

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

June 13, 1975  
Helena, Montana

The Board of Regents conferred by telephone on June 13, 1975 at 1:30 p.m. All members were available except John Peterson.

Dr. Pettit said that the primary reason for the conference was to make a decision on the new president for Northern Montana College. Mr. Heberly reported that the Presidential Search Committee was unanimous in their choice of Dr. Duane Leach, Dean of the College of Idaho at Caldwell. He reviewed Dr. Leach's background. He said Dr. Leach would not be able to move to Montana until August 1st and he would be willing to accept the present residence until other arrangements can be made. Mr. Heberly said that the president's salary for the month of July could be used to pay moving expenses for the new president if he could not be on the campus until August 1. Dr. Pettit moved that the Board hire Dr. Leach as of August 1, 1975 at a salary of \$28,350.00 and that his moving expenses be paid. Mr. Heberly seconded the motion and it carried. It was agreed that Dr. Leach would be asked to move into the present residence in Havre and that members of the Capital Construction Committee will meet with him in the fall to discuss the possibilities of obtaining another residence. Mr. Evans said the Capital Construction Committee would postpone their contemplated trip to Havre until later in the year. Mr. Heberly said he would send word to the newspaper in Havre regarding the appointment of Dr. Leach, and Dr. Pettit said he would send a general news release from his office.

It was pointed out that under Dr. Crowley's old contract he would be entitled to two quarters termination pay. Mr. Heberly moved that President Crowley be granted termination leave pay equal to two quarters, to be paid on a monthly basis. Mr. Evans seconded the motion and it carried.

It was then moved, seconded and carried that Dr. George Bandy be appointed as Acting President for the period of July 1, 1975 until Dr. Leach arrives on the campus.

Dr. Pettit reported that the Curriculum Committee had discussed the American Indian Institute with Mr. Robert Staffanson and the committee recommended that he be used as a resource person for implementation of the Indian Culture Master Plan. Dr. Pettit said the services of Mr. Staffanson could be utilized on all six campuses. Mr. Heberly moved that the Commissioner of Higher Education be given the authority to engage Mr. Staffanson for this purpose. Mrs. Pace seconded the motion and it carried.

Dr. Pettit reported that members of his staff had met with Milt Datsopoulos in Missoula on the matter of the Certification of Compliance requested by the Legislative Auditor's office. It was agreed that legal action would have to be instigated to challenge the constitutionality of the language in the appropriation act insofar as the authority of the Regents is concerned. Mr. Noble pointed out the areas of concern in the bill. There was some discussion as to whether it would be better for the action to be filed in district court or directly in the Supreme Court, but no decision was made.

The failure of the Legislature to levy the University System millage was discussed. It was mentioned that perhaps the

best way to handle the situation is to attempt to obtain a declaratory judgment from the Supreme Court, but the Board should not initiate any action since it was a legislative error.

Mr. James requested that the Commissioner attempt to get the units to adopt a common calendar, perhaps with the school year being established for the period of August to May. Dr. Pettit said he would appoint an inter-unit committee to study the matter and give them a deadline date to report to the Board.

On motion duly made and seconded the meeting adjourned.

