

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

DATE: June 3, 1992

TIME: 8:00 a.m.

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

REGENTS

PARTICIPATING BY TELEPHONE: Chairman Mathers; Regents Schwanke; Johnson;
Boylan; Kaze; Topel

REGENTS EXCUSED: Belcher

PRESENT IN THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE: Commissioner of Higher Education John
Hutchinson
Chief Counsel LeRoy Schramm;
Bob Anez, Associated Press
Chuck Johnson, Great Falls Tribune

Chairman Mathers called the conference call meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Roll call was taken and it was determined a quorum was present.

Commissioner Hutchinson informed the Regents that two members of the press were present in his office, Mr. Bob Anez, AP, and Mr. Chuck Johnson, Great Falls Tribune. Also present was Chief Counsel LeRoy Schramm. Dr. Hutchinson noted the members of the press had been informed the meeting would be called to order, then recess into executive session.

At the Chairman's request, Commissioner Hutchinson explained that at this point matters would be dealt with that relate to the individual privacy of Dr. William Daehling,

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Northern Montana College. In the Commissioner's opinion, the matters of his individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure and he was therefore recommending that the meeting be closed in executive session for a period of time before it is opened to the public.

Chairman Mathers asked if anyone had objections to the statement, or to the closing of the meeting. Hearing none, the meeting was closed. Members of the press were excused.

The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:30 a.m.

Regent Kaze introduced members of the Havre press Elizabeth Canning and Larry Beckner, Havre Daily News, and Ann Sheppard, KPQX, who were present in his office. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Anez rejoined the meeting in the Commissioner's office.

At the Chairman's request, Commissioner Hutchinson stated that as Board members would recall, on May 29, 1992, the union leadership at Northern Montana College called for a "no confidence" vote in President Daehling. That vote was held over the noon hour, resulting in approximately 40 to 22 in favor of the "no confidence" vote. Commissioner Hutchinson stated he believed it important for the Board to affirm its support for President Daehling's leadership, stating in his judgment, President Daehling is doing precisely the job the Regents have called him to do. To that end, Commissioner Hutchinson stated he had a resolution he would like the Board to consider.

Chairman Mathers asked if anyone cared to comment before the Commissioner presented the resolution.

Regent Johnson stated he believed from the time Dr. Daehling was hired he was thrust into a position of accomplishing a very difficult task at Northern Montana College. Regent Johnson added he believed Dr. Daehling has

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done an excellent job, and is now doing exactly what he was hired to do. Regent Johnson stated he had the utmost confidence in Dr. Daehling's ability to continue to perform the job the Board expects him to do at that institution.

Regent Topel stated his total agreement with Regent Johnson's comments. He added that he remains totally convinced the right person was selected for the job at Northern Montana College. He appreciated Dr. Daehling's efforts and his courage, and is very supportive of the difficult job Dr. Daehling is trying to do.

Regent Schwanke agreed with the comments made, adding he believed everything Dr. Daehling has done up to this point has been done in good faith; that he is working for the best interests of Northern Montana College. Dr. Daehling has Regent Schwanke's support.

Regent Kaze asked the staff present in the Commissioner's office if they believed Dr. Daehling has not done anything which would suggest or would infer to Board staff, and particularly to the Commissioner, that anything that has been said about Dr. Daehling in connection with the "no confidence" vote or anything else should be of concern to this Board of Regents.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated unequivocally from his perspective Dr. Daehling is doing an excellent job. The Commissioner added he works very closely with Dr. Daehling, they are in close contact and Dr. Daehling also has close contact with members of the staff. All concerned are unanimous in their appreciation of Dr. Daehling's work. He has had some difficult moments at Northern Montana College. Dr. Hutchinson stated he believed Dr. Daehling has done a superb job and he cannot say more strongly how appreciative staff and the Commissioner are of his work.

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Regent Kaze then asked if there was any reason for the Board to believe that the "no confidence" vote would in any way impair Dr. Daehling's real ability to manage the campus.

Commissioner Hutchinson responded "no confidence" votes are always difficult for a president, however, such votes are not binding. If the Board of Regents continues to support this president, Commissioner Hutchinson stated he believed Dr. Daehling will be able to manage the Northern Montana College campus capably. There is a great deal of support for the President throughout the Havre community. Dr. Hutchinson stated he remained absolutely convinced this "no confidence" vote will not have long term impairing impact on his presidency.

Regent Kaze then stated based on reports from staff, from what he has heard in the Havre community, and on his own personal opinion he would like to state he believed Dr. Daehling is doing an incredible job. He was not aware of, nor has he been made aware of, anything that would suggest the Regents should lack confidence in Dr. Daehling. He has Regent Kaze's full confidence and faith in the job he is doing.

Regent Boylan stated his full support also for the job President Daehling has done, and for what he is doing.

Chairman Mathers then stated he did not believe there was any question that the Board of Regents would not continue to support Dr. Daehling.

At the Chairman's request, Commissioner Hutchinson read the following resolution into the record for the Board's consideration:

The Board of Regents of the Montana University System meeting in a Special Call Session by telephone on June 3, 1992, affirms and hereby expresses its unqualified support for Dr. William Daehling, President of Northern Montana College. The Regents, fully aware of the "no confidence" vote in Dr. Daehling by the College faculty

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on May 29, 1992, remain fully satisfied with the work of President Daehling, and commend him for the reasoned and firm leadership he has brought to the campus.

Finally, the Regents express heartfelt thanks to Dr. Daehling for the dignity and integrity he has displayed in confronting the numerous unwarranted assertions circulated on the campus regarding his Presidency.

Regent Topel moved adoption of the foregoing resolution. Chairman Mathers called for questions, comments, additions or deletions to the resolution. Hearing none, the question was called. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Mathers instructed the Commissioner to forward a copy of the resolution to the faculty union at Northern Montana College.

Chairman Mathers asked if there was any other business to come before the Board at this time. Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents will be held in Great Falls, Montana on June 18-19, 1992.

