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M I N U T E S

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER

October 7, 1976

Members Present

- Representative Denny D. Burgess, Chairman
- Senator Edward F. Reilly, Vice-Chairman
- Senator Albert Campbell
- Representative Bill Morris
- Representative George Wingert

Staff Present

- Marlin Rein, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes Office

The Special Committee on the University of Kansas Medical Center convened at 10:00 a.m. October 7, 1976, with Representative Denny D. Burgess presiding. The entire agenda was committed to the review of a preliminary draft of the Committee Report on Proposal No. 39 - Overview of the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Upon a motion by Representative Wingert, seconded by Representative Morris, the minutes of the September 20-21 meeting of the Committee were approved.

The Committee then proceeded to review in detail the draft report. The Committee generally found the report to be acceptable, but did instruct the staff to make several changes. On page 4 of the draft report, the Committee wanted to strengthen the references to the principal purpose of the institution by inclusion of comments which indicated the Committee's support of the Chancellor's role and the institutional purpose.

The preliminary report, as presented to the Committee, did not include the final section in which the Committee conclusions and recommendations would be noted. The Committee then considered some preliminary recommendations or conclusions which are to be added to the draft report. The following were items which the Committee directed the staff to include in this section of the report:

1. The Committee wanted to incorporate language in the report emphasizing its support for the Chancellor's efforts to organize the institution to make it more accountable to the University administration.

The Committee wanted to incorporate references to its support of the Chancellor's commitments that the Medical Center should have as its principal purpose providing services to meet the medical care needs for all of Kansas.

2. On motion by Senator Reilly and a second by Representative Morris, the Committee adopted a recommendation that an ongoing legislative committee should be appointed to continue the work of this interim Special Committee. The Committee cited the move to the new clinical facility as a major factor contributing to the need for closer legislative liaison with the institution. Because of the need to monitor programs and operations and by having such a committee functioning, the Legislature would be better tuned to not only University needs, but also be in a better position to hold the institution accountable for funds appropriated by the Legislature.

3. The Committee wished to make no recommendations with regard to the private practice corporations pending the outcome of the Legislative Post Audit program audit.
4. The Committee wanted to incorporate some observations concerning the housekeeping program. The Committee is supportive of the efforts by the University in initiating a clean-up program at the institution.

The Committee also wanted to incorporate language which would suggest the University explore alternate contract solutions as one alternative. It was the Committee's feeling, however, that the members did not wish to make a recommendation necessarily implying that the University should contract housekeeping services.

5. The Committee wanted to incorporate language into the report to the effect that the University might wish to examine the advantages that might be realized were greater reliance made on professional registered nurses and less reliance on licensed practical nurses and nursing aides. The members cited the experience at Baptist Memorial Hospital which has undergone such a change in staffing policy. The highly sophisticated level of care offered by the institution would seemingly justify a richer staffing of professional nurses.
6. The Committee agreed to recommend that greater budget flexibility be provided to the Medical Center, particularly with regard to operations of the hospital. Budget limitations presently imposed on the institution, together with unrealistic shrinkage requirements on salaries and wages, are viewed by the Committee to be detrimental to the efficient operation of the hospital.
7. The Committee wants to incorporate some comments to the effect that the University hospital has extensive equipment requirements which should be addressed in the appropriations process. The Committee wants to particularly note that equipment presently in use at the institution is not the most current and up-to-date available and much is in need of replacement. The Committee did not specifically recommend a dollar level of appropriation for equipment replacement, but wanted to merely stress the need for recognition of the high equipment requirement at the institution.

The Committee then determined that the next meeting of the Committee would be November 8 and 9, again in Topeka. The agenda for that meeting will be further consideration of the Committee report.

Upon a motion by Representative Morris, the Committee adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Prepared by Marlin Rein

Approved by the Committee on:

11-23-76  
(Date)

*Denny O. Burgess*