IN THIS ISSUE: JANUARY, 1988

INTERCOM
A Message from RMAIR's President.

It is a delight to greet you in the first issue of PANORAMA! At RMAIR '87 (Flagstaff), the following occurred that will affect the future of the organization:

#Approval of a formal organization for RMAIR, with elected and appointed officers. Elected executive officers are: President and Vice President. Appointed officers are Secretary; Newsletter Coordinator, Editor, and Publisher; and Local Arrangements Chair.

#Approval of By-Laws for the organization. (See enclosure.)

#Creation of an RMAIR Newsletter--PANORAMA--as suggested at the AIR Forum RMAIR 'SIG' meeting last May by Mark Meredith, under whose direction a small group laid the groundwork for the newsletter, so the process was in motion and able to roll forward. We all extend thanks to Mark for his idea of having a newsletter, and his perseverance in organizing PANORAMA.

#Consensus that the next RMAIR Conference will be held in Aspen, Colorado, on Sept. 21-23, 1988, under the direction of Mark Meredith as Local Arrangements Chair. The 1989 Conference will be in either Montana or Las Vegas, Nevada, with Saskatchewan as a possible 1990 site.

I hope that 1988 will be a great year for you professionally and personally. If you have any suggestions that should be considered, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks for your association over the years.

----------- Rich Jacobs (RICH@USU)

AIRGRAM... from the AIR President

I am pleased to see that RMAIR is beginning PANORAMA --- a newsletter for members. Regional groups such as RMAIR are central to the health and vitality of AIR. By serving regional interests, focusing on specific problems and facilitating communication, RMAIR contributes to its own and AIR's mission.
ning; data administration; assessing minority student recruitment goals; LAN experiences; data base design; the effect of scheduling and inventory systems on space use; administrative and faculty evaluations; a survey of basic IR definitions; and postsecondary plans of high school seniors.

Evaluations of RMAIR '87 showed high marks for the location, overall planning, Wednesday social, and keeping the group together for all sessions. Presentations were rated above average. The bottom line clearly appeared to be that a productive conference was enjoyed by all.

--- Steve Chambers

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1988 FORUM IN PHOENIX

The 1988 AIR Forum will be held in Phoenix, May 15-18, at the luxurious 24 story Hyatt-Regency Phoenix. The theme is "Promoting Quality through Leadership" and focuses on understanding, promoting, and measuring quality education through effective management and leadership. In addition to general and contributed paper sessions, the Forum program will include pre-Forum PDO's (professional development opportunities), Forum workshops, practical demonstrations, table topics, and special interest groups.

The Forum Local Arrangements Committee has put together some special events and tours that you won't want to miss either. Tour opportunities include (among others) a pre-Forum trip to Sedona (beautiful red rock formations) and Montezuma's castle (famous Indian ruins) and a post-Forum trip to the Grand Canyon. The Forum Banquet will be an outdoor desert cookout in the foothills of the McDowell mountains. See your 1988 AIR Forum program book which will be mailed in mid-February for more details.

--- Sarah Lindquist
(AQAAAA@ASUACAD)

RMAIR '88 IN ASPEN!

The 1988 RMAIR Conference is scheduled for September 21-23 in Aspen, Colorado. Mark your calendar now! Chairperson for the conference is Mark Meredith, University of Colorado at Boulder, who is already making arrangements to insure that RMAIR '88 will provide the kind of professional content, collegial interchange, and scenic delight to meet your needs and expectations. Watch for details in subsequent issues of PANORAMA.

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SCUP '88 IN TORONTO

SCUP 23 -- The national conference of the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) will be held this year in Toronto, Ontario on July 31 - August 3, 1988, at the Sheraton Centre Hotel. The conference theme is "Planning in a Global Context."

Architect and planner David Paul Helpern has completed a study of the condition of American college and university physical plants. The study was sponsored by SCUP and describes the current dilemma facing countless institutions with deteriorating physical facilities. Copies of the report, "The State of College and University Facilities," may be obtained at a cost of $5 each from: SCUP Headquarters, 2026 M School of Education Building, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48109.

