10-15-1980

Montana Kaimin, October 15, 1980

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Funding proposal draws criticism

By STEPHANIE HANSON

The new funding formula proposed by the Legislature’s Interim Finance Committee has met heavy criticism from Montana administrators, faculty and students. The formula is a better way to fund the university, but it “doesn’t do it very well,” according to UM President Richard Bowers.

The new funding formula bases funding on the academic level and type of program as compared to 10 single institutions —“known as ‘peer institutions’”—throughout the West. Faculty salaries would also be based on the average salaries from the peer school.

Both faculty members and students have criticized using peer institutions for comparison because data from all 10 schools for each program has not been compiled. They said the schools used have much higher enrollments than any Montana college or university, making the information as applied to Montana’s universities unfair.

According to UM, faculty members and students also have criticized the committee’s suggestion that the costs of instruction be divided into tuition and non-tuition expenses. Tuition should be set according to UM President Carey said.

Enrollment for graduate and undergraduate programs is projected to rise from the late 1960s and early 1970s, according to David Washburn of the mental health center.

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The volunteer program is part of recently expanded mental health services in Missoula. But Gotesman said, “This job really has two parts,” according to Dave Hardaway, Coordinator Richard Hardaway said he hopes to have 20 volunteers working individually with one or more ex-patients from Warm Springs State Hospital or St. Patrick’s Home for Psychiatrically Unfortunate.

Hardaway said the volunteer program is one part of a “community support program” designed by the ASUM Programming office. The program is intended to help community members who can’t pay for private care to overtake the “24-hour, 365 days, 20-year care” given to patients in traditional mental institutions, according to Dave Washburn of the mental health center.

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It might be easy to forget in the frantic return to classes, studying and parties that a crisis situation exists at the University of Montana.

The crisis—which came to a head last spring—is one which demands the immediate attention of students.

During the last week of classes Spring Quarter, the faculty at this school ratified by a 4-to-1 margin a contract with the Board of Regents giving them a 4 percent salary raise plus a token bonus of $250. The regents promised to work for additional money from the Legislature, and President Regent Jack Peterson came up with a proposal of an additional 3 percent plus $300. For the average faculty member, that would amount to a 10 percent salary increase for 1980-81—if the regents agree to it. more importantly, if the Legislature decides to fund it. In any case, a 10 percent pay increase at a time when inflation is running at about 14 percent is just not enough.

For UM faculty, this is just another dismal episode in what has been a long series of insultingly low pay increases. For example, from 1970-71 to 1979-80, prices rose 94 percent. In that same period, faculty at UM rose 47 percent for professors, 50 percent for associate professors, 57 percent for assistant professors and 71 percent for instructors. In other words, the buying power of the average faculty member decreased anywhere from 29 to 53 percent.

What the numbers and percentages boil down to is low faculty morale and, subsequently, a decline in the quality of education students are receiving. Students are being asked to accept a mediocre education from faculty who have little reason to be enthusiastic about teaching.

Those faculty members (usually young) who can find jobs outside the university in their profession will probably leave. Those who cannot—either because they are in the less-marketable liberal arts disciplines or because their job offers cannot afford to give up their pension and tenure benefits—will remain, teaching in an atmosphere that can only be described as anything more than disintegrating.

The issue is not simply one of salaries. The issue is that higher education in Montana is being treated outrageously, and it’s time for students and faculty to become outraged.


What happened to adequate library facilities—the very basis of a university? Students complain about empty shelves and depleted periodicals. It’s even worse for faculty members, who must have access to at least as much information as students if they are to teach classes.

Travel funds so that faculty can attend conventions and seminars are virtually non-existent. No money is available this year for faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences to travel outside the state, and all a professor has to do is teach classes and grade papers, he may as well be teaching in the high school, where he can get a larger salary increases.

All elements which go into making a quality learning environment for both faculty and students have succumbed to ever-tightening budgets. What is needed is a commitment to higher education—a commitment backed by money, not simple words.

And so it all comes back to the Legislature—the holder of the purse strings. The Legislature is going to have to decide whether it will provide adequate higher education, and that may mean making some tough decisions—like closing one of the six units so the others can do more than merely subsist.

Students, too, must do some soul-searching.

