IN THIS ISSUE:
Intercom ................................ 1
From the Editor .......................... 1
Conference News ........................ 2
News from States & Provinces ....... 2

INTERCOM -- A Message from the
President

Montana, here we come! Jim Olomom, Ron Hagerman, and Joanne Reece are making final preparations for our arrival in Missoula on October 3. This annual meeting will be another highly rewarding and definitely unforgettable gathering of Rocky Mountain institutional researchers and planners. Don’t miss it!

I will be presiding at our annual business meeting on Friday and will be proposing the following changes to the RMAIR bylaws regarding the nomination and election process.

Under EXECUTIVE OFFICERS (4)
replace paragraph 9 with: "The nomination and election of executive officers shall occur prior to the annual RMAIR conference with the results announced at the meeting. The newly elected executive officers shall assume office at the end of the Annual Conference and shall serve until the close of the Annual Conference one year later. Winners of the election for officers shall require a simple majority of those voting, providing the vote includes at least 20 RMAIR members from five of the ten Rocky Mountain states or provinces."

Under VOTING PRIVILEGES (7)
replace first paragraph with: "Those eligible to vote for officers or RMAIR proposals are RMAIR members. Business matters will normally be presented for voter consideration at the annual RMAIR conference."

If these changes are approved by the membership, I envision the Call for Nominations to accompany the Call for Proposals for the annual meeting. The slate of candidates and ballot would be included in the newsletter prior to the conference. The outcome of the voting would be announced at the fall conference.

Other items of discussion at the business meeting include the annual membership fee, development of a membership directory (the latter tied to the former), and what services/programs RMAIR could be offering to its members. If you have agenda items for the business meeting, please send them to me ASAP.

FROM THE EDITOR

This may very well be the thinnest issue yet. In an effort to get out the fourth issue before the fall conference the deadline had to come before much was known about fall semester and very soon after the recent summer issue. This is partly due to our tradition of meeting somewhat earlier when meeting in a northern state than we do when meeting in a southern state.
It is becoming increasingly apparent that there are both advantages and disadvantages of more formally organized regional professional organizations. In years past some of the "oldtimers" warned about dues, increased administrative overhead, and more complicated logistics and coordinating efforts, in their arguments against formal organization.

More recently, the majority seems to have come down on the side of more formal arrangements which allow for newsletters, occasional grants from AIR, and more elaborate conference program planning. It seems that both views are correct. The history of RMAIR, having gone from very informal to more formal organization, is proof that both the advantages and disadvantages are there. Where one's preference lies depends on where he or she places the highest value.

It is clearly the trend, not only for AIR regional groups, but SCUP and other organizations as well, to be more formally organized at the regional level. While these formal structures bring more resources to bear, they also limit the flexibility, to some extent, that individual representatives of the organizations have in making inter-organizational arrangements. Some evidence of this change has been apparent in both the program planning for this year's RMAIR/SCUP conference in Missoula and the preliminary planning for the RMAIR/Rocky Mountain SCUP/PNAIRP meeting in Reno next year. If the resulting difficulties are more trouble than they are worth, we still have two options. We can go back to the old days of informal organization or give up on the joint meetings. Our bet is that it will prove worth all the trouble. It is just the price of progress.

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CONFERENCE NEWS

COMING SOON:

RMAIR/SCUP 1990 at Missoula, MT October 3-5

Jim Olomon is handling local arrangements and Ron Hagerman and Joanne Reece are planning the program presentations. If you haven't already made your plans and reservations, do it immediately!

A preliminary list of conference topics shows Mr. Jack Robinson, a campus design consultant from Cambridge, MA as an invited speaker. There are also a host of interesting topics included.

- Space Planning
- Edmonton City Center Campus
- Integrated Planning Process
- Geographic Information Systems
- Desktop Publishing
- Impact of Computer Technology on Teaching Methods
- Expert System as a DSS for Affirmative Action
- Instructional Computing
- Micro Computers
- Faculty Workloads
- Impacts of External Change
- Student Tracking
- Time and CH for Graduation
- Matching Pair Analysis
- Salary Equity Analysis
- Presentation Effectiveness
- Peer Institution Selection
- Data Exchange

All this plus RMAIR and SCUP business meetings as well as fun and food at The Mansion House. See you there!

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Election of 1990-91 Officers:

The nominating committee chaired by Rich Jacobs reports nominees for the only elective RMAIR office, Vice-President -- President-Elect are Denise Sokol and Bruce Higley. The election will be at the meeting. Come prepared to vote for your choice.

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IDAHO - Reported by John Grah

A new community college has been proposed for Idaho Falls. A committee of local citizens headed by Idaho Falls Mayor Tom Campbell is studying the issue, as is a committee connected with the state legislature. The state board is proceeding, independent of the community college decision, with its plan to hire a higher education coordinator for Idaho Falls.

In recent board actions, a new statewide five-year plan for higher education has been approved. The board has appointed a task force to study higher education problems of Hispanics and other minorities in Idaho.

The board recently held preliminary hearings on the fiscal 1992 budget requests of the college and universities. Requested amounts are up, naturally in an atmosphere made hopeful by announcements of another sizeable state budget surplus projected for fiscal 1991.

Although we are prevented from publishing preliminary enrollment figures for state institutions by board order, it seems safe to say that enrollments are up statewide. But Ricks College, the LDS school in Rexburg, leads the way with 8200 people trying to get in under an enrollment ceiling of 7500.

Alan Clark of Ricks also tells me that the school's accreditation has been reaffirmed as a result of last fall's visit by a team from the Northwest Association.
MONTANA - Reported by Jim Olomon

Enrollment figures are not yet available for the Montana University System Units. At the University of Montana the first day of instruction will be on 20 September and the official count will be made on 11 October. Since UM is bringing up a new student records system, it may be somewhat later than the 11th before a final count is obtained.

