

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
(1202 Commission)

June 23, 1975

Room 519 - State House

Members Present

Senator Joseph C. Harder, Chairman
Representative Jim Maag, Vice-Chairman
Senator Ross Doyen
Senator Billy McCray
Senator Jan Meyers
Senator Jack Steineger
Representative John Bower
Representative John Carlin
Representative Don Crumbaker
Representative Richard C. "Pete" Loux
Representative Roger Robertson

Staff Present

Dr. J. W. Drury, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Avis Badke, Revisor of Statutes' Office

The meeting was called to order by Senator Harder, Chairman. On a motion by Representative Bower, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Role of the Legislative
Educational Planning Committee

Dr. Drury addressed the Committee concerning the charge it has been given this interim. (A copy of his presentation is attached and is also in the Committee notebooks.)

He pointed out that the group can function either as a special legislative committee in the traditional sense or it can operate as a 1202 Commission and perform the more long-range planning function which that choice of roles implies.

Dr. Drury said, nationally, there is a consensus that the role of the 1202 Commission is to coordinate the planning for postsecondary education. He told the Committee that such a task requires decisions as to how much of the work the Commission can do itself and how much it has to coordinate with others, whether it formulates a "Master Plan" or works on segments of postsecondary education, and whether it wants to adopt a series of goals and objectives.

Dr. Drury said he thinks it would be a good idea if the Committee adopted a written position stating how it intends to coordinate planning for postsecondary education.

Summary of Master Planning Commission
Report, Task Force Report, and
State Board of Education Recommendations

The rest of the morning was spent with staff reviewing the major recommendations that have been made to the Legislature concerning the organization of postsecondary education. (Copies of the presentations are attached and are also in the notebooks. A short summary of the minority reports to the Task Force Report is also included.)

The recommendations summarized were the following:

Master Planning Commission Report. The Master Planning Commission, in its December, 1972, report to the Legislature included among its recommendations a proposal that various postsecondary institutions be merged, expanded, or consolidated in order to integrate academic and vocational offerings.

Task Force Report. In September, 1974, the Action Task Force on Postsecondary Education made a report endorsing the Master Planning Commission's proposed mergers, expansions and consolidations and proposed that, in addition, the state be divided into regions for the purpose of taxation, governance, and administration. The proposed regions would be under the general supervisory authority of the State Board of Education.

The Task Force Report was accepted by the State Board of Education with several additions, deletions, and amendments. The major difference was the State Board of Education's recommendation that the number of regions in the state be no more than 10. (The Task Force recommended a maximum of 20 regions.)

Committee Deliberations

The Committee discussed the various recommendations that have been made relating to junior colleges and area vocational-technical schools and agreed to adopt a tentative course of action to serve as a starting place for Committee consideration.

Upon a motion by Senator Steineger, the Committee agreed to adopt as a premise the concept of regionalization. Upon a second motion by Senator Steineger, the Committee agreed to adopt as a premise the concept of mergers and consolidations within regions.

In discussing the motions, Committee members raised a number of issues and concerns such as the need for more information about programs, legal questions relating to regionalization, mergers and consolidations, the effects of regionalization in other states, and the role to be played by other segments of education such as proprietary schools. Of particular concern were the fundamental questions of financing and governance, including the question of whether junior colleges should be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, the Board of Regents, or even a third Board. (The last alternative would require a Constitutional amendment.)

It was generally agreed that the motions were not intended to bind the Committee to a particular policy position. Instead, they were intended to focus attention on one possible alternative and provide a framework for indepth consideration of one aspect of postsecondary education. Such an approach would force the Committee to come to grips with the actual mechanics and consequences of regionalization, mergers, and consolidations and thereby give it a better understanding of the concepts involved when it is time to make a final decision.

There was a motion by Representative Loux that the Committee adopt as a concept the development of a plan that would be generally within the amount of state money that is presently appropriated. The motion lost.

Other Matters

Senator Harder announced he would appoint two sub-committees to work in the areas of nursing education and student loan programs and make reports to the full Committee.

Senator Harder inquired as to the possibility of asking Dr. Kenneth E. Anderson, University of Kansas, to up-date his enrollment projections for the public and private colleges and universities. (Dr. Anderson was under contract to the Committee in FY 1975 for the sum of \$1,750.)

Dr. Drury told the Committee Dr. Anderson would be available to up-date his projections under the same general terms as last year. Upon a motion by Representative Maag, the Committee voted to employ Dr. Anderson to up-date his enrollment projections under the same terms as the previous year.

Representative Carlin expressed concern that not enough information is available concerning the Kansas Technical Institute. He cited a particular lack of information from other states and from industry representatives in Kansas who might be able to shed some light on the need for specialized technical education in the state.

Senator Harder brought up the matter of the transferability of credits and the comparability of course numbers among junior colleges and between junior colleges and four-year institutions. The staff informed him that some preliminary work had been done and a report to the Committee would be made later.

In addition, Senator Harder asked the staff to report to the Committee about NCHEMS - what it is, what benefits are derived from the system, and what are the Committee's alternatives if it chooses to support NCHEMS projects in the state.

Senator Harder also said the Committee must soon make a decision regarding the facilities study.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be July 15 and 16 at 10:00 in Room 510 of the State House. Among items on the agenda will be the consideration of regionalization, mergers, and consolidations and a report from the staff relating to NCHEMS.

The meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by Carolyn Rampey

Approved by Committee on:

July 16, 1975
(Date)