

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

June 28, 1982

The meeting of the Board of Regents of Higher Education was called to order by Chairman Ted James at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, June 28, 1982, in the conference room of the office of Commissioner of Higher Education at the conclusion of the Board's committee work and an executive session on litigation. Regents present: James, Pace, Keck, Redlin, Evans, Morrison and Knight. Regents absent: None. Also present was Commissioner of Higher Education Irving E. Dayton.

Chairman James called for additions or corrections to the minutes of the meetings of May 21, 1982 and June 11, 1982. None were stated, and the minutes of both meetings were ordered approved as mailed.

Commissioner Dayton reported the By-Laws and Policy Committee recommended Item 35-007-R0682, By-Laws Amendment for Reconsideration of Actions, be approved. Regent Pace so moved. The motion carried.

Commissioner Dayton reported the By-Laws and Policy Committee recommended Item 7-002-R0175, Authorization for Presidents to Appoint Security Personnel; Montana University System (REVISED) be approved. Regent Keck so moved. The motion carried.

Regent Morrison, Chairman of the Budget Committee, reported that the Budget Committee recommended the following two items be approved:

Item 35-401-R0682, Montana Cooperative Extension Service transfer of AGNET Terminals to various County Extension Offices

Item 35-105-R0682, Increase in Residence Halls Board and Room Rates, University of Montana

He so moved. The motion carried.

Regent Robert Knight reported that on June 3, 1982, by mail ballot, the Regents ratified the collective bargaining agreement between the American Association of University Professors at Eastern Montana College and the Board of Regents of Higher Education of the Montana University System retroactively to July 1, 1981 through June 30, 1985.

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The Capital Construction Committee and the Community College and Vocational Educational Committee had no report.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:04 p.m. with the same members present.

Regent Mary Pace reported the Curriculum Committee accepted Item 35-106-R0682 Authorization to offer a B.A. Minor in Asian Studies, University of Montana, for consideration at a future meeting.

Regent Pace reported the Curriculum Committee recommended the following two items be approved:

Item 35-802-R0482, Authorization to change the name of the Learning Center to the "Center for Individualized Instruction," Northern Montana College

Item 35-704-R0582, A Proposal for the Master of Science in Special Education: Option in Education of the Hearing Impaired, Eastern Montana College

Regent Pace reported the Curriculum Committee heard testimony on Item 35-603-R0482, Request for a B.A. Degree in Applied Mathematics for Western Montana College from administrators and faculty at Western Montana College in support of the program proposal. President Tietz, Montana State University, President Bucklew, University of Montana, and Academic Vice President Roy Turley, Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, stated their institutions' positions on the proposal.

Regent Pace stated that while the committee understands the philosophy propounded by Western Montana College that the smaller schools need areas to expand their offerings, it is the recommendation of the committee that during the Regents' fall workshop the Role and Scope Statement of the System be reviewed. Changes in mission, if desirable, should be accomplished through long range planning, and not through the approval of proposals that would strain the smaller units resources and perhaps result in lowering the quality of offerings to students. Education should be discussed, not territorial rights. The Commissioner's office was instructed to set a date and select a location for the workshop.

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Regents and Presidents were asked to submit topics for discussion to the Commissioner's office, and a preliminary agenda will be prepared and distributed.

Regent Pace moved on behalf of the Curriculum Committee that Item 35-603-R0582 not be approved, but that Western Montana College be encouraged to pursue the sophomore level engineering courses and the calculus physics course as set out in the Commissioner's recommendation. The motion not to approve carried.

Regent Mary Pace reported that the Curriculum Committee referred Item 35-602-R0482, Request for a B.A. Degree in Art: Western Montana College to the full Board without recommendation. The proposal, if approved, would allow Western Montana College to offer an undergraduate degree in art in addition to those now offered by the University of Montana, Montana State University and Eastern Montana College. Central to the discussion by the Curriculum Committee was the fact that if the proposal is approved, Western Montana College would be allowed to develop separate disciplinary degree programs in the liberal arts. This was not envisioned by the Role and Scope statement of the System. Supporters of the program stressed that Western's conservative, practical approach to the teaching of art differs strongly from the modernistic conceptual approach of the three existing programs now offered in the System.

Supporters of the proposal, including students now enrolled in the art program at Western, pointed out that to obtain a degree at Western they are required to take courses designed for people who are to become art teachers. Many students in the program do not wish to teach, but would like to obtain their degree from Western because of the small school atmosphere and the studio approach of the Western Montana College program which teaches needed techniques, but allows students to apply them in any manner with which they feel comfortable.

Western's ability to grant art scholarships and purchase supplies through the Mary Baker Emerick trust also makes Western attractive to traditional and non-traditional art students.

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Opponents of the proposal stated among other objections that the proposal lacks the broad-based course requirements, including emphasis on art theory and history, that should be required for completion of a major degree.

Regent Elsie Redlin moved the item be tabled until the Role and Scope statement of the System can be surveyed.

