

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

2 INTRODUCED BY JERGESON

3 BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION POLICY AND BUDGET

4
5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
6 MONTANA URGING ADOPTION BY CERTAIN ENTITIES OF LEGISLATIVE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
7 ON HIGHER EDUCATION.8
9 WHEREAS, a legislative conference on higher education was held at Yellow Bay on May 4 and 5,
10 1996; and11 WHEREAS, legislators attending the conference proposed that 10 legislative policies be investigated
12 and that recommendations be made to the 1997 Legislature; and13 WHEREAS, legislative leadership requested that the Joint Committee on Postsecondary Education
14 Policy and Budget prepare a joint resolution addressing specific issues and recommendations for legislative
15 policy in the 10 specific areas, which included:

- 16 (1) tuition and fees;
-
- 17 (2) resident and nonresident student mix;
-
- 18 (3) faculty instruction, research, and public service;
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- 19 (4) benchmarking, accountability, and quality;
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- 20 (5) public and private partnerships;
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- 21 (6) communication among parties on higher education issues;
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- 22 (7) the mix of 2-year and 4-year opportunities;
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- 23 (8) financial aid;
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- 24 (9) information technology and distance learning; and
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- 25 (10) resident access to the Montana University System; and

26 WHEREAS, the Committee studied each of the 10 policy issues under the designated categories
27 of undergraduate education; American Indian/minority achievement; student record-tracking system;
28 instruction, research, and service; tuition, state support, and financial aid trends; and Administrative
29 Services Task Force recommendations; and

30 WHEREAS, pursuant to the designated categories, the Committee considered the following issues:

1 (1) the enhancement of undergraduate education through improved access, program efficiency,
2 and the variety of available student choices, through state assumption of community colleges, and through
3 nonbeneficiary support to tribal colleges;

4 (2) a student record-tracking system to facilitate student transfers between units;

5 (3) the development of a vision for the direction of the Montana University System and faculty
6 scholarships based on instruction, research, and public service;

7 (4) tuition, state support, and financial aid trends, including issues related to state and student
8 contributions for higher education; and

9 (5) Administrative Services Task Force recommendations, including interest earnings on university
10 investments; elimination of bond assessment; minimizing printing service regulations; modifications to
11 surplus property, procurement, and travel statutes; provision of self-insured workers' compensation
12 coverage; provision of an optional retirement program for classified staff; delegation of authority for bad
13 debt collection; deletion of statutory limits on parking fines; modification of construction regulations; and
14 privatization of audit services; and

15 WHEREAS, the Committee has considered possible options under each of the issues of the 10 areas
16 for which legislative policy recommendations were requested.

17
18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 STATE OF MONTANA:

20 (1) That pertaining to the enhancement of undergraduate education, the Legislature recommends
21 that the Board of Regents:

22 (a) plan to expand instructional and academic support functions to accommodate most resident
23 students who are qualified in the peak enrollment years of fiscal years 1999 through 2005;

24 (b) plan to raise tuition for nonresidents and limit the number of nonresidents to those who can be
25 accommodated after residents are served;

26 (c) plan greater use of telecommunications, nontraditional class times, and limited choices so that
27 more students may be served at a lower cost;

28 (d) encourage more high school graduates to enroll in 2-year education programs, perhaps
29 beginning a program while still in high school; and

30 (e) counsel, advise, and provide information to encourage students to enroll in the most appropriate

1 educational program.

2 (2) That pertaining to a vision for the Montana University System, the Legislature recommends that
3 the University System continue development of its mission statements, goals, objectives, and
4 measurements to foster greater collaboration among the units, with input from the Executive and Legislative
5 Branches.

6 (3) That pertaining to faculty scholarship, the Legislature affirms that the Montana University
7 System continue to emphasize faculty productivity and salary rewards, particularly in instruction.

8 (4) That pertaining to state and student contributions for higher education, the Legislature
9 recommends that:

10 (a) the Board of Regents charge nonresident tuition in an amount equal to the market price or the
11 full cost of education in each unit, whichever is greater, to subsidize the costs of educating resident
12 students; and

13 (b) student gift aid or other forms of financial aid be increased in response to increasing tuition
14 costs and debt loads.

15 (5) That pertaining to the Administrative Services Task Force recommendations, the Legislature
16 commends the Montana University System for its process in identifying administrative efficiencies and
17 recommends continuation of that process.

18 (6) That pertaining to the calculation and use of reversions, the Legislature recommends that:

19 (a) the Montana University System operating plans and reversions be based on the same enrollment
20 estimate agreed upon by the Legislature;

21 (b) the Board of Regents implement policies depending on the circumstances governing the
22 distribution of nonresident tuition generated by student FTE in excess of those estimated; and

23 (c) the Montana University System be allowed to reallocate estimated resident and nonresident
24 student FTE within the University System to offset errors in enrollment estimates at each unit before
25 calculating reversions to the general fund and tuition reversions to the Board of Regents.

26 (7) That pertaining to the Joint Committee on Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget, the
27 Legislature recommends that the fiscal year 1999 interim Committee monitor the trends in high school
28 graduation, college enrollment, and tuition and consider the implications that they may have for policy
29 decisions concerning Montana University System access and tuition rates.

30 (8) That pertaining to the Montana University System, the Legislature recommends that the

1 University System:

2 (a) pursue public and private partnerships, such as private funding for research, public service, or
3 information technology; authorize university leaders to serve on private company boards, subject to Board
4 of Regents' policy; and encourage private company leaders to serve on university boards and task forces;

5 (b) and the Legislature continue improving communications among the Board of Regents, University
6 System administrators and educators, students, K-12 educators, legislators, the Executive Branch, and the
7 general public, using efforts such as a state of education address to the Legislature; an information fair;
8 discussions such as those held at Yellow Bay; orientation for legislators; and assigning duties to the House
9 and Senate Education Committees and the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education that include
10 joint meetings to discuss education policy;

11 (c) become competitive and efficient through the use of information technology in administration
12 and education;

13 (d) continue to participate in the development of a long-range building program in which submittals
14 reflect a coordinated approach for major maintenance needs, including a standardized evaluation of needs
15 as well as a prioritization and cost estimate for each project; and

16 (e) aggressively implement classroom and program review policy.

17 (9) That pertaining to the Board of Regents, the Legislature recommends that the Board of Regents:

18 (a) establish a widely publicized, formal appeals process for dealing with complaints concerning
19 credit transfer; and

20 (b) improve the focus of the Montana University System on service to and satisfaction of students.

21 -END-

APPROVED BY COM ON EDUCATION
AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

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21 (6) communication among parties on higher education issues;
22 (7) the mix of 2-year and 4-year opportunities;
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27 of undergraduate education; American Indian/minority achievement; student record-tracking system;
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29 Services Task Force recommendations; and

30 WHEREAS, pursuant to the designated categories, the Committee considered the following issues:

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2 and the variety of available student choices, through state assumption of community colleges, and through
3 nonbeneficiary support to tribal colleges;

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6 scholarships based on instruction, research, and public service;

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8 contributions for higher education; and

9 (5) Administrative Services Task Force recommendations, including interest earnings on university
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12 coverage; provision of an optional retirement program for classified staff; delegation of authority for bad
13 debt collection; deletion of statutory limits on parking fines; modification of construction regulations; and
14 privatization of audit services; and

15 WHEREAS, the Committee has considered possible options under each of the issues of the 10 areas
16 for which legislative policy recommendations were requested.

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18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
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23 students who are qualified in the peak enrollment years of fiscal years 1999 through 2005;

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25 accommodated after residents are served;

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27 more students may be served at a lower cost;

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29 beginning a program while still in high school; and

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2 (2) That pertaining to a vision for the Montana University System, the Legislature recommends that
3 the University System continue development of its mission statements, goals, objectives, and
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22 distribution of nonresident tuition generated by student FTE in excess of those estimated; and

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26 (7) That pertaining to the Joint Committee on Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget, the
27 Legislature recommends that the fiscal year 1999 interim Committee monitor the trends in high school
28 graduation, college enrollment, and tuition and consider the implications that they may have for policy
29 decisions concerning Montana University System access and tuition rates.

30 (8) That pertaining to the Montana University System, the Legislature recommends that the

1 University System:

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3 information technology; authorize university leaders to serve on private company boards, subject to Board
4 of Regents' policy; and encourage private company leaders to serve on university boards and task forces;

5 (b) and the Legislature continue improving communications among the Board of Regents, University
6 System administrators and educators, students, K-12 educators, legislators, the Executive Branch, and the
7 general public, using efforts such as a state of education address to the Legislature; an information fair;
8 discussions such as those held at Yellow Bay; orientation for legislators; and assigning duties to the House
9 and Senate Education Committees and the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education that include
10 joint meetings to discuss education policy;

11 (c) become competitive and efficient through the use of information technology in administration
12 and education;

13 (d) continue to participate in the development of a long-range building program in which submittals
14 reflect a coordinated approach for major maintenance needs, including a standardized evaluation of needs
15 as well as a prioritization and cost estimate for each project; and

16 (e) aggressively implement classroom and program review policy.

17 (9) That pertaining to the Board of Regents, the Legislature recommends that the Board of Regents:

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25 accommodated after residents are served; THE STATE OF MONTANA RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE
26 OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING MIX AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION
27 TO THE DIVERSITY OF OUR CAMPUSES.

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10 LEGISLATURE ALSO RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FACULTY CONTRIBUTION TO QUALITY
11 INSTRUCTION, THE CREATION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE THROUGH RESEARCH, AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE
12 PROVIDED BY THE FACULTY TO THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA.

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