

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:30 A.M. on February 7, 2008 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Donald Betts, Jr. - excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kristen Clarke Kellems, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Barry Greis, Statehouse Architect
Senator Nick Jordan
Dr. Edward Hammond, President, Fort Hays State University
Dr. Paul Adams, Anschutz Professor of Education and Professor of Physics, Fort Hays State University

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introductions

Chairman Umbarger explained that Senator Emler had requested the following bill introductions:

Senator Steineger moved, with a second by Senator Wysong, to introduce a bill concerning penalties and driving while intoxicated and drugs (7rs1674). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Steineger moved, with a second by Senator Teichman, to introduce a bill concerning sex exploitation crimes (7rs1585). Motion carried on a voice vote.

The Chairman welcomed Barry Greis, Statehouse Architect, who presented an update on the Statehouse renovations (Attachment 1). Funding this year is \$38.8 million for exterior masonry and north stair re-assembly. Mr. Greis showed a 9.5 minute video of the exterior masonry investigation and design process. Mr. Greis provided information regarding milestones for the Statehouse preservation and restoration project, Capitol Restoration Commission, since the 1998 legislative session in his written testimony. Updates were given on the west wing, south wing, north wing, visitor center, rotunda (interior), exterior masonry and north stair re-assembly, projected cost estimates and other materials.

Chairman Umbarger acknowledged Senator Nick Jordan. Senator Jordan explained that two constituents came to him and referenced fifteen states that already have programs like the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (KAMS). This is a vision to develop math and science skills due to the concern that the state could lose out on world economics. KAMS is placed at Fort Hays State University. He noted that there is a need to help the best and brightest students. A book was distributed that was put together by the Building Engineering and Science Talent (BEST) which was assembled to help inform the work of the Kansas Legislature's Advisory Committee on Mathematics, Science and Innovation. Senator Jordan chaired this committee. Copies of this book may be obtained from Building Engineering and Science Talent, San Diego, California. (No written testimony was submitted by Senator Jordan.)

The Chairman welcomed Dr. Edward Hammond, President, Fort Hays State University, who explained that

CONTINUATION SHEET

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the KAMS program would move students into the workforce more quickly and it moves students ahead two years. Information on the curriculum was provided by Fort Hays State University and this information may be obtained from the University.

Dr. Hammond turned the presentation over to Dr. Paul Adams, Anschutz Professor of Education and Professor of Physics, Fort Hays State University (Attachment 2). Dr. Adams explained that students in the KAMS program will have a focused curriculum, small classes and there is computer and technical learning. The students will engage with faculty and graduate teams and they are looking forward to the program and support it. A portion of the cost will be generated from the private structure and Kansas businesses will profit from the KAMS program. There were questions and discussion. The Chairman noted that economic development in Kansas is important, Kansas needs to be competitive and he offered his congratulations to Fort Hays State University.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for February 11, 2008.