Minutes from the October 17, 1974 meeting of the University of Montana faculty

University of Montana (Missoula, Mont. : 1965-1994)

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1. A meeting of the Faculty Senate was held at 3:10 P.M., October 17, 1974, on call of Chairman Howard E. Reinhardt.


Senators absent: Banaugh, Blackmer, Cummings, Curnow (on leave), Cox, De Frees (on leave), Fritz, Perrin, Von Kuster.

Ex-officio members present: Bain, Bowers, Landini, Solberg

Guests present: Stockburger and several reporters

2. The minutes of the meetings of May 16, 29, and August 16, were approved.

3. Announcements:

(1) The new offices of the Faculty Senate are located in Room 101 of the Classroom Building (Old Library). Mrs. Marlys Erickson is secretary to the Executive Committee of the Senate.

(2) Ex-officio members and guests introduced to the Senate: Tom Stockburger, ASUM President; Philip Bain, Director of Admissions and Records; President Richard Bowers.

(3) Vacancies to be filled in the Senate: One senator from the Sciences, four senators from the Schools.

(4) The By-Laws of the Faculty Senate call for the agenda and minutes to be distributed to the faculty. For this meeting the agenda was distributed to the senators by mail and to the faculty via the Newsletter. Chairman Reinhardt stated he believed the Newsletter would also print the minutes of the Faculty Senate meetings. He therefore proposed that the Senate take publication in the Newsletter for these purposes unless objections to this procedure are raised.

(5) Professor H. Duane Hampton asked to withdraw his resignation from the Appeals Committee. The withdrawal was accepted and Professor Hampton will serve a three-year term.
4. New Business:

Budget Request. Chairman Reinhardt remarked that the data comprising the budget formula was, in his opinion, in error in that its figures were underestimated in three areas of consideration: student credit hours, student-faculty ratio and average compensation for faculty. He therefore proposed the following as a seconded motion from the Executive Committee:

"The Faculty Senate directs the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate to write to the Board of Regents to reconsider its budget request for the next biennium with the aim of asking for an increase from the Governor."

The motion was carried.

5. Chairman Howard Reinhardt, in presenting his statement concerning anticipated activities of the year, reported on a three-day meeting with the President and invited faculty members at Yellow Bay in August, the summer meetings of the U. M. Foundation at Yellow Bay and his attendance of weekly meetings with the President's Staff. He remarked that the Executive Committee would be spending considerable time with collective bargaining, the forthcoming report of the Commission on Post-Secondary Education and PAPFA. (Copies of Chairman Reinhardt's complete statement were made available at this meeting.)

6. President Bowers stated he wished to postpone his "State of the University" message as he had just recently spoken to the full faculty and would therefore prefer to make a mid-year address. He then reported to the Senate the fact that a Board of Regents meeting is to be held on this campus on November 1. President Bowers stated he had profited from the three-day meeting at Yellow Bay with the Executive Committee of the Senate and learned a great deal about the University. At this point President Bowers opened the floor to questions.

(1) President Bowers responded to a question on collective bargaining by stating he believed in the concept of collegial type governance in universities. He said, however, he could foresee difficulties that might arise in collective bargaining but also felt the economic well-being of the faculty may depend on it.

(2) In response to a question of formula budget vs. request, President Bowers felt a budget meant strict adherence and was too rigid, leaving no flexibility. He added that the Board of Regents most likely will use flexibility in the next biennium.

(3) When asked his feelings regarding the preference of a quarter or semester system, President Bowers replied he had no strong feelings one way or the other.

(4) President Bowers was then asked if the Board of Regents had plans to tie appropriations directly to the formula budget. He stated that formula budgets tend to equalize budgets within a state or on a national basis. As long as the University of Montana is so low on a per-student basis, formula budgeting can do nothing but help,
he stated. This year our budget on a full-time basis would be about 
$1,900 per student whereas in 1971-72 the national average for public 
universities was close to $3,000 per student, said President Bowers. 
He stated that when we look at national figures, we are not overfunded 
and he thought formula budgeting was probably good from a pragmatic 
point of view.

(5) When asked to explain his "incredulity" regarding some of the ways the 
University does things, President Bowers elaborated by saying he was 
surprised to see the amount of faculty involvement in salary determina-
tion rather than tenure determination. He felt the area of tenure 
was most important regarding peer-judgment. He also voiced concern 
over difficulties part-time students face in registering for classes.

(6) Regarding the inequities of new faculty receiving higher salaries in 
some instances than previously hired faculty, President Bowers said 
he was not in a position to comment on any adjustments from last year, 
but he felt we should do whatever possible to correct the inequities. 
He stated it was difficult to correct these inequities and he felt 
that one of the problems has been that when the dollars available 
have been less than, or not any more than, the cost of living, there 
is a tendency to spread that increase over everybody. This only 
perpetuates the inequities. The Board of Regents' budget would allow 
an average increase slightly above the cost of living, a 12.8% increase. 
If we give everybody a 12.8% increase, this does not help any of the 
inequities, he concluded.

(7) In response to a request to explain his high priority of library fund-
ing, President Bowers stated he felt the dollars allocated for the 
library were not sufficient to maintain a good, research-quality library.

(8) When asked to explain the sense and implementation of the Blue Ribbon 
Commission report, President Bowers stated the most controversial 
issues had to do with the closing of Western Montana College and 
changing the function of Montana Tech. He expressed hope that this 
controversy would not result in the whole document being called into 
question because there are many good recommendations in it. Some 
items of grave concern are the recommendation of tenure review every 
four years and that increased bureaucracy may result in individual 
systems losing a part of their autonomy.

(9) As regards grade inflation, President Bowers said he would be con-
cerned if the faculty was not attempting to make a discrimination 
in terms of grading.

(10) President Bowers answered a query on sabbaticals for former ad-
ministrators by stating consideration should be given these people 
for a chance to be re-tooled but that this should not be necessarily 
automatic. He also stated that he felt administrators ought to be 
formally evaluated.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Philip T. Bain 
Secretary