



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

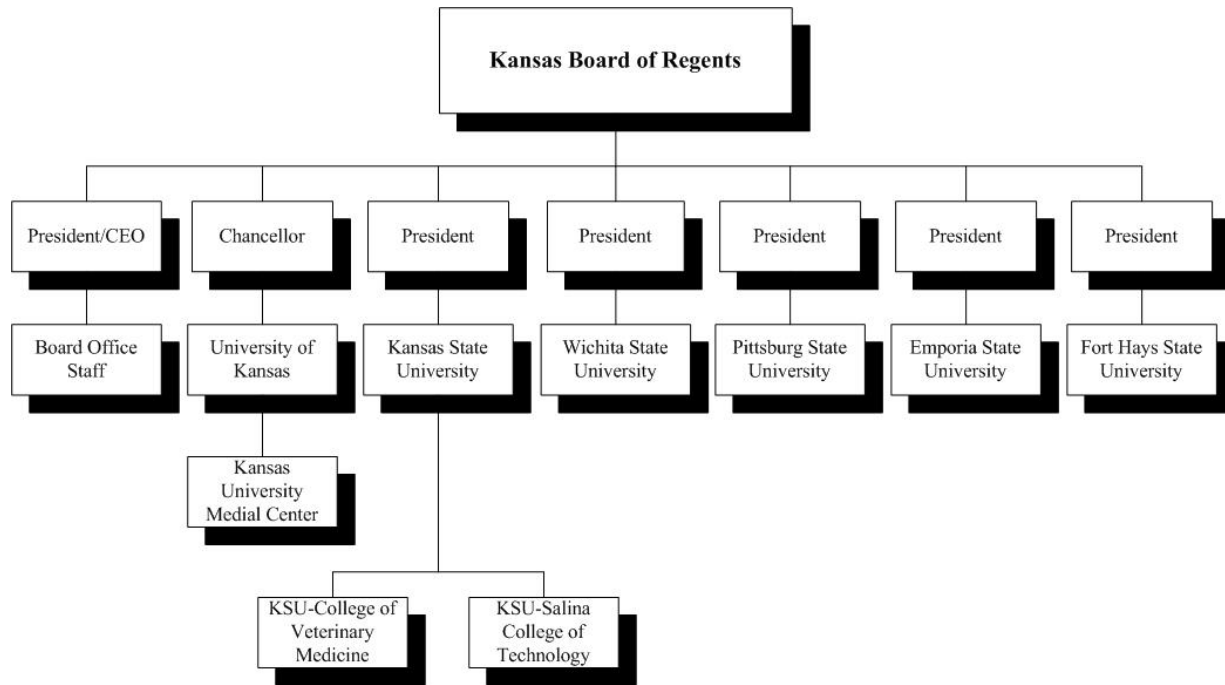
House Committee on Higher Education Budget Neutral Testimony on HB 2425

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Good afternoon Chair Humphries and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2425, a bill that would require one of the nine members of the Kansas Board of Regents be a student, nominated by the Student Advisory Committee. We have compiled information on the duties and responsibilities of Board members.

The Board is created by Article 6 of the Kansas Constitution and is empowered by the Legislature. It is responsible for the control, supervision, and operation of the state universities in Kansas, as well as the coordination and supervision of the public municipal university, community colleges and technical colleges in Kansas, and the regulation of private and out-of-state higher education institutions operating in Kansas. Below is the organizational chart for the Board's governance role. It does not contain information about the Board's coordination or regulatory responsibilities.



★ LEADING HIGHER EDUCATION ★

The landmark Kansas Higher Education Coordination Act of 1999 gave the Kansas Board of Regents a unique status among state higher education governing and coordinating boards with its wide-ranging responsibilities. The Kansas Board of Regents is now much more than the governing board for the six state universities.

The Board coordinates certain activities of the public higher education system (K.S.A. 74-3202c, 74-3205d). The system consists of the six state universities, Washburn University, Washburn Institute of Technology, the community colleges and the technical colleges (K.S.A. 74-3201b(e)). The Board's coordination functions with regard to these institutions include:

- (1) Determining institutional roles, reviewing institutional missions, and approving performance agreements for each institution;
- (2) Developing a comprehensive plan for coordinating all program and course offerings and locations, including transfer and articulation procedures;
- (3) Developing a unified budget for state funding of the system institutions, distributing state and federal funds, and requiring accountability for use of those funds;
- (4) Representing the system before the Governor and the Legislature; and
- (5) Collecting, aggregating and reporting common and institution-specific information documenting effectiveness of each community college, technical college, Washburn University, Washburn Institute of Technology and state university in meeting its mission and goals (K.S.A. 71-801, 72-4480, 72-6525, 76-771).

The Board also governs the state universities, which means that the Board has the authority to control these institutions and to supervise their operation and management (K.S.A. 76-712). The Board's governing functions include:

- (1) Appointing the chief executive officer at each state university and having an employer/employee relationship with each chief executive officer;
- (2) Having authority to oversee many of the daily operational functions of the state universities, though the Board has chosen to delegate actual performance of those functions to the chief executive officers and their staffs;
- (3) Maintaining the state universities' physical assets; and
- (4) Developing policy on a wide range of institutional issues.

Each community college, technical college and Washburn Institute of Technology is governed (i.e. operated, managed, and controlled) by its local board of trustees or governing body. However, the Board has statutorily been given authority to perform specific functions with regard to those institutions. These functions include:

- (1) Establishing guidelines for accreditation;
- (2) Aligning and approving courses, programs, and course/program locations for state funding purposes; and
- (3) Facilitating mergers and other consolidation activities.

The Board regulates institutions that are subject to the Kansas Private and Out-of-State Postsecondary Education Institution Act, which means the Board administers and implements the provisions of the Act with regard to those institutions (K.S.A. 74-32,162 et seq.). The Board's

role with regard to private and out-of-state postsecondary institutions that are subject to the Act is a consumer protection function that includes:

- (1) Reviewing the institutions and their programs to determine compliance with statutorily prescribed standards; and
- (2) Collecting and analyzing information, including student, course, financial aid and program demographics, that will assist the Board in improving the quality of private and out-of-state postsecondary education (K.S.A. 74-32,184).

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue.