, a study be conducted regarding the entire area of budgeting and coordination of efforts between agencies regarding systems used. He said the study group would prioritize the items to be reviewed for coordination between agencies of state government and possibly even involving local governments. **SEN. GAGE** used an example of his attempt to review issues involving non-mill revenues. He said there is no agency

which has that information available in any type of database system. OPI has some information in their data system regarding schools, and the Department of Commerce has the information, but it is in files for each county. **SEN. GAGE** said access to that and other types of information from a structured database would be beneficial in a great number of cases.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

**Lois Menzies, Director of The Department of Administration**, said many of the automated systems used to manage state government are administered by the Department of Administration. Specifically, they are responsible for the accounting, personnel, payroll, purchasing, and property management systems. She said these systems were developed in the 70's, for the most part, and have served the state fairly well, but over the years, limitations have become painfully apparent. **Ms. Menzies** said they share state agencies' concerns and frustrations when the systems don't deliver everything they could due to lack of integration. To date, the response to problems has been to piece-meal changes together to get by, but this "band-aid" approach has been costly with modest results. SJR 23 would encourage all state managers to carefully review how big business is currently conducted and how methods may be improved through integration and re-engineering of these large systems.

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Questions From Committee Members and Responses:**

**SEN. VIVIAN BROOKE** asked Senator Gage if this would be an interim study that would go on the list of choices along with other studies. **SEN. GAGE** stated that is correct, and it would be prioritized according to the decision process of the legislature.

**SEN. BROOKE** asked Senator Gage how this differs from the "renew state government" study. **SEN. GAGE** said he is not very familiar with that study, but he believes it dealt more with how state government is organized as opposed to how state government is administered. **SEN. BROOKE** commented that this process appears as though it would work well in how the legislative operation is looked at, and she asked Senator Gage if he thought it would be beneficial to support this interim study and planning process and then "spring-board" off of its recommendations to come up with a legislative reorganization plan. **SEN. GAGE** said that is a possibility. He said it appears the legislative reorganization issue has gotten considerable support in the House. He said, however, he envisions this plan as working more with the agencies of state government to coordinate their activities as well as the budgeting process rather than specifically looking at a

particular agency or branch of government, but it could be done through this mechanism.

**SEN. DON HARGROVE** asked Senator Gage if he believes there is a need for this interim committee and study and if it should go as far as having access to systems hardware and software. **SEN. GAGE** said ultimately, that would be a part of it, but he said there was an interim committee that looked at systems coordination, and the results from that committee could be made available to improve upon or expand as possible.

**CHAIRMAN HARDING** asked Senator Gage if the reference on page 2, line 7 to "an active working group of state management and information system professionals..." indicates that another layer or bureau would be created to accomplish the SJR 23 study.

**SEN. GAGE** said no, he believes that it simply means people in those areas could be chosen as participants who are active in the state government that could lend to the goals outlined. In other words, it means get the hands-on people currently involved with the systems and not just agency directors who may not even have an in-depth understanding of their own system. **CHAIRMAN HARDING** asked if participation in this study group would take those employees away from their current jobs so much that other people would have to be hired to do their work. **SEN. GAGE** said he doesn't believe they would be away from their jobs that much, but added that it would require more effort in an area different from their current job.

**SEN. JEFF WELDON** commented to Senator Gage that part of the study will be looking at financial management of state government and there is currently, within the Department of Labor and another department, a study that will be looking at (among other things) initial business registration. If SJR 23 is passed and prioritized and eventually completed, he suggested efforts be coordinated with that working group. **SEN. GAGE** said there was a bill in Taxation this morning in which the Department of Labor and the Department of Revenue (and hopefully, Workers' Comp) would put together one form to combine various reporting requirements. **SEN. WELDON** said that is the study he is referring to.

**SEN. BROOKE** commented that there was an excellent report done by an inter-agency coordinating committee dealing with technology. She asked Lois Menzies if she envisioned this SJR 23 committee as the same type of committee that produced that report.

**Ms. Menzies** said the group that prepared that report is the Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC) which is made up of senior level managers, state government directors, deputy directors, and administrators. She believes those two groups would come together as the ITAC group would certainly have to have some representation or participation with the SJR 23 group that would be working with the legislative committee.

**Ms. Menzies** said this does not imply that layers upon layers of committees will be built or that people will be pulled away from

their jobs to do this kind of work. She added that this process must be done and she believes it is part of everyone's responsibility to be thinking ahead and planning how to work better.

