

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:35 p.m. on February 7, 2005, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents

Senator Schodorf called upon Reginald Robinson, Kansas Board of Regents for an overview of higher education. At the outset, Mr. Robinson discussed the mission of the Board. He explained that, to accomplish their mission, the Board needs a postsecondary education that is accessible, seamless, and accountable as it seeks to deliver superior educational opportunities for all Kansas citizens. He went on to discuss several points listed under each of the following headings in his written testimony: Access, Seamlessness, and Accountability. In addition, he reviewed the following Board of Regents 2005 legislative proposals which were outlined in his testimony:

- Interest ownership on university funds, **SB 73**,
- Alternative civil service, "University Support Staff," **SB 74**,
- Continuation of Kan-ed funding through Kansas Universal Fund, **HB 2026**,
- Repeal community college education contract language, **SB 9**,
- Modifications to the Regents' system retirement plans, **SB 99**,
- Modifications to the Regents' phased retirement program, **SB 99**, and
- Elimination of the \$1 million Research Foundation Capital Improvement project cap, **SB 8**.

In conclusion, Mr. Robinson discussed the Board's reaction to the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal with the aid of a chart on the last page of his handout entitled, "Kansas Board of Regents FY 2006 Unified Budget Request for State Appropriations Compared With Governor's Recommendations." He pointed out that the figures in the first column showed what in various categories the Board of Regents and its institutions received for FY 2005, the figures in the second column showed the requests submitted by the Board of Regents for FY 2006, and the figures in the final column showed what the Governor recommended in her proposal. He noted that, although the Board does not feel that the Governor's budget meets all needs, it believes it is fair. (Attachment 1)

Senator Schodorf called the Committee's attention to the minutes of the February 1 and 2 meetings.

Senator Steineger moved that the minutes of the February 1 and 2 meetings be approved, seconded by Senator Ostmeyer. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2005.