

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 p.m. on February 9, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Annie Kuether- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Legislative Research

Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes

Susan Allen, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Andy Sanchez, Executive Director Kansas Association of Public Employees

Representative Roger Reitz

Mickey Ransom, Kansas State University

Janet Fallin, Kansas State University

Reginald Robinson, President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents

Diane Lindeman, Director of Student Financial Assistance, Kansas Board of Regents

Robert Kelly, Kansas Independent College Association

Others attending:

See Attached List.

HB 2625 - Tuition waivers at state educational institutions for spouses and children of full time employees at a state educational institution.

Chairman Sloan opened hearings on **HB 2625**.

Andy Sanchez, Kansas Association of Public Employees, submitted written testimony as a proponent of **HB 2625** (Attachment 1).

Representative Reitz gave testimony as a proponent of the bill and explained that it was a measure to aid in recruitment and retention of faculty (Attachment 2).

Kansas State University Professor Mickey Ransom testified in favor of **HB 2625** citing the loss of faculty due to lower salaries and benefits (Attachment 3).

Kansas State University Professor Janet Fallin testified in favor of **HB 2625** noting that most of the other universities in the Big 12 offer some kind of tuition waiver program (Attachment 3).

Dr. Reginald Robinson, Kansas Board of Regents testified as an opponent of **HB 2625**. Dr Robinson cited the negative impact on tuition revenues at the State universities. Dr. Robinson said that the Board has studied a tuition waiver program and feels that it is not economically feasible at this time (Attachment 4).

Representatives Huntington and Horst asked Dr. Robinson about the loss of tuition revenues relative to the costs of recruitment and training. Representative Krehbiel noted that by specifying certain employees that the bill was discriminatory and that any corrective measures should apply to all employees. In response to Representative Storm, Dr. Robinson explained the program at the University of Kansas that uses monies from the Coca Cola contract to provide tuition assistance to certain staff and dependents. Representatives Tafanelli, Gordon, Neighbor and Hill asked Dr. Robinson questions concerning faculty turnover, salary increases and the potential of lost tuition revenues.

There being no further questions, Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **HB 2625**.