Approved: May 03, 2002
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Karin Brownlee at 8:30 a.m. on April 12, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:	Senator Jenkins (Excused) Senator Kerr (Excused)
Committee staff present:	Sherman Parks, Revisor of Statutes April Holman, Legislative Research Lea Gerard, Committee Secretary
Conferees appearing before the committee:	Mary R. Allman
Others attending:	See attached list.

The Committee considered the appointment of Mary R. Allman to serve as the Executive Director for the Kansas State Historical Society (Attachment 1).

Mary Allman addressed the committee and provided a brief history of her background and experience stating she has spent the last 22 years in the museum profession. She stated in those 22 years she has managed public and private partnerships, handled budget crises and dealt with agency and personnel dilemmas as well as community tragedies. The challenges facing the Kansas State Historical Society are similar to those challenges facing the museum community as a whole. With an uncertain economic climate, every dollar must be put to the best possible use to serve the community. We must find ways to match public support with what can be raised privately to support programs for the historical society.

The committee asked Mary Allman what her thoughts were regarding civil war battlefield re-enactments. She stated with her previous job in Littleton, Colorado they had instituted a program with a private company that puts on battlefield re-enactments for school-age children. The educational benefits for the children outweighed some of the concerns with regard to using wooden guns. Some parents did object and there were other activities for those children on site that did not involve the battle itself. She stated there is always a way to look at the situation and come up with a reasonable solution.

Committee questions followed regarding promoting tourism for the Kansas historical sites, structure of the historical society, private and public funds used to maintain historical sites and charging entrance fees to visitors at the historical sites.

Senator Steineger moved, seconded by Senator Jenkins to confirm the appointment of Mary R. Allman to serve as Executive Director for the Kansas State Historical Society. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.