

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL  
PLANNING COMMITTEE (1202 COMMISSION)

July 30, 1975

Room 510 - State House

9:00 a.m.

Members Present

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

Staff Present

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

Conferees

Dale E. Brooks, Kansas Association of Area Vocational Techni-  
cal Schools  
Richard E. Ladd, Kansas Association of Area Vocational Schools  
John Peterson, Kansas Association of Private Career Schools  
John S. Poston, Kansas Association of Private Career Schools  
Gary Talley, Kansas Association of Private Career Schools  
Dale Dennis, Director, School Finance and Statistics, State  
Department of Education

Morning Session

Upon a motion by Senator Doyen, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Area Vocational - Technical  
Schools

Representatives of the Kansas Association of Area Vocational-Technical Schools addressed the Committee and discussed the role of the AVT schools, which they see as part of a continuum between secondary and postsecondary education. Mr. Ladd said that AVT schools serve a distinct purpose -- to provide vocational education. He said there may be an overlap of programs among the various segments of postsecondary education, but he believes no other segment has as its single purpose the training of persons to perform on the job. He said he believes as long as AVT schools perform their function well, they should continue.

He told the Committee several questions need to be asked: Do AVT schools meet manpower needs? Do AVT schools fulfill an educational need? Do AVT schools operate in an efficient and economical way? Do AVT schools increase students' freedom of choice by providing another educational option?

Mr. Ladd said he believes past studies of postsecondary education have missed the mark because they have not been sufficiently concerned with the purpose of the various postsecondary segments. He told the Committee it is his opinion that, if a program is degree oriented, it belongs under the Board of Regents. If it is a non-degree program, it belongs under the Board of Education.

Dr. Brooks said he did not believe the state needs to be regionalized since institutions already tend to serve a geographic area. He pointed out that the potential for better planning and coordination of postsecondary education already exists since both AVT schools and community junior colleges are under the same governing board.

Dr. Brooks said he is not opposed to mergers of AVT schools and community junior colleges, provided the AVT schools retain a separate identity. He pointed out that AVT schools serve a number of secondary students who might be short-changed if AVT schools were under a regional board predominantly oriented toward postsecondary education. The solution would be to make state aid for vocational education a line-item appropriation so that money presently spent by the AVT schools would continue to flow to them.

Following Dr. Brooks' presentation, he answered a number of questions asked by Committee members. He said it is his opinion that, in the case of the Cowley County AVTS (which is combined with the Cowley County CJC), the attitude toward secondary students is not good because the institution is really postsecondary oriented. He said the 2 mill limit on the amount USD's can levy for vocational education should be raised to enable USD's to spend more money to contract with AVT schools for secondary students.

He admitted that adults who attend AVT schools often feel uncomfortable with classmates who are high school students. He said adults are more likely to enroll at AVT schools where there is a mix of secondary and postsecondary students. He told the Committee he believes the Type I AVT schools (operated under the board of a USD or a community college) and Type II AVT schools (operated under an area board representing participating districts) are performing similar services.

He mentioned that, because of the employment situation and the prospect of fewer jobs, the decision has been made to cut the size of some AVT school classes. Consequently, some students will be turned away this fall.

When asked about AVT schools offering AA degrees, Dr. Brooks said that, although employers and others value degrees, students at AVT schools are more interested in job proficiency. He agreed there are some technical programs that could be converted to degree programs, but he and Mr. Ladd both expressed the fear that sophisticated, technical programs might divert vocational education dollars from more basic job training programs.

He disagreed that there is unnecessary duplication of programs. He said even when similar programs are offered at an AVT school and a college in the same town, the differing purposes of the two programs (vocational training compared to a degree-oriented college program) justify their continuation.

When asked his reaction to the proposal of the Kansas Association of Community Junior Colleges, Dr. Brooks said the plan would work in some parts of the state, but not in others. He told the Committee his main objection is to the creation of a third board for postsecondary education since it would tend to fragment vocational educational funds.

In summary, he repeated his statement that he was not opposed to merging AVT schools with community junior colleges as long as AVT schools retained their identify and continued to receive state money for vocational education as a clearly defined line-item appropriation.

## Private Career Schools

Mr. Peterson addressed the Committee in behalf of the Association of Private Career Schools, an association representing 13 business and trade schools licensed to do business in Kansas and accredited by either the National Association of Technical and Trade Schools or the National Association of Independent Colleges and Schools.

Mr. Peterson said the Association was willing to cooperate with the Committee in any way possible. He observed that private career schools have an important role to play and provide an important option to students interested in continuing their education.

In this connection, he said there should be no discrimination against private career school students in the matter of student loans and grants. He told the Committee financial support should be extended to qualified postsecondary students, including those who attend private career schools that are licensed and accredited by a national accrediting agency. He expressed his support for 1975 H.B. 2476 and 1975 S.B. 168, which would have extended the tuition grant program to certain proprietary school students, and 1975 H.B. 2480, which would have established the Kansas Higher Education Student Loan Act.

Mr. Talley told the Committee private career schools are as important to the state as any other segment of postsecondary education. He said private career schools are innovative and responsive to student and manpower needs because they offer relevant and intensive short-term programs to prepare students for early entry into the job market. He told the Committee private career schools augment the offerings of other postsecondary institutions and provide an opportunity for students who might not get an education elsewhere.