**SEN. MACK COLE** commented that it appears as though various groups or committees are being formed here and there, and he asked Lois Menzies if the various groups will be working together or individually and will the group formed under SJR 23 be the group that will correlate everything from the various study groups.

**Ms. Menzies** said it is difficult to envision exactly what this group will look like, but there are different groups throughout state government working in the same direction. She said there will be a need to be aware of what other groups are doing in order to not duplicate or be going in opposite directions.

Closing by Sponsor:

**SEN. GAGE** referred to the bill heard in Taxation and stated that Workers' Comp has been reluctant to join with the Department of Labor and Department of Revenue because they think they are not a state agency (which it is intended they not be). **SEN. GAGE** added, however, the whole thrust of government for a number of years has been private sector/state partnership in many areas. He hopes Workers' Comp comes to understand that the work they are doing and the reports they are getting are the same as other departments are getting, and they should be able to work to share information. He said the current method of piecing projects together for various reasons is costly to the state, and a coordinated effort to come up with a presentation for the next session would make more sense than the method of operation currently being followed.

**CHAIRMAN HARDING** closed the Hearing on SJR 23.

HEARING ON SJR 22

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

**SEN. VIVIAN BROOKE, Senate District 33, Missoula,** said the purpose of SJR 22 is to congratulate the University of Montana Lady Grizzly Basketball Team on winning the Big Sky Conference Championship and the first round of the NCAA tournament. She said the Lady Griz team has grown from something where people said, "Well, I guess we could go watch the Lady Griz play if there is nothing else to do," to people now standing in line to get tickets to the games. **SEN. BROOKE** handed out copies of a newspaper article (**EXHIBIT 1**) related to the Lady Griz accomplishments. She said when getting signatures on this resolution, even people who are very strong Bobcat fans realize

that when a team is sent out of the state to a national tournament, we are all joined as Montanans with pride for the team. **SEN. BROOKE** commented that studies have been done which indicate a reduction in self esteem of young women reaching 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. She thinks that, while some people claim athletic programs in schools are unnecessary, sports do provide many positive lessons that are carried throughout a person's life.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

**Bob Frazier, University of Montana**, said the Lady Griz team is the 8th largest draw in the United States among women's teams; and they compete with large universities, so that is a real credit to the Missoula community and fans from around the state. **Mr. Frazier** said they have celebrated Coach Selvig's 400th victory and his having gone to the NCAA tournament 10 times with women's teams. **Mr. Frazier** added that the University of Montana is the only program in the country with a Native American woman on the team, and the men also now have a Native American on their team. Both the men's and women's teams have represented the University well.

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Questions From Committee Members and Responses:**

**SEN. BOB PIPINICH** thinks SJR 23 is great. He would also like to see special recognition for all four teams (the Bobcats and Grizzly, men and women). He said the level of play all four of these teams has accomplished is unbelievable.

**CHAIRMAN HARDING** asked Bob Frazier how many actual Montana women are on the Lady Griz team, and how many Montanans are on the men's team. **Mr. Frazier** said he believes there are only two women on the team who are from out of state. He said that last year's team was all Montana women. He added that the nine or ten of the twelve players on the men's team are from Montana.

**SEN. MIKE FOSTER** said Chairman Harding's question is an issue he has a great deal of interest in, and he believes university coaches could learn valuable lessons from the statistics Mr. Frazier provided. He finds it interesting that the Bobcat and Grizzly teams which have been successful in going to conference championships and playoffs have largely been composed of Montana athletes, and he added that that applies to football or basketball.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. BROOKE said she would like to arrange for the team and the coaching staff to come to Helena and be personally recognized by the legislature, but she is not sure that schedules will allow that opportunity.

CHAIRMAN HARDING closed the Hearing on SJR 22.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJR 23

Motion/Vote: SEN. KEN MESAROS moved that SJR 23 DO PASS.  
The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY on oral vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJR 22

Motion/Vote: SEN. BROOKE moved that SJR 22 DO PASS.  
The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY on oral vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:05 AM

  
ETHEL M. HARDING, Chairman

  
GAIL MOSER, Secretary

EMH/gem

MONTANA SENATE  
1995 LEGISLATURE  
STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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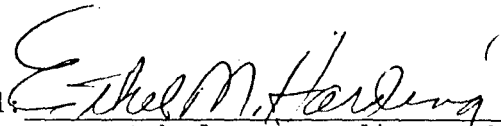
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT


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
MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on State Administration having had under consideration SJR 22 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that SJR '22 do pass.