--- Richard L. Harpel

FACTS ... ABOUT RMAIR.

In the RMAIR area there are over 300 combined members of RMAIR, AIR, and/or SCUP from eight states and two provinces—Alberta, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Saskatchewan, Utah, and Wyoming. This area comprises 23 percent of the continental U.S. and Canadian land mass; about 5 percent of the population; and 5.5% of higher education enrollments in 4.5% of the institutions. Extending over 2,000 miles north-south (from the 32nd to 60th parallels) and 700 miles east-west, this area hosts a panorama of terrains and climates. A comparable stretch, say, in Europe, would run from Oslo, Norway, to Casablanca, Morocco!

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MEMBERSHIP

RMAIR is an affiliate of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR). If you are not a member of AIR, you may want to consider joining. It is cost effective for your institution and professionally rewarding.

Since its inception in 1965, AIR has been dedicated to development of decision and policy information by qualified professionals. AIR provides an organization where viewpoints, concerns, and differences are examined in an atmos-

phere of learning and professional development.

Benefits of AIR are that important professional interchange is fostered through:

The Annual AIR Forum—a major conference offering professional development opportunities, workshops, keynote speakers, contributed papers, panels, and seminars.

Dissemination of selected Forum papers—through AIR publications, a special issue of Research in Higher Education, and the ERIC system.

Other publications—including a monograph series (New Directions for Institutional Research), the AIR Newsletter, and AIR Professional File, all quarterly, and the membership directory.

Encouragement of regional and special interest groups.

A modest placement service.

For further information contact: Administrative Director, AIR, 314 Stone Bldg., Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306. (904-644-4470)

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ORGANIZATIONS

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The Higher Education Program of the Education Commission of the States.

Created in 1965, ECS is an interstate compact, funded annually by nearly all the states, that helps state leaders improve the quality of education. ECS conducts policy research, surveys, and special studies; maintains an information clearinghouse; organizes state, regional, and national forums; provides technical assistance to states; and fosters nationwide leadership and cooperation in education. Frank Newman is President of ECS.

Higher education is one of the areas in which ECS devotes effort. Headed by Aims McGuinness, Jr., the Higher Education program currently focuses on future financing of higher education; building successful state/university relationships; improving undergraduate education; full participation of minorities; building collegiate public service programs; and adult literacy efforts. Information on studies, programs, and publications is available from Chris Pipho, Director of the ECS Information Clearinghouse.
A recently published ECS book, Choosing Quality: Reducing Conflict Between the State and the University, by Tank Newman, describes the difficulties and details how states and universities can build a relationship that is constructive for both. For example, the state must believe in and insist on a university of quality; establish appropriate public policy not only to ensure accountability but also to create a climate that nurtures aspiration; and must avoid bureaucratic, political, and ideological intrusion into the university.

The university must strive for quality; avoid end runs of the governance process and ambitions that run counter to mission; address appropriate state needs in a timely manner; and ensure freedom of discussion on campus.

Ingredients most necessary for successful, constructive state/university relationships are aspiration, tradition, and leadership. The book offers specific steps that a university and the state must follow to move toward quality higher education.

(Nota: This summary was prepared from ECS materials including the 1986-87 Annual Report and Fall, 1987 issue of the State Education Leader. ECS is located at 1860 Lincoln Street, Suite 300, Denver, CO 80205.)

--- Mark Meredith

ELECTRONIC MAIL & CONFERENCING

The AIR Forum 'Table Topic' on electronic mail attracted an overflow crowd of curious novices and experienced users. The result was an effective exchange of information on what's new and interesting, what seems to be working well, and who to contact for more information on the many systems mentioned. John Muffo, AIR secretary, described BITNET and the AIR BITNET DIRECTORY of AIR members. John (IRMMUFFO@VTV1M1) distributes an electronic newsletter to institutional researchers who send him their BITNET IDs. The directory is a handy reference for sending electronic mail to colleagues around the country and indeed, as Paul Bonde pointed out, to colleagues in Canada, Europe and around the world.

