

MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

January 16, 1975
Great Falls, Montana

The Board of Regents of Higher Education met at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, January 16, 1975, in the Absalon Lounge at the College of Great Falls, Great Falls, Montana.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ted James. Present were: Mrs. Mary Pace, Mr. Lewy Evans, Mr. T. T. Heberly, Mr. Sid Thomas and Dr. Lawrence K. Pettit.

On motion of Mr. Heberly, seconded by Mr. Evans, the minutes of the December 9, 1974 meeting were approved.

Mr. Jack Noble, Deputy Commissioner for Management and Finance, distributed copies of a comparison he had made between the budget submitted by the Regents in December and that recommended to the legislature by the executive branch. He pointed out that there were gross inequities in the executive budget, primarily because it had been computed on the basis of projected enrollments rather than actual enrollment figures, which were much higher. He said the executive branch also used an incremental approach to salaries on a percentage basis rather than trying to achieve the Rocky Mountain average by the formula method, which was the objective of the Regents; that the budget proposed compounds the inequities, especially with regard to Montana State University.

President McIntosh distributed copies of a letter he had written to the Commissioner pointing this out. He said the budget recommended by the executive branch is less than what the Regents had submitted for Montana State University in September; that Montana

State University represents 38% of the enrollment for the entire Montana University System and that 90% of the decrease for the system was taken from the budget of Montana State University. He urged that the Board do its utmost in trying to correct these inequities, not only with the legislature, but with the executive branch as well.

Mr. Noble called the presidents' attention to the section on page 7-60 of the executive budget book where the funding is shown to provide for the retroactive payment of the classified employees pay plan. He asked them to review this section and comment on the availability of funds.

Dr. Pettit pointed out that the Board had not endorsed the budget of the executive branch; that it is still committed to the formula method of budgeting. He said he and his staff had worked diligently to try to persuade the executive branch to adopt the formula approach, but they had used the same incremental approach they used for all other state agencies. He said the university system was given a priority second to the custodial institutions. He then moved that the Board request the executive branch to recast its budget for the university system on the basis of actual enrollment data and once again urge them to use the formula in allocating the funds to the various institutions. Mrs. Pace seconded the motion. The chairman requested that action be delayed on the motion until a resolution could be drafted for consideration in the afternoon session to be transmitted to the Governor.

President McIntosh distributed copies of a synopsis of the Agricultural Experiment Station budget information and a comparative table with regard to the executive budget for the Cooperative Extension Service and that which was requested. He said the problem in the

Extension Service budget is in the operational budget, since funds had been transferred from this area and added to the professional services for salaries. He said a large portion of the Extension Service budget must be spent for travel and if extension agents do not have the resources to travel they cannot perform their services. Since the comparison did not show the Regents' budget, President McIntosh said he would provide this kind of comparison as soon as possible. He requested support from the Regents to attempt to get the appropriation request changed to provide for travel funds. It was agreed that the resolution to be transmitted to the Governor should contain a statement that the Regents requested fair and equitable treatment for all institutions and service agencies.

It was reported that winter quarter enrollments were also up at all institutions and that this further indicated that the Regents' budget request was conservative.

Mr. Bill Lannan, Deputy Commissioner for Planning and Research, reported on the status of the long-range building program request for the university units. He said the Regents prepared a priority request in September which was sent to the Department of Administration and they reduced this from a total amount of 12.4 million dollars to 6.6 million dollars. He said there was a particular problem at the University of Montana with regard to the deletion of the request for funds for the Science Building. He said the Commissioner's staff should be authorized to try to devise an alternative plan with representatives from the University of Montana for their campus development; that the Department of Administration should be requested to support the Regents' recommendation for the Science Building. He said the recommendation of the

executive branch for funding the program was to try to accomplish 13 million dollars on a cash basis and 22 million dollars through the sale of bonds; that of the 13 million dollars recommended, the share for the university system only amounted to 3.2 million and of the 22 million dollars recommended, the share for the university system was only 3.4 million.

President Bowers also explained the problem with regard to the Science Building at the University of Montana and said he would work with the staff in the Commissioner's office to try to solve this problem.

Dr. Pettit said he felt the Board should go to the legislative committees to try to achieve the Regents' priority recommendations for the building program. He said the revenue sharing funds coming into the state amounted to 39 million dollars and the university system had not been allotted anything at all for their operating budgets; that they did receive about 1.2% for some buildings. He said he felt this share was inequitable and the Governor should be urged to adopt the program recommended by the Regents rather than what is recommended in the executive budget.