Signed:

  
Senator Ethel M. Harding, Chair

 Amd. Coord.

 Sec. of Senate

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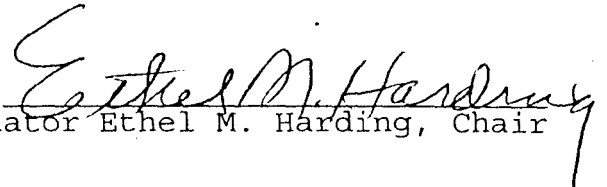
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT


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
MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on State Administration having had under consideration SJR 23 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that SJR '23 do pass.

Signed:

  
Senator Ethel M. Harding, Chair

 Amd. Coord.

 Sec. of Senate

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► 'This team, as much as any I've had, played up to its potential.' ◀

# Lady Griz found all right answers

BY BOB MESEROLL  
Missoulian sports editor

**F**or every question, the Lady Griz had an answer. And there were plenty of questions, particularly back in October when Montana coach Robin Selvig was wondering how he would replace the leadership Kelly Pilcher and Ann Lake provided the previous season's team.

Selvig questioned who would step into the big sneakers left behind by a pair of seniors who nearly took Montana into the Sweet 16. He questioned how the team would respond to a tough non-conference schedule that included the likes of then-No. 1 Tennessee. And he questioned how much of a contribution he could count on from a largely untested bench, particularly after guard Carla Beattie went down with a season-ending Achilles tendon injury just three games into the season.

The Lady Griz had been down this road before. A team doesn't play in 10 of the last 13 NCAA tournaments without having players step up. The 1994-95 season was no different.

"I certainly thought there were a lot of questions this year and a lot of things that had to get answered," Selvig said in repeating the preseason theme. "This team, as much as any I've had, played up to its potential."

The questions didn't stop coming when the season tipped off. Senior power forward Lora Morast chipped a vertebra in her neck during an exhibition game against Portland AAU. Morast's uncertain status coupled with the loss of Beattie three games later forced Selvig to keep true freshmen Angela Bieber, Allison Turner and Katie McElmurry on the active roster, rather than giving them a redshirt season.

But the answers weren't long in coming either. The Lady Griz knocked off Oklahoma, which went on to make the NCAA tournament, in the first round of the inaugural preseason NIT, setting up a home date with then-No. 12 Vanderbilt.

Beattie went out early in that game and redshirt freshman sensation Skylia Sisco followed her to the training room with a sprained ankle. Senior center Jodi Hinrichs collected 19 points and 10 rebounds and junior Sherri Brooks put on a first-half shooting clinic to keep Montana ahead until the final minute. With the help of a couple of late breakdowns, the Commodores escaped with a 69-65 win.

"After the Vanderbilt game I said we've got us a team

(See LADY GRIZ, Page D-4)

## Notable:

- Sherri Brooks set the single season steals mark with 115, breaking the mark of 94 set by Cheri Bratt in 1981.
- Montana led the nation in fewest points allowed at 54.2.
- The Lady Griz won their 11th Big Sky regular season title and 10th postseason tournament title.
- The 26-7 campaign marked Montana's 15th straight 20-win season.
- Montana posted a 2-5 record against the seven teams they faced that earned NCAA tournament berths, including narrow losses to No. 1 seeds Vanderbilt and Tennessee. The other losses were to Purdue, Utah and Duke. The wins were over Oklahoma and San Diego State.
- Four Lady Griz — Jodi Hinrichs, Kristy Langston, Schillingen, Sherri Brooks and Skylia Sisco — were named first team all-Big Sky. Brooks was a unanimous pick while Langston-Schillingen became just the fourth player to earn the honor three times. Sisco was Montana's first freshman to earn the recognition and also the first non-starter ever named first team all-Big Sky.
- Coach Robin Selvig picked up career win No. 400 on Feb. 9 in a 75-57 victory over Weber State and career loss No. 100 in the season-ending loss to Purdue.



THOMAS BAUER/MISSOULIAN

LORA MORAST IS ONE of three seniors the Lady Griz lose to graduation.

## Lady Griz

(continued)

here," Selvig said.