The group discussed electronic conferencing—an interesting variation on e-mail. Conferencing permits a group to "meet" electronically, since it is many-to-many communication whereas e-mail is one-to-one person or one-to-many communication. A person using a conferencing system can set up a conference and admit those other members he/she chooses. Each member reads the entries—comments, questions—that others have entered into the conference topic and can add their own contribution to the evolving discussion. Everyone sees what has been entered and each person can participate in the conference when convenient. One of the conferencing systems described was CoSy developed at the University of Guelph and widely used in Canada.

--- Bernie Sheehan

THE VANTAGE VIEWPOINT (TM)

I am often asked, "Do you have any tips on buying PC Software? How do you know what's worth the money and what's not? Should I pay full retail or buy through mail order firms?" As a software user/developer here are my decision rules.

If it appears to solve a problem OR improve performance AND:

1. IF it costs less than $50, BUY it mail-order without further study.

Example: For $40 I just purchased The Typewriter which lets me use my letter quality printer as a character or line-at-a-time typewriter useful for typing multipart forms and envelopes. It paid for itself in less than one day's use even though it isn't "perfect" in design. I could write my own version in C but it isn't cost/effective when I can buy it for $40.

2. IF it costs between $50 and $200 FIND Reviews in PC magazines; IF FAVORABLE CONSENSUS, BUY via mail-order.

Example: Borland's Turbo C and Quattro cost just $67 and $131 including shipping/handing from PC-Connection, the best and my favorite mail-order firm (1-800/243-8088). Both the software and the firm get rave reviews.

3. IF it costs $200 - $700 FIND Reviews AND check electronic bulletin boards (such as Compuserve and The Source) AND talk with local "hackers".

Example: On my consideration list now is Microsoft's EXCEL. Clearly, it is superior to Lotus 1-2-3 version 1A/2. n. However, it costs $311 from my source, requires an 80286/80386 CPU (preferably the latter), and needs lots of extended/expanded memory. Then, there is the learning and conversion time. I will eventually buy it but not until I replace my current hardware.

4. IF it costs over $700, FOLLOW decision rule 3 steps, AND, IF FAVORABLE, BUY IT RETAIL and insist that the retailer install it AND provide a minimum of 2 hours of tutorial time teaching you how to use it.

Example: I just installed Novell 286 Netware (version 2). The manuals are an impediment to installation and learning, and what they don't (but should) tell you is now under consideration for my next book!

The rules I follow are based on a fair and complete valuation of my time and effort, and experience with retail and mail-order software vendors. I have not yet found the retailer that knows the software as well as the developers. This is not surprising, but in following my cost/benefit rule a long distance phone call to technical support has the retailer beat "hands down."

In the last analysis, how much are you willing to spend in time and money and what will you gain? And if you've got other/better/different decision rules I would love to hear from you!

--- Bill Tetlow

(WLTETLOW@COLORADO)

IN PRINT...Book Review


This book is intended as a comprehensive and up-to-date look at successful retention principles and practices. It contains recommendations for campus representatives who have an impact on the student experience. The book offers:

- a concise overview of what is currently known about student attrition and retention.
- a theoretical basis for understanding how various factors relate to student persistence.
- results of research and practices in improving retention among high-risk student populations.
- institutional interventions in specific areas of campus life.
specific ways to bring about change, including suggestions for engendering institutional support for retention efforts.

thirteen case studies of innovative and successful retention programs.

In this book, the broad-based concept of "service to the student" provides a single, overriding criterion against which the entire range of programs and services for students can be developed and evaluated. The authors advocate an integrated, campus-wide approach to achieving retention. Understandably, the authors caution that particular retention strategies cannot be transferred wholesale from one campus to another with any degree of success. "Increasing Student Retention" is most appropriately used as an idea generator, a conceptual framework, and above all a starting point.


-----JeanEndo

(JENDO@COLORADO)

FOCUS ON............

CONSIDERATIONS GUIDING THE SELECTION OF STUDENT OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS

Many in higher education today are interested in initiating a program of student outcomes assessment at their institutions. In starting such a program, the following types of questions are typically raised: How do we go about conducting student outcomes research? Where can we obtain useful information on how to proceed?