President Thomas, Western Montana College, asked the matter not be tabled. The decision could be months in the making if it involves a study of the Role and Scope statement, and this would create difficulties for both the College and students in the program, President Thomas stated.

The question was called on the motion to table. Regent Redlin voted yes; Regents Pace, Morrison, Knight, Evans and Keck voted no. The motion failed.

Regent Keck moved that Item 35-602-R0482 not be approved. Regents Pace, Morrison, Knight and Keck voted yes; Regents Evans and Redlin voted no. The motion carried.

The study of Montana State University's nursing program in Billings was opened for discussion. Copies of the June 24, 1982 letter to Commissioner Dayton from Shirley Linderman and Tom Monahan, Billings, Montana, were distributed to the Regents (on file). Regent Jeff Morrison stated the purpose of placing this study on the agenda for this meeting was to give the students who originally requested that certain classes be moved to Billings an opportunity to respond to the cost study presented to the Regents at their May 21, 1982 meeting. Regent Morrison asked if anyone was present who wished to address the study, and received no response.

Regent Elsie Redlin moved the following recommendation be adopted:

Recommend that the matter of delivery of 17 credits of Nursing curriculum be considered as an experimental one-time program limited to a small selective group of 20 students on Eastern Montana College campus in a Summer module - Summer 1983. The Commissioner's Office should draw up the conditions, and constraints, and develop a best estimate of cost with consideration given to a budget modification to the 1983 Legislature.

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If, after careful study of the results of the experimental program continuation is deemed advisable, then a recommendation for frequency of offerings, locations at other extended campuses, and subsequent costs may be considered for further budget requests by Montana State University.

Commissioner Dayton asked for clarification. If the recommendation is approved, it would appear to be a top priority request for a program modification. The Regents will be reviewing program modifications at their meeting on July 29-30, 1982, and prioritizing the list at the September 13 meeting. The question would seem to be whether such a priority should be established before the review and prioritization of all program modifications.

After discussion, the question was called on the motion to adopt the recommendation. Regents Evans and Redlin voted yes; Regents Knight, Pace, Keck and Morrison voted no. The motion failed.

The Commissioner's office and the campuses were instructed by the Regents to conduct no further studies on the System's nursing programs pending the outcome of the review of the Role and Scope statement at the fall workshop.

Commissioner Dayton introduced the discussion of admission requirements in the Montana University System, calling attention to the material sent to the Regents with their agenda which included two tables, (1) "Number of institutions of higher education and branches by level, control and state or other area: Aggregate United States, 1978-79," and (2) "Proportion of students attending 2-year institutions by state, 1977." Also sent to the Regents was an article from a recent WICHE report titled "High School Graduates Face Stiffer Entrance Requirements at Western Colleges."

Commissioner Dayton pointed out that while the WICHE article is certainly relevant, the states discussed in the article have a back-up community college system with open admissions, which Montana does not. Any discussion of admission requirements in Montana must be held with the clear understanding that Montana lacks the extensive community college system most other states have. Montana has three community colleges located

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in regions remote from the University System. In Montana, the overwhelming number of students desiring post-secondary education are enrolled in the University System. When other states discuss tightening admission requirements at their four-year institutions it is always in the context that there are a substantial number of two-year post-secondary institutions with open admissions. Commissioner Dayton illustrated this by reviewing the eight western states marked on the table showing the proportion of students attending two-year institutions by state.

At the Commissioner's request, each president reported on the types of selectivity practiced in each institution as to certain schools or professional programs.

All presidents agreed on the importance of guidance and counseling to incoming students to give students the best opportunity to enter programs where they have the greatest chance of success. Remedial programs were discussed, particularly in the areas of math and English. It was agreed that with Montana's open admissions policy it is essential that the institution accept students where they are and help them be successful in attaining college level skills. This necessitates having an effective remedial program, particularly in math and English. Of equal importance is the need to counsel students while they are still in high school so the students know what courses they should take to adequately prepare themselves for college. Regent Pace noted a problem that is developing in the high schools. Students are indicating that if they are not sufficiently prepared to work at college level on graduation from high school, they will be provided the opportunity to take the necessary courses in their freshman year. Higher college entrance requirements might motivate students to better prepare for college work.

Commissioner Dayton reported on preliminary conversations held with the Office of Public Instruction to arrange joint meetings with secondary schools and University System representatives to discuss recommended courses to the secondary schools that will prepare students for college level work. Efforts made by various units of the University System to place information in the high schools to give students direction in selecting areas of study were discussed.

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Another factor discussed is the changing composition of the student body in the University System. People are coming back into higher education who have been away from formal study for some time. Particularly in the math area, their skills have deteriorated.

The challenge appears to be the willingness of higher education officials and secondary schools to work together. If higher education requires high schools to offer certain courses to prepare students for college, this may seriously strain the high schools' resources when they are already faced with financial cuts. Commissioner Dayton suggested this as a topic of discussion with the Board of Education at the next State Board of Education meeting.

Rodney Svec, Assistant Superintendent in the Department of Basic Instruction Services, Office of Public Instruction, reported on a study of expectancies of college entrance requirements. He also noted that thirty percent of high school students do not go on to college. High school graduation requirements should also be looked at from the vocational/technical perspective.

