

HB-206



Alaska State Legislature

House

JUNEAU ALASKA

HESS COMMITTEE MEETING

3-28-75

Members Present:

Beirne Sullivan
Davis Swanson
Hackney
Ose
Ostrosky

Chairman Sullivan called the meeting to order at 3:00.

HB 202, HB 206

Rep. Naughton gave briefing of the bills. They deal with the Board of Regents and the term of office. General these two bills are the same, one being introduced by Rep. Gardiner. Reasoning behind the bill is to provide a wider district of representation on the Board. The U of A is experiencing a surge of interest in growth throughout the State. This is to insure that because of this growth, two more members will be added.

Hackney What would be the rationale behind holding a Regent to two terms?

Naughton There is such keen interest throughout the geographical sections and within these segments throughout the State.

Ostrosky I see this as a healthy change of turnover on the Board.

Naughton The present term is 8 years and then may be reappointed.

Ose How many do we have now?

Naughton We have 8 eight year term members and 1 2 year student member.

Charles Ferguson - U of A Regional

Ose I am concerned with the large representation being from Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau, no other geographical areas are represented.

Hackney What is the longest time that anyone has spent on the Board?

Ferguson Region Oneill was on 20 some years, I really couldn't give you that exact answer, I am not sure. We feel that it takes by the end of a four year term to know enough about the University. Under this bill a regent would just be getting familiar with all the problems and his term would be up.

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Ferguson From our standpoint this is an extremely complex statewide institution.

Nels Anderson Read a letter he sent to Governor Hammond per Board of Regents. Asked Governor to reconsider the list of appointments and include more geographical areas. I think we should get new blood into the system. And one question is what do we do when a Regent has a poor attendance record? This board should be made up of members throughout the state and should reflect the composition of the entire state, racial lines and geographical lines.

Ferguson I agree with you Mr. Anderson. My point was that it takes whoever is appointed several years to understand the process and workings of the U of A. Would like to remind you that it is a single statewide system. Should be representing the U of A without political undertones. If we have added a student to the Board, then why not add a faculty member also? This provides all kinds of problems.

Gardiner I disagree with the 8 year term because of the complexity of the U of A system. I don't see how this could possibly be any more complex than the Finance Committee of the Legislature and there is no 8 year term here. They are simply for two years.

Regent

Abel I would ask that you bring this bill up again at a later date in order to give other Regents a chance to speak on this bill. I have only been on the Board a few months and am not yet qualified to speak for all.

Naughton I would like to see a four year term. This is the common practise in a number of other states. My bill asks for a five year term because I couldn't see them going for the four year term from the 8 year.

Beirne Things have changed so much in the last six years. I had the feeling then that this was a prestigious job. Personally feel 8 years is too long. It should be a good hard working Board knowing what they're getting into etc. I believe a five year term is sufficient.

Ose Do they have any orientation to let you know what you'll be doing?

Regent Abel Not as such. I knew quite a bit about it because I am a graduate of the U of A.

Ferguson There are four regular meetings a year with special meetings occurring throughout the year.

Beirne Asked Mr. Naughton if he would consider a 6 year term. He replied that he and Gardiner would have to agree to the 5 year term.

Ferguson I would like to ask that the Regents be brought down to testify to the Judiciary Committee.

Ostrosky I move HB 202 out of the Committee

Swanson I ask unanimous consent with a 'do pass' recommendation.

Chairman Sullivan Without objection, so ordered.

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CSSB 59

Chairman Sullivan The major difference between this bill and HB 97 is that the Judge may decide to release the name.

Beirne This is very different than the last bill and makes it almost innocuous. Ose's bill made the releasing of names mandatory and this leaves the protection up to the discretion of the Judge.

Chairman Sullivan Do I have a motion on this bill?

Ostrosky I move we pass this bill out with individual recommendations.

Chairman Sullivan So ordered.