A growing body of literature devoted to the subject of student outcomes research, and a variety of resource centers, offer a wealth of information (theoretical and practical, broad overview and step-by-step description). A listing of several leading resource centers and a selective bibliography of more current articles on outcomes assessment were provided at the October Flagstaff RMAIR conference.

Literature in the area suggests the following considerations which should guide the development of assessment programs.

What is meant by student outcomes? - defined as: "any change or consequence occurring as a result of enrollment in a particular educational institution and involvement in its programs" (Ewell) - dimensions: short- or long-term; direct-indirect; intended-unintended; occurring while student is in school or after leaving school; cognitive, affective, or behavioral - includes: grades and degrees; attrition-retention rates; program utilization and completion; measures of success of graduates in future employment and education; contributions to the community; economic impact; measures of general and specialized knowledge, basic and higher order skills; measures of changes in attitudes/values.

Why are outcomes measured? - typical reasons: improve teaching and student learning; revise curriculum; chart individual student development; program evaluation; accountability; demonstrate student competency (including pass/no pass); mandated reporting requirement; public relations, marketing and recruitment; use in planning.

How are outcomes measured? - depends upon: goals & purpose of outcomes research; which outcomes are to be measured; intended level of analysis (individual student, program/department, institution, state system, cohort group); types of comparisons needed (over time, to different units within institution, to other (including peer) institutions, to national norms) - by means of standardized instruments (e.g., ACT, NCHEMS, ETS, College Board products); institutionally or professionally developed instruments (measures of general or specialized learning, basic or higher order skills, opinions, personality development, attitudes, values....); best approach uses multiple, multiple measurement criteria.

--- Patricia A. Burris-Woodall

TECHNIQUES............

TIPS ON DEVELOPING A SPACE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A number of useful findings emerged from a project to develop and implement a space planning system for Saskatchewan's technical institutes. The study involved site visits to nine institutions and a literature and document analysis using 28 organizations in the U.S. and Canada. The main objective was to create a coordinated approach to space management and planning.

STATE YOUR PURPOSES. Major purposes of a space planning model are usually to justify new construction; provide a vehicle for effectively managing existing space resources; and show the need for new space.

DEVELOP YOUR OWN SYSTEM. Recognize that there are problems inherent in adopting wholesale a space planning system developed elsewhere. It may warrant developing your own. (You might be able to, of course, use portions of the ground work from other systems.) Each institution is unique, with varying policies that could impact the development of a planning model. The space classification (categories) must be set prior to any development of space standards. When using standards from other jurisdictions, be sure to identify the differences in space categories to avoid erroneous applications or understanding of the standards.

STATE YOUR ASSUMPTIONS UPFRONT. For instance, that a common set of standards will suffice for the campuses or institutions encompassed in your study; that a formula-based space entitlement system is feasible; or that the scope of your proposed system will meet all objectives of space utilization, accountability, and future planning.

ANTICIPATE AND TACKLE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. While you will find few problems in the space classification area, be prepared to deal with standards and conversion factors (they are far from universal); with input measures--the "drivers" of your space needs--where the problem is to select measures that are easy to collect and report but do not sacrifice much of the reliability of indicators (the study used FTE students, staff and faculty, lab contact hours, and library volumes, etc.); and classroom and lab utilization measures, wherein room use and seat occupancy sometimes involve trade-offs.

OBTAIN ACCEPTANCE ON ALL PARTS OF THE SPACE PLANNING SYSTEM FROM STAKEHOLDERS. This includes definitions for the space classifications; reflection of institutional policies in the standards, input measures, and utilization rates; and establishment of the classification scheme and input measure criterion prior to development of space standards. This is an iterative process, therefore allow enough development time for each activity.

FOLLOW IMPLEMENTATION WITH MONITORING. The utility of the space planning system can be assessed only after its use over a period of time. Space standards, input measures, and
utilization rates should be reviewed frequently to assure that they are still relevant. All participants should be involved in evaluation, and at designated intervals comprehensive evaluation must take place. As suggested earlier, a change in policy could affect a space standard.

