

Assembly

MINUTES

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 58th SESSION

February 6, 1975

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mello at 8:00 A.M. in the Ways and Means Committee room.

PRESENT: Chairman Mello, Mr. Bremner, Mrs. Brookman, Mr. Glover, Mr. Howard, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Weise, Mr. Wittenberg and Mr. Dreyer arrived at 10:00 A.M.

ALSO PRESENT: John Dolan, Bill Bible, Chancellor Neil Humphrey, Dr. Don Baepler, Dr. Max Milam, Dr. Charles Donnelly, Mark Dawson, Bob Laxalt, Ed Pine, Mr. Anderson, Dr. Jack Davis, Pat Beaulieu and John Ward.

Mr. Robinson amended the minutes of February 4, 1975 page 2, paragraph 3, line 4 as follows: "...requested that Mrs. Nash provide a list of committee and the projects which have been locally funded." Motion was then made to approve the minutes of February 4, 1975 as amended by Mr. Robinson. Seconded by Mr. Bremner. Approved as amended. Motion was made to approve the minutes of February 3, 1975 by Mr. Robinson. Seconded by Mr. Bremner. Motion passed.

Dr. Neil Humphrey explained the University of Nevada System - Biennial Budget Request 75-77. He stated that they have a good faculty and they should be treated accordingly. They are requesting a salary plus fringe benefits increase of 12.1%. This would also provide the ability to recruit good faculty. He also stated that the faculty salary increase of 12.1% be retroactive to January if the state employees are granted a 15% salary increase retroactive to January.

Chairman Mello asked what the ratio in the next biennium would be. Mr. Humphrey replied that it is around 20 in each division. 21.1 UNR, 21.2 UNLV, 24.7 Clark County Community College, 20.8 Northern Nevada Community College and 24.7 Western Nevada Community College. If the graduate assistants are included in the faculty, the ratio would be closer to 18 to 1.

Dr. Baepler then explained the General Budget Aspects of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the problems they are faced with. He stated the biggest problems are: growth, inflation, and developing new programs for students. He stated there is a severe need for the salary increase of 12.1% each year of the biennium. He also stated that there is a need for more faculty positions to handle the increase in students. They estimated a 6% increase and they experienced 10%. He stated they needed an increase in staff particularly in nursing.

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Dr. Baepler then explained the Inter-Collegiate Athletic Program. He stated the box office revenues presently pay for operational expenses of the Program. They also wish to extend the women's field of athletics and hire qualified women coaches for this program.

He then explained the New Programs. He stated there have not been many new programs developed. The community is growing and new services have been requested of the university.

He stated there is a need for a Program in Architecture. Students have difficulty applying in other states where the Architectural Schools are state supported. The Architecture program has a demonstrated need by students and the Architectural Field.

Dr. Baepler stated that the Law School does not have the total support of the profession. Nevada is the only state that does not have a law school. Students have difficulty getting into state run law schools in other states and cannot afford the private schools. The highest cost in this program would be the Library. Private subscriptions have been pledged. The program can survive in present surroundings, but will need a building soon.

He then explained that the Continuing Education Program is a self-supporting program and are not asking for an increase. He stated the Museum is being moved into the old gymnasium. It is a first rate museum and serves several

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important functions. It plays a role in the academic process of the university particularly in Geometry, Anthropology and Biology and it serves as a lab for students and faculty. He stated that two positions will be necessary when the move is made.

He stated the purpose of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research is to provide information for public and private entities.

Dr. Max Milam, University of Nevada - Reno, introduced Ed Pine, Vice-President of Business and Pat Beaulieu, School of Mines. He stated that higher education is the most critical problem we have today. He stated that enrollments in the Low Cost programs have decreased and enrollments in the High Cost programs have increased. The cost of instruction is higher in the Medical School, Nursing, the School of Mines, Etc. They are more expensive to operate, but they provide a more immediate pay-off to society and students. Dr. Milam stated that the Master's Program in Nursing and the Master's Program in Speech Pathology have been discontinued because of lack of funds. He also explained that operational funds for Instruction and Departmental Research Operating and Equipment are needed. He feels that the request for this is very conservative. Dr. Milam stated that the University of Reno has been living off capital although it has no capital fund. This can only be done for so long and then it becomes a critical problem.

