

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 09, 2016, 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Steven Wu, Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Lauren Douglass, Legislative Research Department
Erna Fabert, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Woody Robertson, Lumerit Education
Janie Harris
Blake Flanders, Ph.D., President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR)
Matt Lindsey, President, Kansas Independent College Association (KICA)

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: SB388 — Requiring the state board of regents to adopt a policy on awarding credit hours based on CLEP test results.

Chairperson Abrams opened the hearing on **SB388**. He asked Revisor Long to summarize the bill for the Committee. ([Attachment 1](#)) In response to a question, Revisor Long stated that **SB388** deals only with the six regents institutions in Kansas.

Chairperson Abrams informed committee members that the first proponent would be appearing via Skype. Woody Robertson stated that he stands in support of this bill because of the stance it takes to offer guaranteed transferability of College Level Examination Program (CLEP) credits between colleges and universities in Kansas, making a college degree more affordable and less time consuming. ([Attachment 2](#))

Mr. Robertson then answered questions from committee members in regard to safeguards for testing, reliability of testing results, how often tests are updated, and costs associated with the testing.

Janie Harris testified in support, outlining her personal experience with the program which offered her access to college credits without the exorbitant fees normally associated with obtaining a college education. ([Attachment 3](#)) Ms. Harris then answered questions from committee members.

The chairperson then informed the Committee that written proponent testimony has been provided

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 09, 2016 in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

electronically by Linda Fund, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees (KACCT).
([Attachment 4](#))

There were no further proponents and no opponents who wished to present testimony.

Dr. Blake Flanders presented neutral testimony highlighting that KBOR included among its goals for the 2015-16 year to further the implementation of credit for prior learning in Kansas, with an emphasis on serving active and veteran service members and their families. He further stated that KBOR requests three amendments to the current bill as outlined in his testimony. ([Attachment 5](#))

Questions followed concerning how grades are awarded, whether CLEP students are held to higher grading standards, which institutions don't currently accept CLEP scores, and the considerable cost in developing individualized CLEP tests.

Matt Lindsey then presented neutral testimony on behalf of the Kansas Independent College Association. ([Attachment 6](#))

There being no further conferees, the chairperson closed the hearing on **SB388**.

Possible action on bills previously heard SB324 — Winter celebration curriculum.

Chairperson Abrams called for discussion and possible final action on **SB324**. He asked the Committee if there were any amendments to be presented. Seeing none, he removed the bill from further consideration by the Committee.

Possible action on bills previously heard SB358 — Amending the nurse educator service scholarship program act.

Chairperson Abrams called for final action on **SB358**. He asked if there were any amendments.

Senator Schmidt offered a balloon amendment that adds the words "nurse education or nursing administration" in the definition of "Accredited independent institution". ([Attachment 7](#))

Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Baumgardner seconded, to approve the balloon amendment. Motion carried.

*Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Baumgardner seconded, to recommend **SB358** as amended, favorably for passage. Motion carried.*

With no further business before the Committee, Chairperson Abrams adjourned the meeting at 2:28 pm.

The next meeting of the Senate Education Committee will be on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 1:30 pm in Room 144-S of the Capitol.