

MINUTES

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

December 19, 2002

Boardroom of the State Board of Regents

Suite 520—Curtis Office Building

Committee Members Present

Representative Jo Ann Pottorff, Chair
Senator Dwayne Umbarger, Vice Chair
Senator Christine Downey
Senator Lana Oleen
Senator John Vratil
Representative Barbara Ballard
Representative Lisa Benlon
Representative Kathe Decker
Representative Bill Reardon
Representative Ralph Tanner
Representative Jonathan Wells

Committee Members Absent

Senator Lynn Jenkins
Senator Bob Lyon

Members of the State Board of Regents Present

Jack Wempe, Chair
Dick Bond
Janice DeBauge
William R. Docking
Lew Ferguson
Jim Grier
Fred Kerr
Donna Shank
Deryl Wynn

Legislative Staff

Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Paul West, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jill Wolters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Conferees

Dr. Bob Kustra, President, Midwest Higher Education Commission
Marvin Burris, Vice President for Finance and Administration, State Board of Regents
Dr. Amanda Golbeck, Vice President for Academic Affairs, State Board of Regents
Reginald L. Robinson, President and Chief Executive Officer, State Board of Regents

Midwest Higher Education Commission

Bob Kustra, the new President of the Midwest Higher Education Commission (MHEC), discussed the Commission's accomplishments since its creation in 1991 and described some new directions the Commission will take. He said the Commission has been service-oriented in the past and has undertaken projects that would save member states and institutions money. He estimated that these projects have saved member states millions of dollars over the years—Kansas has saved \$17.0 million in the years 1994 through 2001—but, not enough attention has been paid to making the Commission a tool for policy makers. Dr. Kustra explained that most other regions of the country have a strong regional identity with regard to education, but in the Midwest, states tend to act alone and do not think of themselves as part of a unit. For example, although individual states are concerned about “brain drain,” Dr. Kustra suggested that, as long as talented students stay in the Midwest, it is not detrimental to individual states if the region as a whole benefits. Dr. Kustra told members of the Committee and the State Board that fostering a stronger regional identity is a priority of MHEC and one project underway is the development of a Midwest data book containing information about member states.

Dr. Kustra identified the following goals for the Commission and for member states:

- Provide better information about education and the region as a whole;
- Try to dispel hostility toward higher education—the perception that higher education is a “fatted cow whose time has come”;
- Spread the word about good practices and what works at institutions in the region; and

- Raise the bar for accountability, assessment, and outcomes and exchange information among member states so that states can learn from each other.

Jack Wempe, Chair of the Board of Regents, called attention to the economic development occurring in Fargo, North Dakota, and asked why that sort of growth has not occurred in Kansas. Dr. Kustra responded that a trained workforce is vital and community colleges usually train the type of worker most in demand when economic development begins. According to Dr. Kustra, workers are the most important variable and people in “high level” positions come later. However, he observed that the current revenue situation facing states makes it difficult for institutions to expand and offer the types of programs that are needed to stimulate economic development.

Regents Funding Issues

Marvin Burris discussed the impact of cuts on programs at Regents institutions, the development of a unified budget proposal, and the Board’s budget request for FY 2004 (Attachments 1 and 2). According to Mr. Burris, funding cuts have caused institutions to lay off employees, delay filling positions and making purchases, and have resulted in larger classes. Mr. Burris said the State Board instructed the institutions to make “mission-related” or strategic cuts and not across-the-board reductions, and that their highest priority was to maintain the quality of the student learning experience.

Explaining the development of the FY 2004 unified budget, Mr. Burris said the Board received input and proposals from institutional sectors and individual institutions in April of 2002 and adopted the FY 2004 budget in June. The budget represents an increase of \$106.2 million over FY 2003 and includes an increase of \$62.6 million for initiatives related to 1999 SB 345 (operating budget increases for community colleges and Washburn University, state university faculty salary enhancements, and performance grant funding); an increase of \$36.4 million for the state universities; an increase of \$4.3 million for technical colleges and vocational schools; and an increase of \$3.1 million for the Office of the Board of Regents.

Mr. Burris elaborated on the status of performance funding by explaining that beginning in FY 2006, each institution under the Board’s jurisdiction must comply with a performance agreement in order to receive any new state funding. The agreement will be based on institutional improvement plans that must be in place beginning in FY 2005. Performance agreements may vary among institutional sectors and may be different for each institution, as long as they fall within parameters set by the Board. A task force representing all postsecondary education sectors has been formed to help develop the agreements.