It was pointed out that the Regents' request for a house for the President of Northern Montana College had also been omitted from the Governor's long-range building program request. President Crowley said this would probably cause a number of problems with regard to the recruiting effort for a new president.

Dr. Pettit said he had received a preliminary report on the workman's compensation study authorized by the Board but said there was still some doubt as to what legislative action would be best for the university system to take. The report indicated, he said, that the

university system would save money by being self-insured or using a commercial carrier. He suggested that his staff be given the authority to continue studying the problem. Mrs. Pace so moved. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion and it carried.

Dr. Pettit reported the Council of Presidents recommended that Item 7-004-R0175, Authority for the Commissioner of Higher Education to Establish Purchasing Regulations, Montana University System, be added to the agenda and considered by the Board. The item was approved on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Pace.

Dr. Pettit also reported that the Council of Presidents had discussed the feasibility of changing the wording in the staff contract with regard to notice of renewal to change the phrase, "but in no case will such notification be provided later than May 1" to the phrase, "but in no case will such notification be provided later than forty-five (45) days after the signing of the University System appropriations bill by the Governor." Dr. Pettit said this was necessary to coincide with the ninety-day legislative sessions. Mr. Barry Hjort, Staff Attorney, recommended that the contract be amended in this way. Mrs. Pace so moved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried.

Dr. Pettit reported that the matter of legislative liaison was discussed by the Council of Presidents and it was agreed that supporting groups should be brought together as soon as possible. Dr. Pettit agreed to arrange such a meeting.

Tom Stockburger, President of the Student Advisory Council, spoke in favor of Item 7-003-R0175, Resolution Regarding Student Participation in Collective Bargaining Negotiations, Montana University System, which was distributed as an addition to the agenda. He

said this item had been recommended by the Student Advisory Council. It was reported that during discussions with the Council of Presidents, some problems were noted. After some discussion the item was referred to the Policy Committee on motion of Dr. Pettit, seconded by Mrs. Pace.

Dr. Pettit read the following statement sent to him by Joyce Zacek, President of the Staff Senate of the University of Montana, and asked that it be noted in the minutes:

The University of Montana nonacademic employees participated in a recent poll to determine sentiment regarding the proposed Montana Salary Schedule under the Statewide Classification Plan for state employees. Seventy percent of the nonacademic employees who participated in the poll voted in favor of the proposed pay plan. Given these results, the Staff Senate wishes to actively support the funding legislation. The Senate solicits the support of President Richard Bowers and the Regents of Higher Education to likewise support this legislation. The Staff Senate plans to diligently promote this legislation unless the Regents of Higher Education have a policy preventing such activity which might include legislative committee testimony and the services of a qualified lobbyist.

It was noted that copies of the recommended amendment to the by-laws had not been distributed. Therefore, this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

The residency appeal of Margaret Yobst was reviewed by the Board and Dr. Pettit moved that Ms. Yobst be granted resident status beginning with spring quarter, 1975. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Pace and carried.

Item 7-700-R0175, Staff, Eastern Montana College, was approved on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Heberly.

Items 7-701-R0175, Secondary Education Minor in Environmental Education, Eastern Montana College, 7-702-R0175, Minor in Therapeutic Recreation, Eastern Montana College and 7-703-R0175, Minor in Native American Studies, Eastern Montana College, were referred to the Curricu-

Ium Committee on motion of Dr. Pettit, seconded by Mrs. Pace.

Item 7-704-R0175, Appointment of Member of the Security Department, Eastern Montana College, was withdrawn by President Heywood.

Item 7-002-R0175, Authorization for Presidents to Appoint Security Personnel, Montana University System, was distributed as an addition to the agenda and approved on motion of Dr. Pettit, seconded by Mrs. Pace.

Item 7-500-R0175, Staff, Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, was approved on motion of Mrs. Pace, seconded by Mr. Thomas.

President DeMoney distributed copies of a preliminary draft statement on the feasibility of transforming the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology into a five-state Northwest Regional Minerals Education Institute. The chairman requested that this matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Item 7-205-R0175, Revised Fee Structure for Career Placement Services, Montana State University, was approved on motion of Mr. Heberly, seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Item 7-206-R0175, Authorization to Establish a Department of Political Science, Montana State University, was approved on motion of Dr. Pettit, seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Item 7-100A-R0175, Staff, University of Montana, was approved on motion of Mrs. Pace, seconded by Mr. Heberly.

Item 7-102-R0175, The University of Montana School of Pharmacy Designation as a Receiving Institution for WICHE in Pharmacy, was approved on motion of Dr. Pettit, seconded by Mrs. Pace.

Item 7-103-R0175, University of Montana, Remedial English

and Remedial Mathematics--Deletion of Special Fee of \$36.00, was approved on motion of Mrs. Pace, seconded by Mr. Heberly.

It was reported that Item 5-006-R0774, Policy Regarding Fee Waivers, Montana University System, had been revised and added to the agenda. The revised item was approved on motion of Dr. Pettit, seconded by Mr. Thomas.

The chairman reported that Gary Gallagher had resigned from the Board and requested that an appropriate resolution be presented for adoption at the next meeting. Dr. Davis requested that the appreciation of the Faculty Council be included in the resolution.

The chairman stated that Mr. Gallagher's resignation left a vacancy on the Presidential Search Committee and he appointed Sid Thomas to serve in his place.

Both President Bowers and President McIntosh reported that at a recent meeting of the NCAA it was disclosed that the matter of Division I membership for football is currently under consideration by the Big Sky Conference and they felt the Board should be aware of this.

President Hoffman reported that he did not feel Miles Community College could operate on the appropriation recommended in the executive budget. He said they had requested a formula for 65% state funding and 35% local funding and he solicited the support of the Board for this formula, and also for the local share to be mandated so it would not be necessary to try to raise it through special levies. The chairman suggested that this matter be included in the resolution regarding the budgets to be sent to the Governor.

Ms. JoEllen Estenson, Staff Director of the Montana Commission on Postsecondary Education, reported that a skeleton staff is now working with an implementation committee to try to spell out the Regents' role in

the implementation process. Ms. Joan Kennerly and Mr. Bill Warfield, members of the implementation committee, pointed out some of the recommendations they felt were vital to higher education which should have special attention by the Regents. Mr. Warfield said specific legislation was being proposed and the Board was urged to add its support. He said the implementation committee would be presenting testimony on the appropriations bill. A list of the recommendations relative to higher education was distributed. Ms. Estenson requested that a special committee be appointed to study the proposals in depth which are to be presented to the legislature. Several suggestions were made regarding the structure of this committee and it was decided that all members of the Board should be involved, if at all possible.

Dr. Pettit pointed out that the Board of Regents had already taken action on some of the recommendations, especially in the area of program review. He said he felt the two most critical areas are budgeting and program and curriculum review and that both can be achieved if the appropriation for his office is adequate. He reported on the legislative efforts of himself and his staff, stating that thus far the emphasis had been on the budget request. He said it is his hope that as many Regents as possible could be involved in legislative hearings this year. He said he felt good liaison could be maintained with the campuses through the presidents, faculty senates and the student lobby and interns.

The Board recessed at noon, to reconvene in executive session at 1:30 p.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 2:30 p.m. with the same members present.

Dr. Pettit read the following resolution regarding the budgets for the university system and it was adopted on motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Heberly:

WHEREAS, the actual student enrollments in the Montana University System exceeded the projected enrollments used in deriving the Executive budget recommendations, and;

WHEREAS, it is now apparent that the Executive budget recommendations fail to achieve institutional equity, and that Montana State University suffers disproportionately under the executive branch, and;

WHEREAS, the executive branch budget recommendation is approximately 5 million dollars short of the general fund amount recommended by the Board of Regents,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents strongly recommends that the Governor immediately direct the Office of Planning and Budget to review the revised Regents' budget recommendations for the units and agencies of the Montana University System, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor join with the Board of Regents in its legislative attempt to achieve the necessary financial resources required to insure institutional equity and maintain the current level and quality of educational programs vital to the people of the State of Montana.

Dr. Pettit introduced Dr. Robert Staffanson, Executive Director of the American Indian Institute. He said Dr. Staffanson wanted to make a presentation to the Board with the hope of proposing some kind of relationship between the Institute and the University System.

Dr. Staffanson said no publicity had been given the Institute as yet, since the program planning would not be completed until later in the year. He explained that the primary purpose of the Institute was to attempt to improve the climate of understanding between Native Americans and society. He distributed copies of a discussion paper pointing out the purposes and objectives of the Institute and said he was attempting to explore the possibility of a mutuality of interest with the University System, and possibly effecting an affiliation. The chairman requested that the Commissioner of Higher Education explore these possibilities.

A meeting was tentatively scheduled in the Office of the Commissioner in Helena, Montana on Monday, February 3, 1975 for the purpose of working with the staff on implementation of the Post-secondary Education Commission recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

