

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

The meeting was called to order by Senator August "Gus" Bogina at
Chairperson

11:00 a.m./p.m./ on April 26, 1985n room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senators Gaines, Harder, Johnston, Talkington and Werts

Committee staff present:

Research Department: Richard Ryan, Robin Hunn, Mary Galligan

Revisor's Office: Arden Ensley, Norman Furse

Committee Office: Judy Bromich, Doris Fager

Conferees appearing before the committee:

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Mr. Ensley explained that there is need for cleanup in connection with bills passed during the current session of the Legislature. These measures are:

(1) a measure concerning motor vehicles (5 RS 1462); (2) cleanup of fish and game commission bills (5 RS 1466); and (3) cleanup of law enforcement training act (5 RS 1500).

Motion was made by Senator Doyen and seconded by Senator Gannon to introduce the requested bills and request that they be referred to Committee of the Whole. The motion carried by roll call vote.

Motion was made by Senator Winter and seconded by Senator Kerr to introduce a bill relating to the collection of taxes imposed upon motor vehicles (identical to SB 333 which did not pass the House). The motion carried by roll call vote.

Motion was made by Senator Winter and seconded by Senator Gannon to introduce a bill concerning establishment of a work release center in Wyandotte County. The motion carried by roll call vote.

INTERIM STUDY REQUEST

Senator Gannon distributed a proposal for an interim study on the role of selected Kansas public universities (Attachment A). He said he had received information that the Board of Regents is not doing a study of the subject.

Motion was made by Senator Gannon and seconded by Senator Feleciano to request an interim study as suggested in Attachment A. The motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

A PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERIM STUDY ON THE ROLE OF
SELECTED KANSAS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

BACKGROUND

By the 1990's there will be one-fifth fewer high school graduates, which means greater competition for a decreasing number of college candidates. Higher education costs will probably continue to climb as in the past decade when they rose faster than the consumer price index. Universities may have trouble attracting the best people to their faculties because of the decrease in faculty openings. Furthermore, the federal government will likely continue to reduce the flow of federal aid to students and support for university research.

Public state colleges, many of them former teachers colleges, now often labeled universities have been identified by the Carnegie Council on Higher Education as likely to absorb the bulk of enrollment decline in the next five to ten years. As these institutions struggle to maintain health and vitality, they can erode steadily in quality, in faculty morale, and in institutional purpose.

On the more optimistic side, new developments in computing promise to alter the educational process. University research and service will become more vital to the nation's public health, economic growth, security, and quality of life. Adults will be re-entering higher education in unprecedented numbers, thereby suggesting that some alteration of focus may be necessary.

Thus higher education faces a new situation which holds some novel threats and presents some fresh opportunities. Institutions cannot be allowed to drift; careful direction is an imperative.

As the resources in Kansas higher education are stretched further and further with enrollment declines and increased costs, institutional role definition grows increasingly important. That is particularly true for the Regents three regional universities, Emporia State University, Pittsburg State University and Fort Hays State University and Washburn University. Because of the limited scope of their programs, these institutions do not have the funding sources or the pool of potential students available to the three larger state universities.

In an effort to define the role of these institutions in that environment, the proposed study will examine the mission of each institution within the Kansas system of public higher education. What is the business of each institution? What is most central to it? How does it fulfill the needs of Kansas?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The study will seek to 1) review and critique the role of each of the four institutions, 2) assess each institution's strengths and weaknesses in following that role, 3) identify environment related and other factors that restrict the institution's ability to fulfill its mission and 4) assess the institution's responsibility to the public.

Following this review of the four selected public institutions, the Legislature may wish to do a similar study involving the remaining Kansas public universities.