---------- Jack Billinton

TOPOCS OF INTEREST

Preliminary assessment of RMAIR "professional development needs" was conducted at RMAIR '87 in Flagstaff, using a survey instrument developed by Jean Endo, University of Colorado at Boulder. The instrument is being incorporated into an assessment by the AIR Professional Development Board. Its purpose is to identify topical and technical areas of interest that might be served by AIR.

With 46 attendees responding, here are the top ten "topical areas" in order of assessed importance. (Percentages of respondents indicating "very important" and "important" are shown in parentheses.)

- Student retention. (63/35%)
- Enrollment projections. (54/35%)
- Educ./student outcomes. (46/48%)
- Budgeting and finance. (46/28%)
- Faculty load/productivity. (41/48%)
- Resource allocation. (41/41%)
- Faculty salary. (41/35%)
- Student assessment. (35/46%)
- Academic program review. (30/50%)
- Tuition and pricing. (28/43%)

The top "methodological/technical areas" are as follows.

- Using microcomputers and related hardware. (70/15%)
- Knowing availability/use of software pkgs. (59/30%)
- Using statistical methods in IR setting. (48/37%)
- Applying strategic planning techniques. (46/39%)
- Developing decision support models. (35/50%)
- Conducting longitudinal tracking studies. (35/43%)
- Conducting needs assessment studies. (24/46%)
- Conducting mail, phone, focus group studies. (22/57%)

Identifying these areas of interest will be useful in selecting Panorama content and in setting the theme and arranging topics for RMAIR '88.

Thanks, Jean!

---------- Mark Meredith

ACADEMIC PREPARATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES

At the 1987 AIR Forum, Frank Pluckner and Dennis Vichland presented a paper which identified higher education programs that offer an area of concentration or core course in institutional research. This article summarizes results for the Rocky Mountain states.

Nationally nine higher education programs offer an institutional research area of concentration (i.e., major/minor). In the Rocky Mountain region only the Department of Higher and Adult Education at Arizona State University offers a concentration in institutional research (the formal title is Policy Studies). However, it should be noted that other programs in the region may allow a graduate student to specialize in IR within a concentration such as administration.

Institutional research core courses are offered at seventeen programs nationally, three in the Rocky Mountain states. Arizona State University and Montana State University both offer courses entitled "Institutional Research" and the University of Arizona offers "Institutional Research and Planning." Additional information can be obtained by writing to the higher education department, College of Education, at each institution.

---------- Dennis W. Vichland

NEWS FROM THE STATES AND PROVINCES

ALBERTA......Reported by Ron DeCuyper(62184@UCDASVM1)

Fall 1987 Enrollment:

Red Deer College (two year) enrollment increased 4% over last year, due mostly to off-campus or out-reach programs, which spread from the Northwest Territories and Yukon to Calgary and right across the province.

At Keyano College (two year) in Fort McMurray, full-time credit enrollment is up 6%, with even larger increases in non-credit enrollments.

Institutional Happenings:

Red Deer is examining the possibility of adding the 3rd and 4th years to its University Transfer Programs, and is planning a program in Hospitality and Tourism for Fall 88. The Red Deer College Strategic Plan envisions that the College will continue to be comprehensive; focus its energies in meeting needs of adults in the Central Alberta Region; adjust program mix, methods of delivery and services, as necessary; encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in cooperative programming, fundraising, and cooperation with business and industry; and sustain strong commitments to students and to high quality education.

At Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), the Chemical Technologies Department has introduced a one-year post diploma certificate in Biotechnology, developed with input from Alberta biotechnology companies; Communication Arts is launching a comprehensive two-year program in Professional Motion Picture Production in March, 1988, designed for people with film experience and taught by working professionals from across Canada; and the Entrepreneurial Skills Training Centre is running its fourth 15-week training program beginning in February.

Events at Keyano College include: June 87 brief for the Alberta Equity Study of operating grants among post-secondary institutions; August 87 opening of the Centre for Entrepreneurship; expansion of program offerings at the Fort Chipewyan Campus; current revisions of the 1987 Keyano College Five Year Plan; and first anniversary (Sept 87) for the Office of Research and Planning.

