

MINUTES  
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

July 6, 1984

Present: Erik Ahlgren, Cathy Birk, Mark Brenner, Shirley Clark, Phyllis Freier, Richard Goldstein, Marilyn Gorlin, Linda Hanson, Vice President Keller, Gerry Klement, Doug Melby, Jack Merwin, Irwin Rubenstein (Chairman), David Shope, Deon Stuthman, John Sullivan, Burt Sundquist.

This was a joint meeting with the Senate Consultative Committee

Vice President Keller discussed the annual O&M and State Special request for 1985-87.

The working figures showed a first year increase of \$80 million and for the second year an increase of \$90 million for a total increase of \$170 million sought over the biennium. (See end of these minutes for reductions already tentatively arrived at as of this date.) The figure does not include additional Civil Service salaries which will be about \$15 million, and several other unknown items.

The major item is the faculty salary increase for approximately \$43 million. The average faculty increase for '85-'86 would be 7%, if appropriated. There is an assumed 5% inflation factor included in the faculty salary amount which is not included in other items.

Forty percent of the budget increase is essentially nondiscretionary. A 15% increase is for faculty salaries and a 15-20% increase is for the total budget. General Supplies & Expenses is not on this schedule because it will be shown as a separate item.

Deon Stuthman asked whether dollar amounts on an item could be reduced rather than eliminating the item completely. Vice President Keller stated that such changes could be made and that the Budget Executive is also looking at possible submersions or combinations of similar items.

Some of the items shown on the list have already been deleted by the Budget Executive. The reasoning is that until we can show that we are doing work in an area it is premature to request money from the Legislature. For now such areas need demonstrated support from private foundations. These items include the following: Center for Biomedical Ethics, Institute for Contemporary Design, and St. Anthony Falls Hydraulics Lab.

Vice President Keller briefly discussed each item and explained how the amounts would be used.

Mark Brenner asked why there was a distinction between Research Assistants and Teaching Assistants. Vice President Keller stated that the state supports Teaching Assistants whereas federal grants generally support Research Assistants. However, anyone holding an assistantship would have a tuition waiver. Phyllis Freier then asked about the students that are not RA's or TA's. Vice President Keller responded that the increase in the indirect cost recovery rate that we are considering (to cover tuition) would free some of the tuition scholarship money to be used to support students not appointed as graduate assistants.

Vice President Keller said that the graduate tuition is now stable. The average increase is not to be greater than 5½%. The subject will be brought up at the next Regents' meeting.

There was also considerable discussion on the request for Women's Intercollegiate Athletics. WICA expenses are not a clearly fixed percentage compared to Men's Intercollegiate Athletics. WICA funding has to become "equivalent" to that of MICA. As the men's programs get more successful in producing revenues the women's funding must increase. Currently on the Twin Cities campus \$600,000 goes from the MICA budget to the WICA budget. There was also discussion on the amounts needed at the other campuses.

The Minnesota Employees Right to Know Act (MERTKA) was discussed next. Vice President Keller said that this money will go to some central unit. The Act states that every employee has the right to know what they are working with that is hazardous, what it contains, and what the dangers are. The program is being handled by Don Vesley.

Vice President Keller pointed out that the President has made a decision that the University would give emphasis to Agriculture in the next year. The specific request is currently under discussion.

Decisions have not been made on the whole list at this time. Some things will be grouped together and big items will be preferred. The total for the 1985-87 biennium has now been brought below \$130 million. This will be brought to the Regents next week for information.

Final Regential action on the Capital Request will be in August and on the O&M Request in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 and another meeting was scheduled for July 13 at 3:00 p.m.

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Meeting of July 13, 1984

No specific notes were recorded for this meeting. Also, no attendance was recorded. This meeting was the second in a series of four. Emphasis was on reducing and combining the State Specials request items.