

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

DATE: April 24, 1991

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

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

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

REGENTS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Deputy Commissioner for Vocational-Technical
Education Brady Vardemann; Director of
Federal Vocational Grants Sib Clack

Chairman Mathers called the conference call meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Roll call was taken and it was determined a quorum was present.

Chairman Mathers stated for the record the purpose of the conference call meeting was to review and vote on approval of the draft State Plan for submission to the U. S. Department of Education by May 1, 1991. The conference call meeting is scheduled at this time to assure sufficient time is available to receive the signed certifications and assurances from Chairman Mathers to meet the May 1 deadline.

Deputy Commissioner Vardemann began the conference call meeting by thanking Regent Schwanke for his faithful attendance at the state plan hearings. Two hearings have been held, one in Missoula and the other in Great Falls. The third

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will be held tomorrow in Glendive. Ms. Vardemann noted when Regent Schwanke attended the hearing in Missoula he posed the question to staff regarding what he perceived to be an additional need for press coverage of the State Plan hearings. Ms. Vardemann explained the press notification procedures followed for the hearings. It has been difficult to attract much interest on the part of the press or the public in the hearings. Ms. Vardemann encouraged suggestions from the Regents or the Commissioner on how to improve interest and participation.

Ms. Clack, Director of Federal Vocational Grants, then reviewed the State Plan document. She explained the document is the compliance document which must be submitted on behalf of the Board of Regents in their role as the State Board. The document meets as many of the requirements as staff was able to discern prior to issuance by the federal government of the regulations governing the new Act. The U S Department of Education has made quite clear that modifications to the State Plan will have to be made after that Department's review. Ms. Clack noted comments received in the two public hearings held so far are directed more to the requirements of the new federal act and directions the new law has taken, rather than with preparation of the State Plan.

Following the review, Ms. Clack asked if there were concerns of the Regents that staff should address prior to submission of the Plan.

Regents questioned specifically if the concern with appropriation by the Legislature of the Perkins money in determining the base budgets of the vocational-technical

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centers had been corrected so the required assurances could be signed by the Regents' Chairman.

Ms. Clack responded the assurances include a statement that the State did not take into consideration the availability of the Perkins funds when determining the level of state support for vocational education in Montana. To date, the Legislature has not appropriated the funds into the base budgets of the vocational-technical centers. If it does not take that action in the hours remaining in the Legislative Session, and it is believed no such action will be taken, the assurances can be signed.

Regent Topel asked for further clarification of the certification which states the "State did not take into consideration the availability of the Perkins funds". He asked if the State could have taken those funds into consideration when building the budgets, even though the specific dollars were not appropriated. Ms. Clack responded it is extremely difficult to determine how that will be interpreted by the federal government. The Appropriations Subcommittee of the Montana Legislature was told the amounts involved when hearings on the Centers' budgets were held. The general fund support was not reduced in a like amount, and some of that amount was backfilled into the Centers' budgets with state general fund.

Regent Kaze noted the years covered by the assurances the Chairman is asked to sign extend one full year beyond the end of the next legislative session. He asked if it was possible for the Regents to make a representation with regard to appropriation of these funds beyond the next biennium.

Ms. Clack explained that a process is in place by which an amendment can be filed if significant changes occur affecting a State Plan. This process includes the requirement that public hearings be held on the reasons for the amendment.

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Hearing no further discussion, Regent Kaze moved approval and adoption of the draft State Plan for Vocational Education for Program Years 1992-1994 in accordance with P.L. 101-392, Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1990, and authorization of the execution and delivery of the certifications and assurances. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents will be held on May 5-6, 1991, in Helena, Montana.

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