

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Benlon at 3:30 p.m. on February 13, 2002 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Ralph Tanner (E)

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Paul West, Legislative Research
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
Dee Ann Woodson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Duane M.. Dunn, President Manhattan Area Technical College and President of the
Kansas Association Technical Schools and Colleges
Camille Kluge, President Wichita Area Technical College and Vice President of the
Kansas Association Technical Schools and Colleges
James R. Laney, Director, Engineering Services and Product Safety, Cessna Aircraft
Company of Wichita

Others attending: See attached list.

**HB 2820 - Vocational education, determination of credit hour equivalencies by the State Board of
Regents**

HB 2821 - Vocational education, tuition rates for postsecondary students

Chairperson Benlon opened hearings on **HB 2820** and **HB 2821**, and called the first conferee, Dr. Duane Dunn, to present his testimony in support of these bills. Dr. Dunn, representing the 16 member organization of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges, requested to speak in favor of both bills simultaneously. (Attachment 1)

Dr. Dunn explained their interest in implementing a change in the tuition structure for the clock hour programs provided by technical schools and colleges. He stated that the structure had for several years resulted in a disincentive for their institutions to expand instructional programs and meet the enrollment and employer requests for technical education. He said the Association had endorsed a concept that would allow their institutions to become more responsible for establishing the student tuition rates and less dependent upon a formula that is ultimately based upon the state's appropriation. Dr. Dunn explained his handout and how the tuition would be calculated. He also clarified how the institution's generation of clock hours fluctuates the actual cost per hour of instruction would fluctuate as well. He said that with a capped allocation it becomes necessary to "target" the number of hours of instruction estimated in the initial budget formulation request. He stated that if an institution expands instruction the cost per hour decreases, and as a result the amount of aid becomes a downward spiral. He added that if the institutions generation of instruction decreases, then the cost per hour increases which results in the amount of aid possibly spiraling upward.

Dr. Dunn testified that in an effort to increase their institutional responsibility for growth and service to their constituents, their members have sought to remove the local student tuition cap which places more responsibility on themselves, but does not remove the state's responsibility to fund our instructional efforts. He stated that **HB 2821** would remove the 15% cap on local student tuition rates, and result in allowing them to establish a market driven tuition rate. His handout included a six year comparison of tuition rates at ten Kansas technical schools and colleges which are not a part of the community colleges. He explained that it showed that there was no uniformity currently in the student tuition rates.

In regard to **HB 2820**, Dr. Dunn spoke in favor of removing the statute definition of the length of a credit hour. He said currently the only institutions that have a statute definition are the technical colleges. He

stated that they were asking that it be removed and allow the Board of Regents, through policies and procedures, to set the definition of a credit hour and then they can work with them for uniformity between the institutions across the state.

The second proponent to speak in favor of **HB 2820** and **HB 2810** was Camille Kluge, President, Wichita Area Technical College (WATC) and Vice President of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges, who spoke in favor of both bills. Ms. Kluge distributed a handout that gave an example of how the current Credit Hour/Clock Hour Conversion Rate and its impact on students and post-secondary institutions across the state by using the Wichita area as an example. She said the chart demonstrated the disparity of credit hours and cost of a course for the practical nurse program offered by each sector of the Regents' institutions. She explained her example and how it affects students who might later decide to go on and get an RN degree. She stated the cost factor of WATC of being required to pay its instructor for working 150 hours and the classroom is busy for 150 hours which significantly increases the cost of delivering the course. Ms. Kluge disclosed that other post-secondary institutions are not penalized with increased instructor pay and facilities used when they deliver 90 clock hours to earn five college credits. (Attachment 2)

Ms. Kluge testified that WATC is currently turning students away, and it can be as significant as 10 or 12 students per program. She said that those students will not always be able to substitute a community college program for a WATC program, or they could seek more costly alternatives such as private institutions that charge a significantly higher rate. She pointed out that those alternatives deplete federal, state, and local financial assistance resources more quickly than enrollments in public institutions. She stated that the only way they could add programs was by eliminating existing programs because of lack of resources.

Ms. Kluge concluded her testimony by introducing Jim Laney, Director of Engineering Services and Product Safety, Cessna Aircraft Company, who spoke briefly in support of these bills and how Cessna's operations are affected by the issues related to this legislation.

Representative Lane asked Mr. Laney if they had a business relationship with Wichita State University to train people, and Mr. Laney said that at the present they are specifically involved with the Wichita Area Technical College for training as well as the FAA. He added that there is no financial agreement or no business relationship other than they provide the students and the Technical College provides the training. He said what they would like to see when they announce a growth opportunity a couple of years in advance that the community would respond. He stated that right now they can only get 61 trained per year, so would have to turn down all the others wanting this training and job opportunity.

Inquiry was made if there were any Fiscal Notes on these two bills, and Chairperson Benlon related that she had received Fiscal Notes on both the bills stating that there was no fiscal effect on the state. (Attachment 3)

The Chair announced that they had received written testimony from Dr. Kim Wilcox, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents expressing support of both **HB 2820** and **HB 2821**. (Attachment 4)

Seeing no further questions and having no opponents appearing to testify, Chairperson Benlon closed the hearings on HB 2820 and HB 2821.

Chairperson Benlon directed the Committee's attention to the minutes of the February 11 meeting. Representative Pottorff made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Representative Phelps, and the motion carried.

Chairperson Benlon adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee will be Monday, February 18, Room 231-N, at the Capitol.

CONTINUATION SHEET