

TENTATIVE MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
January 21, 1974
Helena, Montana

The Board of Regents of Higher Education met at 1:30 p.m., Monday, January 21, 1974 in the conference room of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, Helena, Montana.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ted James. The roll was called by the secretary. Present were: Mr. Lewy Evans, Mr. T. T. Heberly, Mr. Wayne O'Brien, Mrs. Mary Pace and Dr. Lawrence Pettit.

It was noted that a paragraph had been omitted from the minutes of the January 14, 1974 minutes. The minutes were declared to be approved, as amended.

Mr. James introduced Mr. John Warren, attorney for Kim McIntosh, a student at Montana State University, whose residency appeal had been considered at the last meeting. Mr. James reviewed the action taken by the Board at the last meeting and Dr. Pettit reviewed the procedure for determining residency status for fee purposes. Mr. Harry Cockrum, Admissions Officer at Montana State University, explained that from the information given on the application, the Montana State University residency review committee had no alternative but to classify Miss McIntosh as a non-resident for fee purposes. Dr. Pettit stated he felt the Board had acted responsibly in adopting a new policy for classification of students but until Spring quarter, 1974 when it becomes effective the only basis on which a determination can be made is the present statute. After considerable discussion Mr. Heberly moved that the Board re-affirm its action of January 14 that Miss McIntosh be granted resident status beginning Spring quarter, 1974 under the new policy. Mrs. Pace seconded the motion and it carried.

Item 3-018-RI074, Student Registration Fee and Increase in Per Credit Hour Tuition Charge for Instruction, Montana University System, which was deferred

at the January 14, 1974 meeting was discussed at length. Dr. Pettit again reported on the research that had been done before this proposal was submitted, stating he felt the proposed increases were fair and would help to alleviate the financial crisis, although everyone recognized the additional revenue would still leave the University System with inadequate funding.

Mr. Jack Noble, Deputy Commissioner for Management and Fiscal Affairs, said he had met with the students a few days ago and the proposal was discussed. He said students from Northern Montana College had submitted a petition against the increase with about 500 signatures. He said the sub-committee of the Regents had considered numerous alternatives and some of the possible impacts the increase would have on enrollments. He called attention to the fact that under the new policy the criteria would be a little easier to meet with regard to establishing residency, and this was taken into consideration also.

Mr. Bill Lannan, Deputy Commissioner for Planning and Research, reported on the most recent developments with regard to the student financial aid situation. He said Congress had appropriated five hundred million dollars for the 1974-75 year under the Basic Economic Opportunity Grant Proposal, a major new program at the federal level which is available for freshmen only this year but next year should be available for freshmen and sophomores. He said Congress had appropriated another twenty million dollars under the State Student Incentive Grant Program to try to induce states to appropriate matching money for student aid. He mentioned several other programs and said the availability of all these funds to students is based on his ability to pay and his family's economic situation.

Dr. Pettit moved that the item be approved in accordance with the recommendation of the budget committee as it was presented at the last meeting and that the Board commit itself to seek an appropriation at the next legislative session in an amount sufficient to provide the matching funds required for full participation in the State Student Incentive Grant Program. Mr. Evans seconded

the motion. Mr. James stated he felt the proposed increase for out-of-state students was too high compared to that proposed for Montana residents. A number of students present stated their views and copies of prepared statements from Mr. Garry South, ASUM President, Mr. Leroy Berven, ASUM Central Board Delegate, Mr. Tom Stockburger, Off-Campus ASUM Central Board Delegate, and Mr. Vaughn Baker, ASMUS President, were distributed. Statements from presidents of all units and some faculty members were distributed also.

The chairman called a recess at 2:30 p.m. so the materials could be reviewed.

The Board reconvened at 2:45 p.m. with the same members present.

Mr. James took exception to some of the statements in the memorandum prepared by Garry South, stating that Mr. South's allegations simply were not true. He said he felt the Board had been entirely open and willing to discuss any matter with anyone concerned; that the Board had already done some positive things and that it intended to be very active in seeking benefits to higher education in the state. He said that delaying the vote on this particular item so everyone would have an opportunity to study the facts and present his views was evidence of this.

Dr. Pettit complimented the students from Montana State University and Montana Tech for the responsible research on their presentations but stated the totally reprehensible statements coming from the University of Montana students do nothing but damage to the University System.

It was requested that the Board be given an opportunity to act on the proposal for Montana residents and out-of-state residents separately.

Several faculty members were heard from and it was reported that most of the faculty reluctantly supported the fee increase but with reservations as to whether or not the Legislature will do its part to provide adequate funding.

Vaughn Baker reported that a majority of the students at Montana State University would accept the fee increase if the state brought its share up to a

comparable level. After several of the out-of-state students were heard from, Mr. Evans made a substitute motion that the item be amended insofar as the non-resident fee is concerned to provide for an 8.7% increase amounting to a total of \$97.20 per academic year. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and it carried, with Mr. Heberly voting "no".

Mr. Evans then moved that the item be approved as amended, and that the Board commit itself to seek an appropriation at the next legislative session in an amount sufficient to provide the matching funds required for full participation in the State Student Incentive Grant Program as suggested by Dr. Pettit. Mrs. Pace seconded the motion and it carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.