Mr. Poston pointed out that the cost per clock hour of private career school courses is often less than at other institutions due to the intensity of the courses. (Prices vary, but he mentioned \$2,200 for certain 9-month programs and \$4,000 for court reporting, an 18-month program.)

In response to questions, Mr. Poston said the type and number of students attending private career schools would be different were there student aid programs. He estimated that 15% more students would be able to attend private career schools with financial aid. He said he knows of no proprietary school operating its own student loan program.

Mr. Poston said the enrollment in private career schools has increased over the last 10 years.

In response to a question, Mr. Talley said no effort has been made to do placement follow-ups of private career school

graduates, although such efforts are beginning now due to federal requirements. (Primarily, follow-ups are required for programs approved for veterans' benefits.)

### NCHEMS and Related Matters

The Committee reviewed a draft of a letter describing the Commission's activities as they relate to the collection of HEGIS data, the facilities study, and the development of NCHEMS data. Dr. Drury, in discussing the draft, proposed that it be sent to heads of all postsecondary institutions on behalf of the Commission informing them of the Commission's activities and enlisting their support in the data-gathering effort. The Commission agreed to send such a letter over Chairman Harder's signature to the various institutions. (A copy of the letter is in the Committee notebooks.)

Dr. Drury also proposed that a technical advisory committee be named to work with the NCHEMS subcommittee and staff in drawing up proposals and guidelines for the development of NCHEMS-related data. The consensus of the Commission is that the NCHEMS subcommittee (Senator Harder, Representative Maag, Senator Doyen, Representative Loux and Representative Carlin) appoint the members of the advisory committee from the following segments of postsecondary education: Regents Institutions (three members), Junior Colleges (three members), Private Colleges and Universities (three members), Area Vocational Technical Schools (two members), and Private Career Schools (one member).

### Afternoon Session

#### Proposed Plan to Regionalize Southeast Kansas

At its previous meeting, the Committee agreed to consider a tentative proposal relating to Southeast Kansas to be drawn up by the 1202 Planning Subcommittee (Chairman Harder, Vice-Chairman Maag, and Representative Loux). The Subcommittee met and developed the following tentative proposal:

1. Designate a Southeast Kansas Region for Postsecondary Education composed of the 14 counties in Southeast Kansas. Within that area, merge the six community junior colleges and the area vocational-technical school into one multicampus institution. The institutions involved are: Allen County CJC, Coffeyville CJC (Montgomery County), Fort Scott CJC (Bourbon County), Independence CJC (Montgomery County), Labette County CJC, Neosho County CJC, and the Southeast Kansas AVTS (Montgomery County).
2. Create a 7-member local regional board whose duties would include the following:

- a. Formulating a regional plan for all postsecondary education in the area to be approved by the 1202 Commission;
  - b. Preparing a budget for the multicampus institution;
  - c. Appointing a President or Chief Administrative Officer for the multicampus institution who would be responsible to the board, who would supervise the regional administrative staff, and to whom an administrative officer at each campus would report; and
  - d. Appointing a regional advisory board to make recommendations to the board.
3. Put the regional board under the State Board of Education.
  4. Empower the regional board to contract with Pittsburg Kansas State College for the use of the Technical Institute by Post-secondary Students.
  5. Fund the regional multicampus institution in the following manner:
    - a. Charge an uniform student tuition based on the present average student tuition for the six CJC's in the region;
    - b. Impose an uniform 3 mill levy over the region;
    - c. Continue to charge out-district (in this case, out-region) tuition;
    - d. Continue to receive federal funds; and
    - e. Fund the remaining amount from state appropriations, based on a regional budget that is the combined budgets for the merged institutions, subject to present budget constraints.

Dr. Drury presented enrollment information relating to the six community colleges in Southeast Kansas and Mr. Dennis gave the Committee information relating to budgets.

During the Committee discussion that followed the presentation of the Subcommittee's recommendations, a number of issues were raised concerning regionalization. Some Committee members believed the area should be divided into smaller regions. Others questioned whether the concept of regionalization was applicable to the entire state or just parts. The point was made

that, constitutionally, it might not be possible to treat similar institutions in various parts of the state differently, as would be the case if only part of the state were regionalized.

During the discussion, it was brought out by Committee members that additional information is needed about programs and community needs before a final decision can be made. Concern was also expressed about the situation of secondary students who attend the Area Vocational Technical School if the AVTS were to be merged with postsecondary institutions.

The consensus of the Committee was to adopt with some changes the proposed recommendations as a tentative proposal to take to Southeast Kansas for hearings.

Upon a motion by Representative Loux, the proposed regional board was enlarged from seven to nine members (no two of whom could be from the same county) to be appointed by the 1202 Commission.

Upon a motion by Representative Robertson, it was moved that an advisory board to the regional board be appointed by the regional board.

A packet containing the Committee's tentative recommendations, enrollment data, financial data, and other information relating to Southeast Kansas has been sent to Committee members and is in the Committee notebooks. The information is also being sent to persons in Southeast Kansas along with an invitation for them to appear before the Committee at its next meeting.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be August 18 and 19. At this time, plans call for the Committee to hold hearings on August 18 (Monday) at the Auditorium of the Business and Fine Arts Building on the campus of the Neosho County CJC in Chanute, Kansas. The hearings will begin at 10:00 a.m. It is expected that the Committee will meet in Topeka for the second day of the meeting (Tuesday, August 19).

#### Other Matters

The meeting dates for October have been changed to October 13 and 14.

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by Carolyn Rampey

Approved by Committee on:

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(date)