

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

May 31, 1978  
Billings, Montana

The Board of Regents of Higher Education convened at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 31, 1978, in the Student Union Building, Eastern Montana College, Billings, Montana. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ted James. Also present were: Miss Laura Briney, Mr. Lewy Evans, Mrs. Lola Hansen, Mr. Jeff Morrison, Ms. Mary Pace, Mr. John Peterson and Dr. Lawrence K. Pettit.

On motion of Commissioner Pettit the minutes of the April 11 and May 16, 1978 meetings were approved.

Chairman James introduced Senators Larry Fasbender and William Mathers and Representative Carroll South, stating that the Board wanted to meet with these legislators for the purpose of discussing concerns of the Board of Regents and the Legislative Finance Committee respecting the handling of data requests from the campuses, especially in the fiscal area.

Another area of concern discussed was the lack of cooperation of the staff of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst with the staff in the Commissioner's office, and the allegations made in a report from the office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, recently publicly criticizing the accounting procedures in the University System.

Senator Mathers stated he appreciated having the opportunity to discuss the differences between the two staffs. He expressed the sincere desire of the Legislative Finance Committee to solve some of the problems it has been having with higher education. He introduced Mr. John LaFaver, Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

Mr. LaFaver explained that the two most vital concerns of his staff were the limited access to information and their need to better understand the flow of plant funds and those in the auxiliary area. He indicated one of the issues is whether his staff had a right to request information from the university units without channeling them through the Commissioner's office. He also mentioned the formula budgeting

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effort which had been underway for some time. He reported that if the data cannot be furnished by July 1, 1978 this cannot be accomplished by the time the Legislature meets next year. Commissioner Pettit recalled that at the first meeting of the Budgetary Task Force it had been decided that the long range goal for establishing formula budgeting would be 1981 rather than by the time the 1979 legislative session convenes. He explained that the fiscal officers on all campuses are attempting to carry a workload which is impossible and that if requests for information were channeled through the Commissioner's office questions could be re-phrased in such a way that they could be answered more easily and in a sensible way. He added that one of the things that most concerned him and his staff is that the Fiscal Analyst issues reports criticizing the operations of the university system publicly without his staff ever having seen them. He urged that some ground rules be established which would prevent the media from providing a battle ground for the two offices.

Jeff Morrison, Chairman of the Budget Committee, asked Jack Noble to comment on the workload of the fiscal staff in the Commissioner's office.

Mr. Noble explained that the workload in the Commissioner's office has also been tremendous, particularly with respect to the SBAS project, the M.I.S. project, implementation of the after-the-fact payroll, which is a requirement of Senate Bill 4, and the work relating to the Budgetary Task Force, which is a joint effort between the Commissioner's staff, the Fiscal Analyst's staff and the Governor's staff. He added that the year end closing and the executive budget-process both have appropriate deadlines which need to be met. He reminded the Board that the Commissioner's staff is responsible for collective bargaining, both with the craft unions and the faculty. He noted that in addition to all of this, the staff is attempting to deal with the Fiscal Analyst's inquiry on auxiliaries, all of which results in complete frustration of the entire fiscal staff.

Chairman James suggested that Mr. LaFaver and Ms. Ripplingale meet with the Council of Presidents on June 9, 1978 and attempt to establish some priorities, after which time the Fiscal Analysts's staff

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should report to Senator Mathers and the Commissioner should report to the Board of Regents.

The Board reconvened at 3:30 p.m. with the same members present.

Mr. Jeff Morrison, Chairman of the Budget Committee, reported the Committee had considered Items 20-903-R0578, Budget Amendments and Transfers for FY 1977-78, and 20-904-R0578, Budget Amendments and Transfers for FY 1978-79, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. He moved approval of both items.

Mr. Morrison moved that Item 20-007-R0578, Operating Budgets, Montana University System, be approved as amended on line nine of paragraph three of the item to delete the words "The chairman of" and capitalize the word "The" following these words. The motion carried.

President Bowers reminded the Board that during the discussion with the legislators and the staff of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst the fiscal officers reported their impossible workload. He said it was his understanding that the Council of Presidents was to meet and attempt to set up some priorities on the tasks before them. Mr. James agreed that the Council of Presidents should make some recommendations and that the Board of Regents would accept them.

On motion of Commissioner Pettit the following items recommended by the By-laws and Policy Committee were approved:

Item 20-001-R0478, Leaves, Administrative Personnel

Item 20-002-R0478, Leaves Without Pay

Item 11-002-R1275, Vacation Leave; Academic-Ranked Faculty (REVISION)

Statement on Regents expectations for new presidents at Eastern Montana College and Montana State University

Item 20-004-R0478, Vacation Leave; Non-faculty Staff

Item 20-008-R0578, Presidents; Duties and Responsibilities

Item 20-006-R0578, Administrative Salary Schedule

Respecting Item 5-001-R0774, Executive Perquisites; Montana University System (Revised), Mr. James said he felt there

should be a separate policy item for perquisites for the Commissioner.

President Bowers requested that the presidents be given the option of

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using leased or state vehicles. Mr. Morrison moved that the item be amended in paragraph I.A, line six to insert the word "or state" after the word "leased"; to delete paragraph B. in its entirety and on lines one and two of paragraph one to delete the words "Commissioner of Higher Education and". The question was called for and several "no" votes were audible. A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following: Voting "no" were Mr. Evans, Ms. Pace and Mrs. Hansen; voting "yes" were Mr. Morrison, Mr. Peterson, Miss Briney. Mr. James also voted "yes" and the motion carried. Mr. Morrison moved that the item be approved, as amended. The motion carried.

Mr. Lewy Evans, Chairman of the Capital Construction Committee, moved that Item 20-301-R0578, Land Purchase, Agricultural Experiment Station, be approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Evans reported that the Capital Construction had discussed several possibilities for funding the long range building program for the Montana University System with Mr. Andy van Teylingen and Mr. Phil Hauck, Director of the Division of Architecture and Engineering. He then moved the Commissioner and his staff pursue options with the Division of Architecture and Engineering for funding the long range building program. The motion carried.

Mr. Evans moved that the President of Eastern Montana College be authorized to explore the possibilities for construction of a racquetball court facility to be located on the campus of Eastern Montana College and that the terms of any agreement reached by subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Higher Education and reported to the Board of Regents. The motion carried, with Mr. Peterson voting "no".

Mr. Jack Peterson, Chairman of the Collective Bargaining Committee, reported that an agreement had been reached with the Northern Montana College faculty. He said copies of the contract had been distributed to Board members. He suggested that they take the time to read the contract carefully so that it might be ratified by telephone conference early next week.

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The Commissioner reported he had received new appointments to the Local Executive Boards as follows:

Eastern Montana College Executive Board:

Vera Gerke  
Victor Miller

Montana College of Mineral Science & Technology:

Walter L. Nelson

Montana State University:

Helen A. Nash  
Marguerite Kirk

Northern Montana College:

Sylvia Kafka

University of Montana:

Olive Haugen

Western Montana College:

Frank M. Davis

He moved that these appointments be confirmed. The motion carried.

The Commissioner moved that the Board of Regents adopt the same posture toward the Inter-unit Staff Council as it has toward the Inter-Unit Faculty Council; that it cannot meet with the council because of the number of staff members who are involved in collective bargaining. The motion carried.

Professor Norman Eggert, from Montana State University, reported that the two units who are not involved in collective bargaining have formed a Faculty Association. Professor Eggert stated that representatives of this association appreciate having the opportunity to meet with the Board of Regents. He said representatives would be meeting with staff members in the Commissioner's office to discuss matters to be brought to the attention of the Board.

It was reported that the Student Advisory Council would like to go on record of being in agreement with the posture of Western Montana College students in their plan to fund intercollegiate athletics.

On motion of Commissioner Pettit the following items were approved:

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- Item 20-701-R0578, Doctor Helene B. Northcutt to Professor of Art Emeritus, Eastern Montana College
- Item 20-104-R0578, Resolution Concerning the Retirement of Norman E. Taylor, Professor of Management, University of Montana.
- Item 20-105-R0578, Resolution Concerning the Retirement of Robert E. Gorman, Professor of Education University of Montana.
- Item 20-106-R0578, Resolution Concerning the Retirement of Nathaniel Blumberg, Professor of Journalism, University of Montana.
- Item 20-107-R0578, Resolution Concerning the Retirement of Adelaine S. Midgett, Associate Professor and Head Catalog Division, University of Montana Library.
- Item 20-108-R0578, Resolution Concerning the Retirement of Leland M. Yates, Professor of Chemistry, University of Montana.
- Item 20-109-R0578, Resolution Concerning the Retirement of Cynthia A. Schuster, Professor of Philosophy, University of Montana.
- Item 20-111-R0578, Resolution Concerning the Retirement of Henry G. Bugbee, Professor of Philosophy, University of Montana.
- Item 20-112-R0578, Resolution Concerning the Retirement of Bert R. Sappenfield, Professor of Psychology, University of Montana.
- Item 20-113-R0578, Resolution Concerning the Retirement of Emma B. Lommasson, Instructor and Registrar, University of Montana.
- Item 20-114-R0578, Resolution Concerning the Retirement of Earl W. Martell, Field House Director and Business Manager for Athletics, University of Montana.
- Item 20-115-R0578, Administrative Reassignment of the Department of Health and Physical Education from the College of Arts and Sciences to the School of Education, University of Montana.
- Item 20-116-R0578, Eliminating the M.A. degree in Geology and the M.A.T. degree in Biological Sciences at the University of Montana.
- Item 20-601-R0578, Student Referendum Request, Western Montana College.

On motion of Commissioner Pettit, Item 20-103-R0578, Proposal to Develop an Accredited Baccalaureate Degree Program in Physical Therapy, University of Montana, was referred to the Curriculum Committee.

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Mr. Morrison moved that the Commissioner be authorized an overall 6.5% increase for salaries in the Commissioner's office and that he be given the right to allocate the funds. The motion carried.

The Commissioner reported the salaries of the presidents would be considered at the July meeting.

On motion of Commissioner Pettit Item 20-700-R0578, Staff, Eastern Montana College, was approved as amended on page one to change the proposed salary of Edmund R. Arnold to \$21,000(FY),

On motion of Commissioner Pettit Items 20-500-R0578, Staff, Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, and 20-500A-R0578, Staff, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, were approved.

On motion of Commissioner Pettit Item 20-200-R0578, Staff, Montana State University, was approved, as amended to include three addendum pages,

On motion of Commissioner Pettit Item 20-300-R0578, Staff, Agricultural Experiment Station, was approved, as amended to include an additional page,

On motion of Commissioner Pettit Item 20-400-R0578, Staff, Cooperative Extension Service, was approved, as amended to include an additional page.

On motion of Commissioner Pettit Item 20-800A-R0578, Staff, Northern Montana College, was approved as amended on page three to delete the name of Charles A. Nelson from the "Leaves of Absence Without Pay".

On motion of Commissioner Pettit Item 20-100A-R0578, Staff, University of Montana, was approved, as amended to include the addendum and to delete the information pertaining to Maxine C. Johnson on page five.

On motion of Commissioner Pettit Item 20-700-R0578, Staff, Western Montana College, was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
Secretary

  
Chairman, Regents of Higher Education  
Montana University System