Students have all too readily chosen not to recognize the plight of their faculty because it’s “their problem” as opposed to our problem. It is not, to the sake of our own investment in our education, we must work to convince the Legislature that higher education is a good investment for it to make. Doing that is not easy.

Letters need to be written to legislators and the Board of Regents demanding them to visit UM and talk with students and faculty about what cutting 76 faculty lines in the last three years has done to UM. The regents’ addresses appear on this page. Regents and legislators need to hear again and again what insultingly low salaries do to the quality of our education.

Faculty and students also need to take the time to learn from each other just what effect low salaries and low morale have on UM. This is an issue we all have a stake in. It’s time both sides try to understand the plight of the other.

Ultimately, the decision is up to the Legislature, which must decide just how big an investment it is willing to make in higher education. But it is also our problem, and it’s time to do something about it.

Complainingly accepting a deficient educational system is the height of ignorance.

Cathy Kradorer

Letters

Schwinden supported

Editor: As we all know, the upcoming election will be important for the funding and the fate of the university system. Actions taken by the state in the next few years will have both short- and long-term effects on the quality and availability of education in the state of Montana. I cannot stress enough our difficult position as we enter this election.

From my experience as ASUM president and as chairman of the Montana Student Lobby in 1978-79, I believe we need a governor concerned with and sensitive to the needs of the students. Two years ago, Ted Schwinden attended a Montana Lobby Student Conference; he shared valuable information and addressed concerns of Montana students. He showed a strong commitment for the 6-mill levy—a bill which provided money for the university system. His attendance proved a genuine concern for the students—he was the only statewide elected official who attended.

During the last few months I have had the good fortune to talk to Ted Schwinden. I am convinced he will treat the university system fairly. Therefore, I urge you, as students, to support and vote for Schwinden for governor. It is important to support him for the future of both our university system and the State of Montana.

Schwinden for Montana

Chairman, Montana Student Lobby, 1978-79

P.S. Hal Stearns, former state chairman of the 6-mill levy drive, is also campaign chairman of Montanans for Schwinden/Turner.

An error for us all to regret

The Montana Kaimin makes corrections whenever necessary, and regrets any error printed in its pages. However, students have even more reason to regret an error made in Friday’s editorial than does the Kaimin.

The editorial stated that full-time students pay a total of $26 per year to pay off bonds and maintenance costs of the University Center. Bill Cushman of the Controller’s Office pointed out that the $26 is actually for one quarter, rather than a year.

So students are paying a total of $78 yearly, or $312 over four years, to offset costs on a building for which they have had little say on how its office space should be utilized.

The Kaimin regrets the error. Students should regret the way in which their voices are lost in making decisions about a building they finance.
Reports of a flasher and a peeping Tom, thought to be the same man, were made to Campus Security Monday, bringing the total reports of such incidents to five in the past three weeks.

According to Campus Security Director Ken Willett, a similar description—a man in his early 20s, with dark hair and a mustache—has been given in each instance. A flasher in Missoula soon: fuel alcohol from agricultural waste and synfuels from Montana coal.

Synfuels — liquefied or gasified coal — are the topic of a town meeting at 7:30 tomorrow evening at the Missoula City Council Chambers.

Two very different kinds of synfuels will be discussed in Missoula soon: fuel alcohol from agricultural waste and synfuels from Montana coal.

Synfuels. continued...
Montana Kaimin • Wednesday, October 15, 1980

Possibility of Reagan, Carter debate alive again, Anderson may not qualify

(φ)—A campaign debate between President Carter and Ronald Reagan became live possibility again yesterday when the League of Women Voters decided to review John Anderson's status as a real contender for the presidency.

Meanwhile, Reagan said he would appoint a woman to the first vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court as president. Carter claimed Reagan's economic proposals would cost at least $140 billion in fiscal 1983, and Anderson said his own program would result in a balanced budget by then.

"We are going to look at the polls this week," league president Ruth J. Hinerfeld told reporters. "If Anderson is not significant, he obviously would not be invited to the next debate."

Anderson, the independent candidate whose standing in the polls has been declining, said in Chicago his support still is strong enough to make him a credible national candidate.

Reagan, the Republican presidential nominee who has insisted that any debate package must include a provision for a Carter-Anderson confrontation, would not say if a league invitation for a one-on-one debate with the president would be acceptable.

There was no word from the White House, but the president has actively sought a face-to-face debate with Reagan and has accepted a number of invitations from potential sponsors other than the league.

