

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 P.M. on February 13, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Annie Kuether- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor

Haley DaVee, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Richard Bond, Kansas Regent

Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents

Sheila Frahm, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees

Rob Edlestone, Manhattan Area Technical College

Trudy Aron, American Institute of Architects, Kansas

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Sloan directed the committee's attention to five sets of minutes from previous meetings and asked them to read the minutes and let the committee secretary know by the Wednesday committee meeting if there are any changes to be made. Barring any requests for changes, the minutes will be considered adopted.

Richard Bond, Kansas Regent, was welcomed to the committee to provide an update on SB 345. He provided a brief history of higher education governance and the circumstances that led to the passage of SB 345. Next he presented a brief summary of the objectives of SB 345 and whether the state has reached these objectives. He noted that SB 345 must get high marks for unifying Kansas' higher education, but unfortunately the state's inability to fund the financial promises made in the legislation has tarnished the initial glow of the legislation.

Chairman Sloan welcomed Reginald Robinson, CEO and President of the Kansas Board of Regents, to the committee. Mr. Robinson explained to the committee the numerous challenges that SB 345 presents for today and in the future. Specifically, these challenges include adequate funding and the difficult job the Kansas Board of Regents has in governing and coordinating higher education institutions.

The floor was opened for questions and questions were asked by Representatives Sloan, Pottorf, Horst, and Johnson.

Chairman Sloan thanked the Board of Regents and opened the hearing on **HB 2745 - Higher education statewide mill levy.**

Deb Hollan, Kansas Legislative Research Department, provided the committee with a brief explanation of the bill and its financial aspects. (Attachment 1) She noted that **HB 2745** would add an additional total of three mill state property tax levy. Two mills would be used for a revolving loan fund for building maintenance at the state universities, the technical colleges, and the community colleges. The third mill would be technology investments and programs at the universities, technical colleges, and community colleges.

Sheila Frahm, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, was welcomed to the committee to testify as a proponent of **HB 2745**. She stressed that the issue of deferred maintenance and building repair and replacement needs is one that must be addressed. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Sloan welcomed Rob Edlestone, Manhattan Area Technical College, as a proponent to **HB 2745**. Mr. Edlestone presented numerous examples of how the technical colleges have worked to stretch the dollars that they currently receive. However, he noted that additional dollars would go far in helping upkeep and improve their educational facilities. (Attachment 3)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Higher Education Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 13, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Chairman Sloan drew attention to written testimony in support of **HB 2745** from Steve Kearney on behalf of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges. (Attachment 4)

Trudy Aron, Executive Director of the American Institute of Architects in Kansas, provided neutral testimony on **HB 2745**. (Attachment 5) The Kansas Board of Regents provided written testimony voicing the concerns that they have with **HB 2745** (Attachment 6). Questions were asked by Representatives Huff, Storm, and Pottorf.

Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **HB 2745** and turned the committee's attention to **HB 2695 - Kansas comprehensive grant program; students attending institutions accredited by the American Association of Bible Colleges, eligibility of.**

Representative Horst introduced a substitute for **HB 2695** that the subcommittee had proposed. (Attachment 7)

Representative Horst moved that the committee adopt the substitute for **HB 2695**. Representative Kelsey seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Representative Sharp moved that the bill be further amended to require that the school seek North Central accreditation in 2006. Menghini seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Representative Kelsey moved that the bill be amended to require active pursuit by 2007 instead of 2006. Representative Carlin seconded the motion.

The motion carried. Representative Sharp requested that she be recorded as voting against the amendment.

Representative Horst moved that **HB 2695** be passed favorably as amended. Representative Carlin seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

The committee's attention was turned to **HB 2722 - Postsecondary savings accounts; pilot program providing state matching of contributions by low-income participants.**

Representative Menghini moved that **HB 2722** be passed favorably. Representative Storm seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Chairman Sloan turned the committee's attention to **SB 139 - Authorizing state board of regents to establish the Kansas academy of mathematics and science (KAMS).**

Representative Otto moved that a revised balloon be adopted. Representative Carlin seconded the motion.

Representatives Hill and Sharp asked questions regarding the proposed amendment.

The motion carried.

Representative Carlin moved that the ACT score requirement be changed to 26. Representative Sharp seconded the motion.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Higher Education Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 13, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Representatives Storm, Huff, Hill, Johnson, Menghini, and Storm shared their opinion on the proposed amendment. Representatives Carlin and Sharp withdrew their motions.

Due to time constraints, action on **SB 139** was put on hold until the next committee meeting. Chairman Sloan adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2006 at 3:30 in Rm. 231-N.