At the University of Alberta, the departmental review of Institutional Research and Planning, completed in early 1987, involved three steps: prepara
tion of a self study report, meeting with an external review committee, and responding to their comments and evaluations. The review was positive, and the serious introspection and frequent discussions were of great value. As a result of budgetary problems, the office was downsized in July and merged with the Office of Budget Planning, to form the new Office of Budget and Statistics under the direction of Mr. R. N. Spilseted, who will be retiring in December of this year. The new Director will be Mr. P. Watts. Former Director, E. A. Holdaway, returned to his duties as a Professor in Educational Administration.

ARIZONA ....Reported by Art Ashton

Fall 1987 Enrollment:
The Arizona University System had a 12% increase in FTE enrollments. A change in the definition of enrollments accounted for 8.8% of the increase.

Other Topics:
University admission requirements for non-residents now require freshmen to have a 3.0 GPA, rank in the top 25% of their graduating class, and score 23 on the ACT or 1010 on the SAT exams. Students not meeting these requirements may be admitted upon special review.

The Board of Regents approved a typology of new instructional units which includes sites, centers, branch campuses, and free-standing universities. Two new centers were approved; one in Yuma and another in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

A Telecommunications Cooperative for education was organized. Its first tasks are to inventory current and anticipated telecommunications activities, identify goals, and propose a committee structure for the Cooperative.

The Board of Regents approved a registration fee setting plan which will allow fees to increase one-half percent of the average cost of education for resident students for each of the next 5 years. The corresponding increase for non-residents

COLORADO
...Reported by Mark Meredith (MEREDITH@COLORADO)

Fall Enrollment:
87-88 public higher education enrollments are up! 4.4% on overall headcount and 2.1% in projected FTE (+2.1% in-state and +6.9% out-of-state), according to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE).

Other Topics:
Colorado's economy has begun a recovery, according to the "Economic Outlook for Colorado--1988" prepared by UC Boulder's College of Business. The forecast calls for growth in per capita personal income to match the national rate, and growth in the labor force by 5,000.

CCHE is recommending a 14% increase in next year's (88-89) state appropriations for higher education, based on a "funding determination process" authorized by state law, using comparisons with peer institutions.

CCHE's Executive Director, Blenda Wilson, will become Chancellor at the University of Michigan's Dearborn Campus in July. A search for her replacement is underway.

US West selected the University of Colorado at Boulder as the site for its new $20 million research center. This will be the first facility at the new UCB Research Park. Scheduled for 1990 completion, the Center will initially employ 450. US West research will have links with UCB's Engineering, Computer Science, and other departments.

UC Boulder's new Director of Institutional Research is Bernard Yancey, formerly Coordinator of Research in the Office of Graduate Studies at the University of Texas, Austin.

Jim Buysse, Vice President for Planning at Colorado Mountain College, reports that CMC is now engaged more

Gini Feagler at Colorado State University, former Director of Institutional Analysis in the Office of Budget and Planning, is now Assistant to the Dean for Planning and Budget in the College of Applied Human Science (102 Gifford Bldg., samzip code).

The new Director of Institutional Research at Community College of Denver is Tim Griffin. Former director David Tom is now working in California.

Bill Tetlow has been appointed Resident Consultant of the University of Colorado at Boulder DISC Center (Demonstrations and Information on Small Computers) for faculty and staff, which will open in February.

Dennis Jones reports that NCHEMS is about to publish a monograph on the "outcomes part of accreditation" and is in the pilot-testing phase of a student-tracking system in community colleges.

Julie Rudy reports that the December CAUSE conference in Tarpon Springs, FL, had an all-time high attendance (780). CAUSE established a new "constituent group" on Data Administration to address institutional data policy, interpretation, and use. (AIR has formed a comparable group.) CAUSE has started a new Professional Paper series, the first of which is scheduled for February publication.

IDAHO ....Reported by John Grahl & Ron Hagerman (ISUMI@IDUII)

Fall 1987 Enrollment:
Headcount enrollment in public higher education is up 5.0%. If private institutions submitting IPEDS reports are included, total state enrollment is up 5.9%. Other breakdowns: total 4-year and university up 4.8%; total junior college up 5.9%; total public academic higher ed. up 5.3%; total public vo-tech education up 2.3%.

