

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 p.m. on March 3, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Representative JoAnn Pottorff - absent

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Legislative Research  
Debra Hollon, Legislative Research  
Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes  
Susan Allen, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Jerry Farley, President, Washburn University  
Robert Kelly, Kansas Independent College Association  
Marvin Burris, Vice-President of Finance and Administration, Kansas Board of Regents

Others attending:

See Attached List.

**HR 6005 - Board of regents reports on state financial assistance to students and tuition rates at non-main campus facilities.**

Chairman Sloan opening hearings on **HR 6005** and recognized Robert Kelly, Kansas Independent College Association. In his testimony Mr Kelly supported the concept of “an assessment of the state financial assistance to students at nonpublic higher education institutions in Kansas”, and suggested that the study be conducted by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee. He also supported a study of the Regent’s institutions by the Kansas Board of Regents (Attachment 1).

Jerry Farley, President of Washburn University, gave testimony that opposed the studies mandated by **HR 6005**. Mr. Farley noted that SB 345 required a comprehensive review of programs, but that the second part of the study, called the NORED study, was not completed due to lack of adequate funding (Attachment 2).

Marvin Burris, Vice President of Finance and Administration, Kansas Board of Regents, presented testimony prepared by Dr. Reginald Robinson, who was unable to attend the hearing. In his testimony, Dr. Robinson indicated that the Board did not support more studies without adequate funding to finance them. Additionally, Dr. Robinson indicated that the Board is trying to secure the funds necessary to complete the financing portion of the NORED study (Attachment 3).

With no further testimony, Chairman Sloan asked for questions. Representative Huntington asked Mr. Burris whether the cost per student from State appropriations at Kansas University included tuition. Mr. Burris responded that he did not believe that it did. Representatives Storm, Horst and Reitz asked Mr. Burris about the funding for the completion of the NORED study, and if it was necessary for the Board to use outside consultants to conduct the study. Mr. Burris replied that the Board did not have the manpower to conduct their own study. Representatives Kuether and Krehbiel suggested that they did not see a need for more studies than the ones required by SB 345.

With no further questions, Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **HR 6005**. The Chairman then drew the Committee’s attention to a letter he sent to the Legislative Coordinating Council suggesting that the Higher Education Committee be authorized to tour some or all of the thirty-six Regent’s institutions (Attachment 5). The Chairman also drew the Committee’s attention to a letter he sent to Janet DeBauge, the Chairperson of the Kansas Board of Regents, suggesting that members of the Board and members of the Committee meet informally (Attachment 6).

With no further discussion, Chairman Sloan adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2004 in RM 231-N.