

MINUTES OF BOARD OF REGENTS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION
MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

June 2, 1980

The meeting of the Board of Regents of Higher Education was called to order by Chairman James in the Conference Room of the Office of Commissioner of Higher Education, 33 South Last Chance Gulch, Helena, Montana, at 2:40 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 1980. Regents present: Ted James, Mary Pace, Shelley Hopkins, Lewy Evans, Jeff Morrison, and Jack Peterson. Regents absent: Lola Hansen. Also present was Commissioner of Higher Education John A. Richardson.

Chairman James called for additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 21, 1980 meeting. None being stated, the minutes were approved as mailed.

Chairman James called for additions or corrections to the minutes of the Conference Call Meeting held May 23, 1980. At the request of Eastern Montana College, the item number submitted as Item 27-702-R0680 was corrected to read Item 27-702-R0580, Purchase of Real Property, Eastern Montana College. There being no other changes or additions, the minutes were approved with the requested change.

Chairman James stated that the first three agenda matters under "Old Business" had been handled during the Conference Call Meeting on May 23, 1980, and that without objection, the Board would proceed to the matters under "New Business."

Jack Noble explained the justification and certification as set out in the item for the \$30,000 budget amendment recommended for approval for the Cooperative Extension Service. Upon motion of Jeff Morrison, Item 27-401-R0580, Budget Amendment, Cooperative Extension Service, was approved.

Jack Noble explained the transfer of 1981 federal Smith Lever appropriation authority to the current year requested by the Cooperative Extension Service, stating that the requested \$76,565 in excess of federal funds budgeted is necessary to meet unanticipated costs in the areas of operations and personal services. If the 1981 Legislature approves the supplemental request, the funds transferred to the current year budget will be restored.

Jeff Morrison moved that Item 27-402-R0580, Supplementary Appropriation, Cooperative Extension Service, be approved with the understanding that if the 1981 Legislature denies the supplementary request, the Cooperative Extension Service will have to operate with its 1981 budget reduced by the amount transferred. Motion carried.

President Richard Bowers introduced David Curtis, President, ASUM, who answered questions of the Board concerning support and need for the requested increase in student activity fee at the University of Montana. Mr. Curtis assured the Board that the requested increase had the support of the majority of the students, that petitions had been gathered to show such support, and that the Central Board voted 19/2 in support of the increase. On motion of Shelley Hopkins, Item 27-104-R0580, Student Activity Fee, University of Montana, was approved.

Commissioner Richardson spoke on the compromise retrenchment proposal jointly submitted to the Board by the administration of the University of Montana and the retrenchment review committee established under the collective bargaining contract between the University Teachers' Union, UM, and the Montana University System. Commissioner Richardson recommended that the Board of Regents approve the joint proposal with the following two stipulations:

- (1) That by November 15, 1980 the administration of the University of Montana permanently reduce the University's number of faculty lines by the number of positions identified for attrition in 1980-81 in the compromise proposal (a total of 9.94 faculty FTE), and report to the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Board of Regents the lines eliminated.

- (2) That by November 15, 1980 the administration of the University of Montana conduct a review of Fall quarter 1980 enrollment, the effect of the reductions proposed in the compromise proposal, and other appropriate matters, and advise the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Board of Regents whether further curtailment or discontinuance of any discipline, program, degree option, area of concentration or department of instruction or retrenchment of tenured faculty members is necessary in order to meet the suggested legislative staffing guidelines during the 1980-81 academic year.

President Bowers commented on the process which produced the compromise proposal, noting that this is the first time the process has been invoked, and that while there were basic differences between the administration and the review committee, both operated in good faith, made a strong attempt to come in in agreement as specified in the contract, and are pleased that this was accomplished. The compromise proposal will allow the University to meet its budget this year.

President Bowers introduced Professor George H. Millis, Dean Richard Solberg, Professor Lois M. Welch, and Professor Leslie W. Pengelly who were present from the University and would respond to questions concerning the compromise joint proposal.

President Bowers responded to questions on faculty reductions through attrition as set out in his Supplement to Retrenchment Proposal. The Supplement proposes attrition in specific disciplines over a three-year period, with a goal of seven reductions the first year and a total reduction of 22.5 positions over the three-year period. The review committee has not acted on the Supplemental to the joint proposal, but it stands as an administrative position, President Bowers stated.

Regent Jeff Morrison moved that the joint compromise retrenchment proposal be approved with the stipulations recommended by the Commissioner as stated above. Motion carried.

Dr. Dayton reviewed the material distributed at the April 21, 1980 meeting on the television review at UM and MSU. The issue before the

Board is what future direction the review should take. Both campuses are interested in making a presentation to the Regents on-campus. The concern expressed by the Regents was to learn what each campus views as the future direction of its program. Dr. Dayton was instructed to set up an on-site visit of the programs involved at both MSU and UM and those Regents able to participate would do so. In addition, each campus is to bring a 30-minute presentation to the July 25 meeting of the Board of Regents which would outline the future direction of the programs.

Commissioner Richardson reported that the next meeting of the Board will be held on June 23, 1980 in Helena. The July meeting has been changed from July 7 to July 25, 1980 in Helena.

Lewy Evans requested that an interim Capital Construction Committee meeting be scheduled prior to the July 25 Board meeting to prepare recommendations to the Board on the capital construction requests to go forward to the 1981 Legislature.

David Curtis, ASUM, introduced Amber Webb, the new student body president at Montana State University.

There being no further reports or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

APPROVED:


Chairman, Regents of Higher Education
Montana University System


Secretary