Dr. Milam stated that the university Buildings and Grounds maintenance must get back to an on-going maintenance program. For this, the Governor has allocated five CETA employees. He also explained that the proposed increase in Custodial Staff will do little more than offset the cost of fuel.

He then explained the Student Services Program. With the nature of society and economy, students need the services this program provides. He also stated that Athletics is a serious problem. He feels the coaches should receive the same salary increase provided for the other professionals.

Dr. Charles Donnelly then explained the Community College Division. He stated there are three community colleges serving the entire State of Nevada. All of them are operating with an open-entry/open-exit philosophy and they do not restrict enrollment. These colleges have four basic types of programs with primary emphasis on occupational education and vocational education. He stated they are not in competition with the universities and feels they are supplementing the university programs. At present, the head count throughout the state is 13,000. They have been able to reduce costs because of an increase in enrollment. They have been able to operate at one-third the cost by careful management and a large part-time faculty. In his opinion, the Federal Funds provided can only be used to supplement and initiate new programs and not be used for new programs. He stated they feel the problems with Buildings and Grounds' Budget is because there are more buildings and because of inflation. He stated they will continue to do the best job they can with whatever funds are available.

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Chancellor Humphrey discussed the requested supplemental appropriation for the Western Nevada Community College library. As a result of larger than anticipated enrollments this biennium, \$100,000 was diverted from library books to operating in 1973-74 and \$60,000 in 1974-75. The Regents, therefore, requested a supplemental of \$160,000 to replace the library books. The Executive Budget recommended \$200,000. Chancellor Humphrey apologized for any confusion over this subject. Chairman Mello then questioned the discrepancy between the recommended library appropriations for the Clark County Community College and Western Nevada Community College. Historically, both have been treated the same and both have requested identical library acquisitions for 1975-77. The Executive recommendation, however, provides \$185,600 and \$191,400 for CCCC and only \$58,800 and \$78,792 for WNCC. Chairman Mello observed that possibly an error existed in WNCC. Mr. Bible acknowledged that the recommendation for WNCC was too low and that the Budget Division would supply the Committee with a revised recommendation for WNCC library book acquisitions.

Mark Dawson explained the Desert Research Institute. He stated that they have reached a stage where they would like to grow and do research they feel is pertinent to the State of Nevada. They have asked for administrative support which would allow them to continue to seek federal grants and contracts in areas in which support is now being funded.

Neil Humphrey stated that the Nursing program is very important to the state and is a very popular and crowded program. He stated that the universities and colleges are dependant upon a good library and books have become much more expensive. Dr. Humphrey stated that the new programs are very important programs.

Mrs. Brookman asked Dr. Baepler how much private money has been raised for the Law library. Dr. Baepler stated that it is difficult to state as a lot of this is on a pledge basis should the law school be built. He stated that a conservative estimate would be \$500,000. Dr. Humphrey stated they are asking for specific consideration on the New Programs and assures that they have no intention to go on with the new programs until they have the approval of the Legislature. He stated the Law School operating costs are not any more expensive than others, once it has been started.

Mr. Robinson stated that the Board of Governors of the State Bar Association are opposed to the law school. He stated he received a letter from them stating that the feasibility study that was done provided a very poor report based on the fact that they felt everyone on the study had pre-conceived ideas. Chairman Mello stated that he would like to see the sub-committee go into these areas and then come back and report. Mr. Robinson felt the committee should be aware that this does exist and they should study the report.

Mr. Glover asked the average number of credits taught by faculty members. Neil Humphrey stated that 266 student credit hours per semester per faculty member are taught.

