

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 p.m. on March 8, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Susan Allen

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Lee Alderman, President, Flint Hills Technical College

Mark Desetti, Director of Government Relations, Kansas National Education Association

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Chairman Sloan called the Committee's attention to a letter from Major Ray Bergman of the Kansas National Guard. In his letter, Major Bergman described the State of Wisconsin's tuition waiver program for National Guardsmen (Attachment 1).

**SB 314 - Technical colleges; powers and duties of governing body.**

The Chairman opened hearings on **SB 314**, and drew the Committee's attention to written testimony from Senator Jim Barnett (Attachment 2), and Reginald Robinson, Kansas Board of Regents (Attachment 3). Both Senator Barnett's and Mr. Robinson's testimonies were supportive of **SB 314** and indicated that this legislation would contribute to clarifying the governance of technical colleges.

Chairman Sloan called Lee Alderman, President, Flint Hills Technical College to testify. Mr. Alderman who testified as a proponent of the bill, indicated that **SB 314** would specify many of the powers and duties of the governing bodies of the Technical Colleges (Attachment 4).

Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association, was the final conferee for **SB 314**. Mr. Desetti testified as a proponent of the bill, and suggested an amendment to the bill regarding the governing board's ability to hire non-teaching staff (Attachment 5).

Representatives Neighbor and Storm asked Mr. Desetti for clarification regarding his proposed change to the bill. Representative Horst asked Mr. Alderman if the Technical College contracted for instructors. Mr. Alderman replied that the school did not contract for instructors, but for distant learning services such as Blackboard. Representative Reitz suggested that it is important to inform the citizens of the entire State of the value of Technical Colleges and the need to provide adequate funding.

Chairman Sloan asked Mr. Alderman about service areas of Technical Colleges. Mr. Alderman explained that Technical Colleges do not have service areas but organized territories that were determined when the Technical College was originated. Representative Sloan asked Mr. Alderman about the funding possibilities for Technical Colleges. Mr. Alderman replied that when Technical Colleges become independent from United School Districts, the Technical Colleges will no longer have the bonding ability to fund capital improvements. Mr. Alderman also indicated that when the Technical Colleges receive accreditation from the North Central Association, their programs will be transferable to other post-secondary institutions.

With no further questions, Chairman Sloan adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10 at 3:30 p.m. in room 321-N.