Ricks College, the LDS 2-year college in Rexburg, had a 6.4% increase and is approaching its capacity (7,500). Projected enrollments for fall, 1988 are over the limit and restrictions are being discussed for the first time in the school's history.

Other Topics:
At Idaho State University, new Pharm.D. and Ph.D. degrees in Pharmacy at Idaho State University have been approved by the state board, with enrollments beginning Fall, 1988. The Office of Management Information has been par-
participating in the design of a new payroll/personnel data system, and hopes to see this influence in the final product, due late next year.

A new cooperative graduate engineering program between Boise State University and University of Idaho has been approved by the state board. Upper division and graduate engineering courses are being offered in Boise this spring semester for the first time ever.

The State has a new articulation agreement which permits fuller transfer of community college credits to 4-year schools. The state board has appointed a committee to recommend policy on assessment of student outcomes. This may provide considerable work for institutional research offices in the state in future years.

The University of Idaho has announced a centennial fund-raising goal of $43 million.

MONTANA ...reported by Jim Olomon

Fall 1987 Enrollment:
Headcount is down 3.62% at the system level, and increased 7.49% at the community college level. Fall FTE is down 3% for the system and down 1.04% for community colleges.

Other Topics:
A joint cost and productivity study is underway--with Office of Commissioner of Higher Education, legislative Analysts, Governor's Office and the individual units--comparing units of the Montana University System with their respective peers. Peer group determinations still are under discussion.

By mid-January UM and Systems and Computer Technology (SCT) should have signed a contract for SCT's new student records system.

All salaries in the State were frozen for this current fiscal year as well as next fiscal year by the 1987 legislature.

J.A. Parker retired September 30, 1987 from UM. He had served as Director of Physical Facilities.

NEVADA ...Reported by Janice Brown

Fall 1987 Enrollment:
Systemwide, headcount is up 6.4%. 51% of university students and 90% of community college students are now part-time.

University of Nevada-Reno headcount increased 3.5%. University of Nevada-Las Vegas had an 8.1% headcount increase.

Other Topics:
Karen Steinberg, UN System Office, has been appointed to the 1987-88 SHEEO/CES Communication Network Advisory Committee, which will be focusing on data issues such as higher education cost containment, Vocational education statistics and minority enrollment and retention statistics.

Kari Coburn and Diane Muntal, UNLV, just completed a facility data base containing up-to-date biographical information--consolidating records from several sources and using RBASES software.

UNR is involved in a 10-year accreditation self-study. Janice Brown has completed an analysis of fiscal support in instructional budgets especially in relation to staffing and operating funds and the effect of inflation since 1977. Jim Rimpau and Jan have also completed a study of the potential effect on enrollments of raising academic admission standards. The faculty salary equity study is now being done on a regular, systematic basis.

NEW MEXICO ...Reported by Dick Cadby (TFIELD@UNMB)

Fall 1987 Enrollment:
Enrollment overall remained quite steady and rose substantially at New Mexico State University. The "baby bust" has been passed and was only -16% in New Mexico. The two-year sector remains under-developed though Santa Fe CC is doing well and building a new plant. Albuquerque T-VI now has two-year degree granting authority and should contribute to improvement of the relatively low rates of participation in the two-year sector in New Mexico.

Other Topics:
Neither the governor nor the legislature appear inclined to raise taxes. Therefore, not much funding beyond covering the rate of inflation is expected. A small "quality enhancement program" of categorical grants and a state-level coop program will be proposed. Additional pay and reduced instructional workloads for graduate faculty in the life and physical sciences, engineering, and mathematics are proposed.

Once again, political figures are proclaiming that the obsolete funding for-
mula will "definitely" be redesigned--in 1988.

Tuition remains without an economical rationale, is incrementally rising but is still relatively low.

New Mexico Highlands University has completed a significant reduction in academic programs.

Remediation in the four-year sector is on the decline.

A reinvigorated Commission on Higher Education is preparing a new long-range plan.