Anderson was included in the league's first debate, in Baltimore on Sept. 21, after his standing in the polls exceeded the 15 percent the league set as a minimum to qualify. Reagan debated Anderson alone when the president refused to take part, and a second debate scheduled for Portland, was canceled.

While Anderson's exclusion would not necessarily mean that a debate between Carter and Reagan will be held, Anderson's status as a real contender would be a significant factor in the league's decision on a possible debate.

Suit begins Thursday against Northern Tier pipeline plan

Judge Robert Belloni of Portland, included the Northern Tier Pipeline Co., the federal government, the city of Port Angeles, and the National Audubon Society. Craig Ritchie, a lawyer for the No Oil Port and the Audubon Society, said the case already has generated two cubic yards of legal papers.

Northern Tier has proposed an oil tanker terminal at Port Angeles and a pipeline to carry Alaskan oil to Clearbrook, Minn.

President Carter has singled out the project for expedited handling, putting the federal government on Northern Tier's side.

Port Angeles, Clallam County, the Indians, No Oil Port and the Audubon Society have sued to block the project.

In response, the government is seeking dismissal of those lawsuits on summary judgment. Ironically, the Indian suit is based partly on a treaty, and Carter's rise two points to 35 percent in the same period.

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BN allowed to discontinue some transport service in Montana

HELena (AP)—The Montana Public Service Commission yesterday tentatively approved the bulk of Burlington Northern Transport Inc.'s request to abandon interstate general commodity trucking service in Montana. The commission instructed its staff to draw up an order allowing BNT to drop local service to all points already served by some other carrier, but the order will require BNT to continue to serve a number of small northern Montana communities which have no alternative service.

Staff attorneys were asked to research whether the PSC could keep BNT's certificates of authority to serve the entire Hi-Line area and the BNT to drop local service to all communities which have no alternative service.

The commission decided to study an alternative proposal which could simplify the PSC request or order another telephone company to take over the territory occupied by Inter­mountain. Two nearby telephone cooperatives have expressed interest.

The commission voted to offer opportunities for a public hearing on two requests by the town of Cascade—one for a 100 percent $13,200 annual increase in water rates and one for authority to establish a $4 per month sewer charge which would generate $3,726 annually.

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343-1820

2100 Stephens South Center
IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME
2:00 P.M. CRIBBAGE
$3.00 Entry Fee
7:00 P.M. MEN'S EIGHTBALL TOURNAMENT
$3.00 Entry Fee
MONDAY NIGHT LADIES EIGHTBALL—7:00 P.M.
$2.00 Entry Fee
TUESDAY NIGHT BACKGAMMON—7:00 P.M
$3.00 Entry Fee

HAPPY HOUR
4-6 $1.75 Pitchers

WEDNESDAY'S LADIES NIGHT
Ladies Free Pool 6-8
QUARTER NIGHT
25¢ Beer 8-10
they all herald the concepts of the proposal as a move in the right direction. Bowers said he also opposes the different "peer institutions" used for the study. He said that, in addition to the schools having higher enrollments than any Montana school, the state universities are significantly underfunded compared to the peer schools. Spending per full-time student at UM is more than $600 less than the average of the responding peer schools. Instruction costs per student and total expenditures contrasted highly, too, as UM is judged against large schools such as the University of New Mexico and Oregon State University.

The larger student enrollment and bigger faculty membership at the peer schools allows them to operate on economies of scale, Bowers pointed out to the committee. In other words, the larger the university's operation, the better that university can adjust for operating costs, student-faculty ratios and the use of physical resources.

Two of Missoula's legislators—Democratic Sen. Bill Norman and Rep. Dan Kemmis, have spoken out against the committee's suggestion to tie instructional costs to tuition. Norman, a member of the committee, said that faculty and students at Montana Tech and WMC also oppose the direct link. However, he said, the committee must face the question of what to tie tuition to at all.

The only remaining alternative for the committee's consideration is to leave the decisions on tuition increases to the Board of Regents, where the power constitutionally resides anyway. That continued power would allow the regents maximum flexibility in adjusting university revenue sources to cover expenses.

Another recommendation of the new proposal is that summer-session teachers should receive full salary rather than the current reduced rate. Summer-session teachers are now being paid for only two months of instruction, even though actual teaching hours constitute a regular quarter.