In response to questions from Committee members, Mr. Burris said the FY 2004 budget request includes \$900,000 as a funding enhancement for alternative teacher certification programs at Emporia, Pittsburg, and Fort Hays State Universities, but no

specific enhancement for the program at Wichita State University. Asked about the impact of cuts to student assistance programs, Mr. Burriss said 450 students have been affected by the cuts.

Qualified Admissions

Dr. Amanda Golbeck presented follow-up information concerning qualified admissions that had been requested at an earlier meeting ([Attachment 3](#)). Specifically, she detailed the policy each state university has developed regarding the 10 percent exception to the general rule that students must meet the qualified admissions criteria in order to be admitted. According to her data, 146 students were denied admittance in school year 2002-03 because they either did not qualify on the basis of the qualified admissions criteria or were not admitted under the 10 percent exception provisions.

Committee members responded to the information by questioning the value of admittance requirements if almost all students who apply are admitted. Dr. Ed Hammond, speaking from the audience, responded that the real purpose of setting admissions standards was to require students to come to college better prepared and that Kansas high schools had five years of lead time to strengthen their curriculums so that their graduates could meet the requirements. He said the fact that only 146 students could not be admitted was evidence that high school students are better prepared to attend college than they were prior to the imposition of the higher standards. Board member Dick Bond added that some students who are unprepared for four-year institutions may be deciding to go elsewhere and may be enrolling in other postsecondary institutions that do not have qualified admissions requirements.

Regents Legislative Proposals

Reginald Robinson informed the Committee that the State Board has approved four legislative proposals for introduction during the 2004 Session ([Attachment 4](#)). The items are the following:

- Legislation that would require technical colleges that currently are under the governance of a school district board of education to be under the governance of an independent board of control. This change would allow technical colleges to be accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.
- Legislation that would raise the maximum fee for providing duplicate general education development (GED) credentials from \$10 to \$15 and would authorize a new fee of up to \$15 to be charged to verify that someone has obtained a GED.
- Legislation that would raise fees charged in connection with the Board's regulation of proprietary schools. Among the fees that would be raised is

an increase from \$800 to up to \$1,700 for an initial issuance of a certificate of approval.

- Legislation that would enact model legislation concerning the registration of athlete agents.

Instructions to Staff

The Committee reviewed drafts of proposed legislation and gave the staff additional recommendations for bill drafts and the final report. A number of recommendations were made on the basis of consensus and are reflected in the report. Specific motions are as follows:

- *Upon a motion by Senator Vratil, seconded by Senator Umbarger, the Committee voted to support the FY 2004 budget request made by the State Board of Regents. Committee members commented in particular about the commitment to fund 1999 SB 345 and the need to adequately fund area vocational schools and technical colleges. In addition, they noted the importance of funding the Board's request for the Board Office, particularly in light of the additional responsibilities given the Board by SB 345.*

Representative Tanner is recorded as having abstained.

- *Upon a motion by Senator Umbarger, seconded by Senator Vratil, the Committee voted to recommend for introduction legislation requested by the State Board of Regents concerning the registration of athlete agents.*
- *Upon a motion by Senator Downey, seconded by Senator Vratil, the Committee voted to recommend for introduction legislation requested by the State Board of Regents concerning an increase in fees charged for GED credentials.*
- *Upon a motion by Senator Downey, seconded by Representative Decker, the Committee voted to recommend for introduction legislation requested by the State Board of Regents concerning an increase in fees charged regulating proprietary schools.*
- *Upon a motion by Senator Downey, seconded by Representative Benlon, the Committee voted to recommend for introduction legislation requested by the State Board of Regents concerning the governance of technical colleges.*
- *Upon a motion by Representative Tanner, seconded by Representative Benlon, the Committee voted to direct that the chairs of the House and*

Senate standing education committees (Representative Decker and Senator Umbarger) make a recommendation to the Legislative Coordinating Council concerning reference of bills recommended for introduction by the Committee.

Committee Minutes

Upon a motion by Representative Decker, seconded by Representative Reardon, the minutes of the November meeting were approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by Carolyn Rampey

Approved by Committee on:

January 13, 2003