

MINUTES OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

DATE: July 2, 1991

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Office of the Commissioner of Higher
Education
33 South Last Chance Gulch
Helena, Montana

REGENTS
PARTICIPATING BY TELEPHONE: Regents Kaze; Schwanke; Topel; Johnson;
Musgrove; Boylan
Commissioner of Higher Education John M.
Hutchinson

REGENTS EXCUSED: Mathers

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Counsel LeRoy Schramm; Director of
Labor Relations Rod Sundsted

In the absence of the Chairman, Vice Chairman Kaze called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Roll call was taken and it was determined a quorum was present.

At the Vice Chairman's request, Mr. Sundsted explained the need for the conference call meeting. State statutes require that employees who are members of a collective bargaining unit have their contract agreed to and ratified before they can receive the salary increases provided in House Bill 509. In the University System, there are about five settlements back for vote; only the one before the Board for action at this meeting has been ratified to date. This collective bargaining agreement is between the University System and the Montana Public Employees Association, which represents about 1,400 employees. The reason, then, to seek

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ratification before the next regularly scheduled meeting is to avoid the cumbersome process of holding back increases and then issuing retroactive checks in August for that large number of employees.

Mr. Sundsted highlighted major changes in the contract. The MPEA agreement covers the support staff at MSU, U of M, EMC and TECH. It incorporates all of the provisions of House Bill 509 both for insurance and for salaries. It includes the 60¢ across the board increase, plus the market adjustment. The other issue during negotiations was that the contract contains no differentials. HB 509 had language which said shift differential and hazardous duty differentials were mandatory subjects of bargaining. However, no funding was included in the bill, and this has been an issue in all negotiations. Mr. Sundsted reported the other changes to the contract are minor ones that make the contract easier to administer.

Vice Chairman Kaze asked for questions from the Board.

Regent Schwanke asked if the issue of differentials will be raised again, and was told when the contract comes up again for negotiation in two years, it probably will. Funding was briefly discussed.

Hearing no further discussion, Vice Chairman Kaze called for a motion.

Regent Topel moved the MPEA contract be ratified and approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents will be held on August 1-2, 1991, in Kalispell, Montana.