Selvig was able to see beyond the injuries and the disheartening loss. He saw the two healthy seniors — Hinrichs and Kristy Langton-Schlimgen — providing behind-the-scenes leadership. And he saw Brooks leading by example.

"The reason I thought leadership was important is that last year's team was a Kelly Pilcher and Ann Lake-led team," Selvig said. "Kelly played almost every minute and her personality was what the team assumed. Lake gave us a tough physical presence inside and that was huge.

"We needed people to step up and I thought Jodi and Kristy, particularly early in the year, set the tone for us. The other real key in terms of leadership — not necessarily vocal — was Sherri Brooks. From the first day of practice until the end, she had a great year."

Those leaders helped convince the likes of Sisco and sophomore Greta Koss, who started all 33 games, the Lady Griz could compete with the top teams in the country.

"It's not every year we can take (an NCAA) No. 1 seed and have a chance to win in the final minute," Selvig said of the narrow loss to Vandy and a five-point loss to Tennessee. "Many years, there's a real separation between a team like us and the top teams in the country. That showed me a lot about these kids.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't afraid we'd lose by 30, but we showed everybody we had a team to be reckoned with."

Selvig didn't have a lot of time to savor the good taste left by the Vanderbilt game. The Lady Griz lost by 40 points to Duke their next time out, the worst loss ever suffered by a Selvig-coached Lady Griz team.

"We were hurt because, off the bench, we didn't have what we had had in the past," Selvig said of a game which saw the Lady Griz shoot just 27 percent from the floor. "For the true freshmen, that was their first-ever road trip, we weren't shooting the ball well and there weren't any strings to pull."

Montana bounced back the next night to shoot 52 percent in a 76-55 win over Syracuse, touching off a string of nine games in which Montana's only loss was to No. 1 Tennessee. The road split in the Old Dominion Classic answered some more questions.

"We bounced back and showed real grit, we showed the kinds of things a coach wants to see," Selvig said. "It stirred their competitiveness. It was the first real negative thing that happened to these kids and they stepped up and answered."

The sequence repeated itself later in the year when the Lady Griz shot poorly in a 26-point loss to Utah. They followed that up with their best shooting performance of the season (58 percent) in a blowout of Northern Arizona. Two other regular-season losses were followed by blowout wins.

"That was a positive aspect of this team," Selvig said. "They dealt with adversity and injuries well. We had some bad losses, which quite honestly nobody had experienced. Most teams do get beat badly sometimes, but we hadn't experienced that."

Selvig couldn't have been too upset, then, when Montana's last regular-season loss came at Eastern Washington on the final weekend of the season. The Lady Griz had already insured that the Big Sky postseason tournament would be held in Missoula the following week.

True to form, Montana bounced back to beat Eastern Washington and Montana State in the tournament to earn its 10th trip to the NCAA tournament.

Montana's top-rated defense forced San Diego State into a horrendous shooting night in a first-round NCAA win in San Diego. But for the third time in four years Montana dropped its second-round NCAA matchup, this time by 11 points to a Purdue team that earned a berth in last year's Final Four.

**The five-month season** usually leaves Selvig drained. But not this year.

"It was as fun as any year I've had in coaching," said Selvig, who picked up career win No. 400 in early February. "I didn't have to worry about these kids in any way, shape or form. When I got back from San Diego, I was ready to get back into the gym."

Of course, the next time he does, it will be without seniors Langton-Schlimgen, Hinrichs and Morast, all starters this season.

Brooks will return as a proven team leader and Beattie should be recovered from her injury. The only other senior on the team will be Malia Kipp, who will be counted on to provide a presence in the middle.

"It's exciting in a nervous type of way," Selvig said of the prospects for next year's team. "We lost our inside starting lineup, but we do have a lot of young kids coming back. I'm optimistic, yet a lot of things have to be proven. There are lots of questions."

There's that word again. But next year's team will have a cheat sheet to work from.

"(Purdue coach) Lin Dunn said it pretty well when she said you can't let up on these kids," said Selvig, describing what set this season's team apart from the rest in his mind. "They were going to give everything they had down to the end, and that turned out to be a lot."

DATE WED MARCH 29 1995

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SJR 22 / SJR 23

< ■ > PLEASE PRINT < ■ >

Check One

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Support	Oppose
LOIS MENZIES	DEPT. OF ADMIN.	SJR 23	✓	

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY