

M I N U T E S

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
(1202 Commission)

September 27 and 28, 1976

September 27, 1976
Renn Memorial Library
Cowley County Community College
Arkansas City, Kansas

September 28, 1976
Room 519 - State House

Members Present

Senator Joseph C. Harder, Chairman
Representative Don Crumbaker, Vice-Chairman
Senator George Bell
Senator Billy McCray (September 28)
Representative John Bower
Representative Kalo Hineman
Representative Roger Robertson
Representative Fred Weaver (September 27)

Staff Present

Phill Jones, Kansas Legislative Research Department (September 28)
Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ben Barrett, Kansas Legislative Research Department (September 27)
Dr. Gail Harkness, Kansas Legislative Research Department (September 28)
Avis Badke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education (September 27)

Conferees

September 27

Dr. Gwen Nelson, President, Cowley County Community College
Charles M. Barnes, President, Dodge City Community College
Dr. Andy Elland, President, Hutchinson Community College
Ed Walbourn, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community Colleges

September 28

Dr. John W. Henderson, President, Washburn University
Samuel Cohen, Chairman, Washburn University Board of Regents
Perry W. Hooks, Jr., Washburn Student Association
Don D. Depew, Chairman, Washburn University Task Force of Greater Topeka Chamber
of Commerce
Ruth Murphy, R.N.
Jeanie Brown, R.N.
Mary Ellen Fisher, R.N.
Joyce Rankin, R.N.
Joyce Olsen, R.N.
Dr. Merle Bolton, Commissioner of Education, Kansas State Department of Education
Max Bickford, Executive Officer, Kansas State Board of Regents

September 27, 1976

Vocational Education Funding

The Committee was invited to Arkansas City to meet with several community college presidents to discuss vocational education funding and to observe firsthand the facilities at Cowley County Community College.

Dr. Nelson told the Committee the school is the only combined community college and area vocational school in the state. He said 50 percent of the students are enrolled in occupational programs.

He said for fall, 1976, the school has a headcount enrollment of 1,450 and a full-time equivalent enrollment of 720. More than 90 percent of the students are from within a 50-mile radius of the college. The nearest area vocational schools are in Wichita and Coffeyville.

Dr. Nelson said credit hour student tuition is \$8.00 per hour for all students. Vocational education students pay the regular student tuition and are counted in the formula used to determine the amount of out-district and credit hour state aid the school will receive. Because of this, the Attorney General has ruled that Cowley County Community College does not qualify for the state postsecondary student tuition payments (90 percent of local cost) made to other area vocational schools.

In addition, the school does not receive credit hour state aid for students who have more than 64 credit hours, even though some vocational education programs take more than 64 hours to complete. (The only exception to the 64 credit hour limit is for terminal type nursing programs and pre-engineering courses for which state aid is paid for up to 72 credit hours.) Dr. Nelson estimated that no credit hour state aid is received for between 15 and 20 percent of the vocational education courses taken at Cowley County Community College.

Dr. Nelson told the Committee the school no longer makes transfers from its general fund to its vocational fund since such a practice leaves the impression that twice as much money is being spent for vocational education than is actually the case. He said all support courses taken by vocational education students, such as math and science, are paid for out of the general fund. In addition, the library, student services, and almost all administrative costs connected with vocational education are budgeted in the general fund. All direct costs attributable to vocational education, such as salaries, supplies, and equipment, are paid for from the vocational education fund. Indirect costs, such as maintenance of equipment, insurance, and utilities are also allocated to the vocational education fund.

Dr. Nelson told the Committee the current 18-month budget is \$978,562 for the general fund and \$451,458 for the vocational education fund. The 1976 levies are 2.64 mills for the general fund and 2.00 mills for the vocational education fund.

In discussion with Committee members, the three community college presidents pointed out the high cost of offering vocational education programs (estimated to be two and one-half times more expensive than regular programs), the number of vocational education programs offered for which no state vocational education aid is available, and the fact that many indirect costs attributable to vocational education are not reimbursed. Dr. Nelson cited the Smith-Hughes Act and reminded the Committee that it has long been recognized that vocational education programs require greater financial support than regular offerings. Dr. Elland said the cost of vocational education programs makes community colleges dependent upon a variety of revenue sources. He said area vocational schools are fortunate that such a large proportion of their cost is borne by the state.

Mr. Walbourn told the Committee the percentage of direct costs of vocational education reimbursed by the state varies among community colleges. He estimated the range to be between two and 39 percent. He said some of the state reimbursement is used to subsidize vocational education programs that are approved but not state funded. Dr. Nelson added that none of the approved continuing education vocational programs offered at Cowley County Community College receive state reimbursement. (The school does receive credit hour state aid for these programs.)

All conferees agreed the root of the problem is a limited amount of funding in the face of inflation, increasing enrollments, and a desire to expand vocational offerings.

Speaker Pete McGill addressed the Committee and said eventually the time will come when programs must be cut, institutions consolidated, and state control increased. He said there is not enough money to fund every program, no matter how worthy, and that there are other priorities toward which state moneys must be directed. He urged the Committee and the community college presidents to work together to halt the spiraling cost of postsecondary education.

Mr. Walbourn responded to the Speaker's remarks by saying that a plan to divide the state into postsecondary education regions proposed by the Kansas Association of Community Colleges would do much to coordinate programs and reduce unnecessary spending. He also asked the Committee to consider differential funding for vocational education programs in recognition of their greater cost. He said his proposal would require between \$360,000 and \$400,000 in additional state money.

Senator Harder said until it is possible to accurately determine program costs, it is difficult to arrive at equitable funding or even be sure of comparable program information. He added that a basic problem confronting the Committee is an excess of postsecondary institutions competing for students and money.

September 28, 1976

Washburn University Feasibility Study

Dr. Henderson told the Committee one reason the Washburn University administration and Board of Regents do not want to come into the state system is that they are unsure of what the status and future of the school would be in the state system.

Dr. Henderson said he prefers the school remain a municipal institution with increased state and city funding. He said it is his intention to work with the Shawnee County delegation and ask it to introduce legislation during the next session to increase the limit on taxes levied on property within the City of Topeka.

In response to a question, he said he believes the Governor does not plan to recommend that state credit hour aid for undergraduate hours be phased out, although he has some concerns regarding the Governor's attitude toward state aid for graduate and law school hours.

Mr. Cohen, speaking for the Washburn University Board of Regents, reiterated Dr. Henderson's concerns regarding the future of Washburn University were it to come into the state system. He said the possibility of increased student tuition worries him, but, otherwise, the University's sources of revenue are stable. He said there is no guarantee that the functions and services Washburn University performs for the community would be continued were Washburn University to come into the state system.

He told the Committee the University's strong local support and its uniqueness as the only municipal institution in the nation led the Board of Regents to vote against recommending that the school become a part of the state system.

Mr. Hooks said the Washburn Student Association supports increased state aid to the University for at least the next one or two years. He said Washburn University performs a vital educational role in the state and that Washburn University students pay a disproportionately high tuition. (A copy of Mr. Hook's presentation is in the Committee notebooks.)

Mr. Depew said the Washburn University Task Force of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce has asked the Washburn University Board of Regents to implement long-range planning in order to define areas of program development and evaluate funding.

He told the Committee the Task Force endorses the recommendations to increase credit hour state aid at two-year intervals, expand the tax base to include all of Shawnee County, and increase the limit on taxes levied on property within the City of Topeka. (A copy of Mr. Depew's presentation is in the Committee notebooks.)

Representative Crumbaker said he had been prepared to offer a motion to recommend that the mill levy limit for Washburn University be increased to ten mills for

general operations and two and one-half mills for Debt Retirement and Construction. He told the Committee such an increase would make the Washburn University mill levies commensurate with community college levies. He said he did not believe state credit hour aid to Washburn University should be in an amount greater than that paid for hours taken at community colleges.

However, he said after hearing that the Washburn University administration and Board of Regents intends to ask the Shawnee County delegation to introduce the necessary legislation, he believes the proper action of the Committee is to formally respond to the specific issue of bringing Washburn University into the state system. Therefore, he moved to recommend that the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (1202 Commission) has determined that it is not feasible at the present time to bring Washburn University into the state system of colleges and universities. (The motion was seconded by Representative Hineman.) The motion carried unanimously.

Nursing Education

Dr. Harkness reviewed Chapters I and II of the nursing education study. (Copies of the chapters are in the Committee notebooks.)

In order to give Committee members an idea of the wide range of health care services performed by nurses, she introduced five nurses who described for the Committee what they do.

Ruth Murphy told the Committee she is a Community Health Nurse from Elk County. She said there is no hospital in Elk County and only one doctor (who is 70 years old and retired.) She and another nurse are the only health care practitioners in the area.

Together, the two nurses started a traveling clinic and, except for serious illnesses that require patients to be treated in facilities outside the county, provide all of the health care services in Elk County.

She said the clinic is funded from a one-mill levy in Elk County and a federal grant. Approximately 600 persons a month are seen at the clinic.

Jeanie Brown told the Committee she is a nurse practitioner in Colby. Her area of specialization is pediatrics and she is particularly interested in preventive care and raising the level of wellness.

She said the issue of building a new hospital in Colby will be decided in the November elections. Right now she said there seems to be a shortage of nurses in the Colby area, although she knows of nurses there who are not working.

In response to a question, she said nurses who graduate from a diploma school of nursing are generally better able to provide hospital care for patients, but graduates of degree programs usually have a broader understanding of preventive care and community health services.

Mary Ellen Fisher told the Committee she is an associate in a group of health care providers in Shawnee Mission. She works with a group of doctors, but has her own caseload and works fairly independently of her associates.

She said she sees patients in a variety of settings including the hospital, the office, nursing homes, and the patients' homes.

Joyce Rankin, a nurse practitioner from Lawrence, told the Committee she works for a doctor who practices in the area of family health. Although her work is subject to review by the doctor, she generally works independently of him and is responsible for the patients who see her. She said she sees 400 patients a month.

Joyce Olsen, a member of the faculty of the Kansas University School of Nursing and a Clinical Specialist in Pediatric Nursing, told the Committee she came to Kansas because she wanted the opportunity to work in a non-traditional nursing role.

She said her work includes patient and family care. The need to follow-up hospital patients has led her to become involved in clinic and out-patient care.

Dr. Harkness told the Committee the entire nursing education study will be presented to the Committee in November.

Data Collection Activities

Dr. Bolton told the Committee the State Department had just completed an inventory of courses and a program classification system for the community colleges utilizing the NCHEMS classification. He said the cost of the project was \$11,000.

He said the State Department has developed a three-year plan to implement NCHEMS products that would provide for a common data base and uniform reporting of fiscal and program information. The three-year plan, which includes the area vocational schools, would cost approximately \$40,000 for each of the three years. Dr. Bolton said the current budget allocates about \$8,000 to the project. (A copy of Dr. Bolton's presentation and a schedule for implementing the State Department's plan is in the Committee notebooks.)

Dr. Bolton told the Committee he believes data collection activities should be centralized and coordinated. He said the coordination could be provided by the Division of Planning and Research in the Department of Administration or by the 1202 Commission.

Mr. Bickford told the Committee the Regents' institutions are using a number of NCHEMS products and are planning to implement more. He said the Legislature appropriated \$98,500 to be allocated to the state colleges and universities to implement the NCHEMS Information Exchange Procedures (IEP) at the Regents' institutions. (A list of NCHEMS products and procedures that have been started or have been completed at the six Regents' schools is in the Committee notebooks.)

Mr. Bickford said the main expense in NCHEMS is the cost of putting the information in computers. He told the Committee that as long as the various segments of post-secondary education utilize NCHEMS products, a certain amount of comparability is assured.

Other Matters

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The next meeting will be October 25 and 26 (Monday and Tuesday.)

The meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by Carolyn Rampey

Approved by Committee on:

(Date)