It was agreed by the Regents that admission requirements should be discussed at length, possibly at the fall workshop, to determine the direction the University System should take. Discussions should also take place with the Board of Public Education.

At Commissioner Dayton's request, President Erickson, Northern Montana College reported that the accreditation of Northern Montana College by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges has been reaffirmed on the basis of the 1982 interim report and visit. President Erickson reported on the college's progress since the 1977 evaluation, stating he is proud of the faculty of Northern Montana College, and believes they should be commended for the outstanding progress the college has made since the 1977 evaluation.

The Council of Presidents, the Faculty Association, and the Student Advisory Council had no report.

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At Regent Morrison's request, Commissioner Dayton read Item 35-008-R0682, Resolution upon the retirement of Ted James as Chairman and Member, Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education. Commissioner Dayton thanked Chairman James on behalf of the Board and the entire University System for his years of leadership and dedication to all that is best for higher education in Montana. On motion of Regent Morrison, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

President Fred DeMoney, on behalf of all the presidents in the System, read the following resolution into the record.

TED JAMES

The presidents of the units of the Montana University System are sorry to see you leave the Chairmanship and the Board of Regents.

As its chairman since its formation under the 1972 State Constitution, you have established with dignity and firmness the Board's constitutional role with just and even-handed authority.

You have brought the Board over the years to a level of significant effectiveness. Under your leadership we have witnessed the establishment of the appropriate policies which will shape the future of the System in years to come. We have all enjoyed the fruits of your labor in terms of increased budgets and an open budget process.

You have guided the System through many a critical issue and confrontation. On many occasions you have "gone out on a limb" on issues all for the betterment of the System. We appreciate the courage such action took, and the sacrifice of time such events always extracted from you.

Your equitable and fair approach to conflicting and often complex issues is recognized with great gratitude by the presidents. Your actions have set a high standard for all of us.

Finally, on a more personal note, we have all enjoyed working with you and serving with you. You have made yourself available to each of us, as from time to time we sought and received your understanding, warm and wise counsel.

We wish you and your wife Lois well, as you leave the Chairmanship and the Board this day.



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Chairman James responded, thanking the Regents, Commissioner and presidents for the resolutions and good wishes. He stated he had certainly enjoyed working with the people in the System, and had also found it to be a lot of fun. Chairman James added he would continue to be interested in higher education and would be pleased to continue to work for higher education in Montana if he could be of help. Chairman James then expressed his appreciation to the Commissioner's staff for their dedicated support, with particular thanks to Commissioner Dayton. Chairman James concluded with special thanks to Deputy Commissioner Jack Noble for his outstanding performance for the System.

Commissioner Dayton next read Item 35-009-R0682, Resolution upon the completion of duties by William A. Johnstone as Acting President, Eastern Montana College. Acting President Johnstone expressed his appreciation to the Regents, stating he was particularly appreciative of the final paragraph of the resolution which acknowledged Mrs. Johnstone's contribution. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Regent Jeff Morrison, the following items were approved:

- Item 35-100-R0682, Staff, University of Montana, amended to delete the words "Associate Dean" following the name of Margery H. Brown, J.D.
- Item 35-101-R0682, Resolution Concerning the Retirement of Gardner Cromwell, Professor of Law, University of Montana
- Item 35-102-R0682, Resolution of Commendation for Catherine Everingham for her Meritorious Service to the University of Montana and the Montana University System, University of Montana
- Item 35-103-R0682, Resolution of Commendation for Arline Malouf for her Meritorious Service to the University of Montana and the Montana University System, University of Montana
- Item 35-104-R0682, Resolution Concerning the Retirement of Douglas E. Mills, Professor, Library Services, University of Montana
- Item 35-200-R0682, Staff, Montana State University, amended on page 4 to delete Brian W. Sindelar, Ph.D., and with Addendum
- Item 35-300-R0682, Staff, Agricultural Experiment Station
- Item 35-301-R0682, Retirement of Laurence O. Baker, Agricultural Experiment Station
- Item 35-400-R0682, Staff, Cooperative Extension Service
- Item 35-500-R0682, Staff, Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology

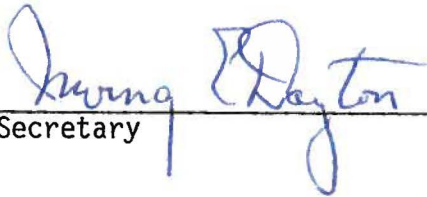
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- Item 35-501-R0682, Degrees, Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology on recommendation of the Faculty, May 9, 1982.
- Item 35-600-R0682, Staff, Western Montana College
- Item 35-700-R0682, Staff, Eastern Montana College
- Item 35-800-R0682, Staff, Northern Montana College
- Item 35-900-R0682, Staff, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education  
(Addition to Agenda)

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents will be held on July 29-30, 1982 in Helena, Montana.

APPROVED:

Chairman, Board of Regents of Higher Education

  
Secretary