Mr. Weise asked where the money received from grants, gifts, etc. was. Dr. Humphrey stated that they have two kinds of budgets: Appropriated and authorized expenditures and funds outside of the appropriated and authorized expenditures. He stated that Grants, Gifts, etc. are given for a specific purpose and must be used for that purpose.

Mr. Weise felt that Community Colleges were getting away from the college concept. He read a list of a variety of courses offered to which he disagreed. Dr. Donnelly stated the schedule may be mis-leading. These courses are not university parallel. Mr. Wittenberg stated that these courses are usually taught at night at the Junior High Schools and High Schools and the cost is relatively low. Dr. Donnelly stated that less than 10% are enrolled in these courses and the cost of teaching and the facilities are extremely low or have no cost at all. Mr. Wittenberg stated also that probably less than one-half of the courses offered are really never scheduled because there wasn't an adequate enrollment.

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Mr. Robinson stated that Dr. Milam mentioned career counseling is necessary so that students wouldn't take courses which would not have job availability when they graduate. He felt this could be controlled by withdrawing the courses. He stated another fact that is mentioned in the Board of Governors of the Bar Association report is that the law school would be training far more attorneys than the state could absorb. Mr. Robinson then referred to the Desert Research Institute. He stated this institute's purpose was to study the air, water and land in the State of Nevada. He has a report that three teams are in Antarctica studying ice crystal forms and he does not see what that study has to do with studying the air, water and land in Nevada. He mentioned that the Desert Research Institute is getting 9-1 funding, but those \$9 federal funds are our own dollars and we should be concerned with how they are spent. Dr. Humphrey stated that it looked obvious that the study of ice in Antarctica has nothing to do with Nevada, but if given the proper amount of time he could show how this is related.

Mr. Weise stated that students are enrolling in the universities and loading up with credits and then dropping the classes. He stated he would like to know what kind of instruction and what kind of research we are getting for our dollars. Dr. Humphrey stated that the way it use to be was a student at UNR could take 7 or more credits at no increase in cost and at UNLV a student could take 9 or more credits. But this coming Fall they are going to start per credit hour registration fee and the student would have to pay for the credits taken.

Bob Laxalt, of the University Press, stated they make their contribution by filling holes in the state's history. The sources, mostly people, die

and with them goes a lot of history. He stated their goal is five books a year of good quality and research. He also stated that they are asking for another one-half position. The Business/Production Manager is presently a part-time position and is a very technical field. Mr. Laxalt stated that as of January 1975, they have produced 45 books. He also mentioned the books they publish are scholarly books and do not make much money and that the authors cannot collect royalties until the manufacturing costs are met.

Mr. Laxalt explained that the Basque book series has been started as they are the last known minority. He mentioned that they receive a lot of financial support from fellow Basques. He stated that the authors of these books have attracted National and International attention.

Dr. Davis, Vice-President - Western Nevada Community College, felt that the full-time faculty they have are excellent people. They are evaluated each semester by students and 99% show they have done an excellent job. The students will also make their comments and wishes known on these evaluations and the faculty takes these and performs accordingly. He also stated that the cooperation of the School Districts in the use of their classrooms, etc., has been excellent. Dr. Donnelly stated that they will continue to use these facilities even with funds.

Mr. Anderson explained the System Computing Center. The central computer is located in the Reno campus and they have numerous terminals throughout the state. He stated the Design Academic computer handled 600 computer applications; the Administration computer is 25% dollars and 30% time on payrolls, space investories, etc., and the Research computer handles large amounts of date that can be statistically analyzed. He also stated they plan to increase the terminals.

Chairman Mello made the sub-committee assignments:

University of Nevada System - Chairman Mello, Mr. Dreyer,
Mr. Robinson and Mr. Howard.

Education - Mr. Wittenberg, Mr. Bremner and Mr. Weise.

Salary and Benefits - Mr. Wittenberg, Mr. Glover and
Mr. Howard.

Human Resources - Mr. Glover, Mrs. Brookman and Mr. Weise.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.