RMAIR registrations are beginning to flow in and an eye-ball sampling indicates a good representation from throughout the Rocky Mountain region. At this time one-half of the available seats for the Glacier Park Tour have been reserved. Ron Hagerman has done an excellent job as program chairman and we plan to do no less at the local arrangements level. We look forward to welcoming you to Missoula and the University of Montana -- plan to enjoy an informative conference and to have a good time after-hours!

NEVADA - Reported by Jan Brown

This is a slow news period for Nevada, too soon for hard enrollment data and very involved in preparation for 1991, our next legislature year. However, below are a few tidbits.

University of Nevada, Reno

- A new Department of Computer Science has been established, located in the Mackay School of Mines. Computer Science was previously an interdisciplinary program in Mathematics and Electrical Engineering.

- The UNR 1990-91 operating budget totals $84,029,653, a 9% increase over the previous year.

- Work has begun on a new 10-Year Academic Master Plan. Also on tap are some enrollment trend studies and staff analysis studies, to be done as a cooperative effort with the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

- Preliminary figures indicate that between 17,000 and 18,000 students enrolled at UNLV in Fall 1990. Fall 1989 headcount enrollment was 16,360.

- The University of Nevada System Compensation Committee has completed its recommendations for a compensation package for professional employees to be presented to the State Legislature in January. In addition to a 5% per year cost of living and a 3% merit increase in the base budget, the committee is proposing that the Legislature fully fund the retirement contribution of professional employees. This contribution is currently 10% paid by the employee and 10% paid by UNS.

NEW MEXICO - Reported by Richard H. Cady

Enrollment appears steady with, perhaps, small gains in the 0-2% range.

Movement of undergraduate transfers, 2-year-->4-year is up after several years of effort and constant legislative criticism. Each course not accepted must be reported by four-year institutions to the state government!

Undergraduate retention rates and degree completions have increased.

Overall State financial support for higher education will probably not increase until the economy grows. Painful trends in energy prices or high defense expenditure would augur well for the economy in New Mexico.

New Mexico's hastily drawn "Report Card Bill" is giving everyone fits, and there is little prospect that the results will benefit anyone.

A new interim Legislative Higher Education Committee is touring the state, listening and asking questions.

The commission's staff and the institutions have again worked at refining valid and politically acceptable peer groups of institutions for the purpose of augmenting funding the average level of percs. Nothing original here; just service by NCHEMS and political judgments.

Moves by the Clovis Branch of Eastern New Mexico University to secede are proceeding. Looks like it will happen.

Policies and procedures on distance education are being revised. Financial arrangements and network planning for instructional television are also being worked upon.

SASKATCHEWAN - Reported by Jack Billinton

All enrollment figures in Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions appear to be slightly ahead of last year's numbers for the same time. Although these statistics will change, the three institutions feel that the final enrollment will be similar to last year or marginally ahead. This is usually known by mid-October and will be reported in the next edition of PANORAMA. According to Reid Robinson, Academic Vice President, the University of Regina is up about 6% in total numbers of students, and when things settle down he expects the numbers to be still ahead of last year. At the University of Saskatchewan, Gary Vann, the Associate Registrar, informs us that preliminary figures show about 330 students more than last year. Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (S.I.A.S.T.) has a marginal increase for applications for enrollment at all four campuses, according to Ann Nosen, the Communications Officer.

S.I.A.S.T. will also welcome a new president this month. Richard Mackie will assume the presidency of S.I.A.S.T. following the resignation of Eva Lee earlier this year. Currently he is the C.E.O. of Assiniboine College in Brandon, Manitoba and prior this appointment he was a division dean at Seneca College in Toronto. Mr. Mackie is active nationally and internationally in the post-secondary education sector and is past president of the association of...
Canadian Community Colleges. We welcome Richard to Saskatchewan.

WYOMING - Reported by Reta Gates

- Enrollment figures are not yet available, but it is expected that new first-time freshmen enrollment at UW will be slightly lower than last year due to a 7 percent decline in Wyoming high school graduates. However, slight decreases in new freshmen enrollment in the last few years have been offset by returning non-traditional students and better retention rates. Overall enrollment will probably remain steady or increase slightly.

- The recommendations of the Academic Reallocation Committee (ARC) have been released. The committee presented two alternatives that represented 7 and 9 percent reductions, respectively, of the $60 million budget of nearly 100 academic programs studied by the ARC. The report included both general and program-specific reductions and enhancements, as well as proposals for fee increases in several areas. The proposed changes would be phased in over several years with mandated reviews and assessments of the programs affected by the reallocation of resources.

The recommendations will now be discussed by the various campus governing bodies. Final recommendations will be made by the Provost to the President by November 1, and by the President to the Board of Trustees by November 15. Final reallocation decisions will be made by the Trustees in December.

Expected shortly is the report of the Non-Academic Reallocation Committee (NARC), which examined all programs at UW not studied by the ARC. The process for review of the NARC recommendations will be similar to that of the ARC with final reallocation decisions being made by the Trustees.

- The North Central Association site team recommended the University of Wyoming for the maximum, unconditional reaccreditation of 10 years. Areas of strength detailed in the report included: unique position in the state as its only baccalaureate granting institution, quality undergraduate programs, strong support of presidential leadership, favorable student opinion, fiscal flexibility provided by the block grant approved by the 1990 Wyoming Legislature, continued expansion of research and scholarly activities, responsiveness of the Board of Trustees to the reallocation proposals, the newly approved University Studies Program and exemplary physical facilities.

- Derek Hodgson has been appointed to act as Vice President for Research at the University of Wyoming until a replacement is found. Dr. Hodgson joined the university in 1987 as Professor and Head of the Chemistry Department.