

Faculty Senate Minutes  
March 23, 2011

Doug Steele – VP report on state legislature

60 first term legislators

Personal assessment

House appropriation – straight party line

Any bill with additional expenditure will be voted down

Higher Education is not being singled out in cuts – equal across the board

Potential unfunded liability \$40 million

Business \$20 million

Underfunded Medicaid-medicare \$40 million

Bill – overhaul K-12

April 21<sup>st</sup> closes

HB 2 – majority of funding comes from this

put \$15 million back in – replace stimulus money

\$8 million adjustments – fee waivers

Down \$32 million, have to establish priorities supporting tribal colleges

PBS satellite uplink – losing

\$400 K biodiesel research – benefits a single place

Both amendments failed

BOR – not very willing to ↑ tuition

\$1 million loss = 1%↑ in tuition

HB 5 – MSU has no long range building funding

HB 439

Bonded bil - \$90 million museum – not (gov)

Favors bonded indebtedness

New \$26 m state fund - \$90 or \$100 million total

\$12 million - MSU Billings – new science building

\$4 m Added COT-Great Falls

\$7.9 million – MSU-Northern

\$3 million UM Western

Veterans Home, Butte

Up now to \$97 million

\$1 million – 7 ag buildings

\$7.5 million new diagnostic lab – vet

20 year bonded indebtedness – more infrastructure – more jobs

2 amendments

HB 13

Pay plan – voted down pay plan  
1% to 3% pay raise not going through  
Could be waiting for next state revenue projection  
May forego pay increase – for an increase in the benefit pool  
SB8 – post tenure review – joint resolution 48-2 vote  
Remove sabbaticals suggested

State funding levels for Higher Education

Montana provides 40% of higher ed costs

Colorado 8%

Nevada 15%

But Colorado pays \$8,500/student

Montana pays \$4,000/student