A statewide articulation conference made some progress.

A joint, televised graduate program in production engineering between NMSU and UNM is underway. Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) at UNM is growing.

Stirrings are underway under-graduate student assessment at several institutions.

Action on the university-industry-government labs connection to stimulate economic development are occurring everywhere.

Much concern has been expressed about the shift in racial-ethnic mix in the schools and implications for enrollment and success in college and universities.

A permanent arrangement for oversight of higher education in the legislature, complete with adequate staff, is not in the offering.

Low rates of compensation for faculty and staff remain a high priority for all institutions. Relief is not in sight.

SASKATCHEWAN ...Reported by Jack Billinton (BILLINTON@SASK)

Fall 1987 Enrollment:
At the University of Saskatchewan, for the first time, the College of Arts and Science imposed a quota on new admissions which, along with a limited intake into the College of Home Economics dietetic and nutrition programs, were the main reasons for a 1% decline in the total student enrollment. The College of Graduate Studies & Research showed an increase of 7.5%.
University of Regina enrollments will be given in the next issue, as well as an outline of the new organization of the Technical Institutes and Community Colleges in Saskatchewan.

UTAH ...

Fall 1987 Enrollment:
Enrollment was stable at BYU, U of U and USU. Weber State College and Utah Valley Community College enrollments increased 7%. BYU denied admission to 1,600 and U of U denied 300. USU graduate enrollment is now 2,545--up by 541 since 1984. Most institutions report that average credit hour load is decreasing.

Other Topics:
The State board of regents are considering a recommendation to convert all state colleges and universities to the early semester calendar by 1989. Reasons listed by the board include overall advantages of the semester system for students, faculty and administration, and long term savings in operating costs.

The State Board of Regents and Department of Community and Economic Development are developing a proposal that would allow county governments to finance endowed chairs at the University of Utah and Utah State University. Details and merit of the program are now being worked out. The proposal would establish a Utah Higher Education Finance Agency with the power to issue industrial development revenue bonds and use the proceeds to finance endowed chairs and related research investments in universities. Universities would repay the loans from reimbursed overhead.

UVCC's President, Dr. Marvin Higbee, has resigned and Dr. Lucille T. Stoddard, the Academic VP, is serving as interim president. Tom Martin, Dir. IR at UVCC, is the new Regional Membership Director for SCUP. If you have any questions about SCUP membership, contact Tom at 801-226-5000, ext. 413.

BYU has opened their Jerusalem Center with an enrollment of 150 students. They are using a trimester calendar, BYU faculty and curriculum is part of the regular program.

Weber State College named a new Vice President for Business Affairs, Dr. Allen F. Simkins.

Current projects in the IR office at the University of Utah are: Student Environmental Assessment, Student Flow, Faculty Workload Measures, Development of an Executive Resource Planning Guide, Market Research, and Enrollment Management.

WYOMING:

Fall 1987 Enrollment:
Among Wyoming's 7 community colleges there was a 10.2% average increase in fulltime headcount and 9.9% increase in FTE students; however, the distribution was not uniform. Casper College had an increase of about 20% in FTE students while the others grew in the range of 5-6%. Casper attributes much of this growth to recent agreements with the University of Wyoming to provide some four-year programs on their campus. UW grew by about 400 FTE students this fall.

Other Topics:
The University of Wyoming is engaging in an intensive recruitment and retention program to keep enrollments from fluctuating. They plan to build a strong support system to circumvent a current freshman dropout problem.

The University is working cooperative with the state's community colleges to increase the number of televised courses in outreach communities.

Funding higher education continues to be a challenge with the state's weak energy-based economy. Community colleges project they will need an additional $6.7 million from the state to cover local revenue shortfalls during FY 89 and FY 90. Cuts could occur as the state will have difficulty meeting this request.

The Wyoming Community College Commission is conducting a statewide longitudinal study to determine who community college students are; why they enroll, complete, withdraw, and what they achieve while enrolled and after they leave; and how the community college experience impacts on their future academic and vocational pursuits. A sample of first-time students at each community college will be surveyed twice a year for five years to get this information.

Institutional Research
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