

Approved February 12, 1987
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE Combined COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The meeting was called to order by Rep. Denise Apt at
Chairperson

3:30 a.m./p.m. on Thursday, February 5th, 1987 in room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representatives Baker, Chronister, Heinemann, Moomaw, Barkis, Mainey and Teagarden of Economic Development (All Excused) and Representatives Laird and Lowther of Education (Excused).

Committee staff present:

Jim Wilson and Avis Swartzman, Revisor's Office
Lynn Holt, Ben Barrett, Carolyn Campey, Research
Thelma Canady and Molly Mulloy, Committee Secretaries

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mr. Richard Funk, Kansas Association of School Boards
Dr. Mike Harder, Director, KU Capital Complex
Dr. Stanley Koplik, Executive Director, Board of Regents
Mr. Mark Tallman, Director of Legislative Affairs, ASK
Mr. David Monicle, Executive Vice President, Washburn
Dr. Merle Hill, Kansas Association of Community Colleges
Mr. Harold Walker, Chairman, Community College Advisory Committee
Dr. Ted Wischropp, President, Seward County Community College
Ms. Connie Hubbell, State Board of Education
Dr. Owen Henson, Kaw Valley Area Voc-Tech Schools
Jacque Oakes, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools
Mr. Robert Stinson, Kansas Vocational Association
Mr. Bill Barry, Director, Manhattan AVTS and Kansas Assn of AVTS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Apt, who opened hearings on H.B. 2102.

The first conferee was Richard Funk, who spoke in favor of H.B. 2102 but pointed out an oversight in regard to the governance of the eleven Type I area vocational/technical schools in Kansas. The Type I schools were established by and are currently controlled by local Boards of Education, and Mr. Funk felt there was confusion as to how these schools will fit into the proposed new superboard governance structure. He urged that the Committee consider having Type I AVTS continue to remain under the control of local Boards of Education.

Dr. Mike Harder endorsed H.B. 2102 because it mandates planning on a system wide basis to the state Board of Regents. He suggested that as the Regents assume the additional duties of developing a master plan, they give the CEOs of the regents' institutions the authority and responsibility to manage their own institutions.

Dr. Stanley Koplik of the Board of Regents opposed H.B. 2102 as it now stands, saying the proposed governance model with two additional boards is potentially cumbersome and unnecessarily expensive. He stated that the Board of Regents is prepared to accept expanded responsibility as the coordinating authority for the community colleges and Washburn as well as assume responsibility for statewide master planning. (Attachment 1)

Mark Tallman stated that the Associated Students of Kansas (ASK) did not have a specific position on H.B. 2102 but asked that in the restructuring of higher education in any bill, equal opportunity and access be promoted. He also suggested that there be improved procedures concerning transfer among educational institutions and that there be a provision for student input in the governance process. (Attachment 2)

David Monicle stated that Washburn supports H.B. 2102 as the first step in attaining their goal of being a full member of the Regents system. He noted that there is not a section in the current bill addressing the relationship of the Washburn Board of Regents to the proposed new Board of Governors. He asked the Committee to consider identifying a specific date for Washburn to be administratively under

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOU_E COMBINED COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
room 313S, Statehouse, at 3:30 a.m./p.m. on Thursday, February 5th, 1987

the control and supervision of the Board of Regents. (Attachment 3)

Dr. Merle Hill stated that the Kansas Association of Community Colleges does not support H.B. 2102 because they want a separate, independent board of control for the state's nineteen community colleges which would not be under the control of a higher board. (Att.4)

Harold Walker, chairman of the Trustee Section of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges, said that the trustees and the Governor's Community College Advisory Council both oppose H.B. 2102. They unanimously endorse the concept of a third, independent board to administer community colleges and vocational/technical schools.

Dr. Ted Wischropp expressed guarded opposition to H.B. 2102, saying that it can't be supported unless control and authority of community colleges remains at the local level.

Connie Hubbell testified against H.B. 2102 (Attachment 5) saying that the creation of two additional boards would not be cost effective and that the transfer of responsibility for vocational education programs from the State Board of Education to a Community College Board would cause conflict of management and responsibility with the unified schools system. She believes the current plan is more efficient and provides better coordination than the plan outlined in H.B. 2102.

Dr. Owen Henson opposed H.B. 2102 because it would have vocational technical schools included in the governance of higher education. He felt they should remain under the State Board of Education because of their strong relationship with secondary school districts.

Jacque Oakes spoke in opposition to the bill, stating that the State Board of Education should be the sole agency administering and supervising vocational education (Attachment 6).

Robert Stinson opposed the bill because it would place vocational education in competition for funding with higher education.

Bill Barry opposed H.B. 2102, stating that the present system of governance and control of AVTS is the best since AVTS serve many secondary as well as post-secondary students. (Attachment 7)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm.

DATE February 5, 1987

GUEST REGISTER

HOUSE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE & Economic Development

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
<u>Gerold W. Wadsworth</u>	USA	Topeka
<u>Leslie N. Hummel</u>	Rep. House (dentist)	Topeka
<u>V. M. Wadsworth</u>	KU CCC	"
<u>Vickie Thomas</u>	KU	Laurance
<u>Elaine Adkins</u>	citizen	Topeka
<u>DALE BROOKS</u>	ARTS	Newton
<u>Bill Berry</u>	Manhattan ARTS	Manhattan
<u>Luide Berry</u>	"	"
<u>Tom Coy</u>	Topeka ARTS	Topeka
<u>Gary J. Berry</u>	K-DEU ARTS	Topeka
<u>Sheldon W. Wiedrupp</u>	Seward County Community College	Liberal
<u>Wesley D. Doolittle</u>	Cowley Co. Community College	Arkansas City, Ks
<u>Donald H. Habel</u>	Shawnee Mission Public Schools	Shawnee Mission
<u>Jim Stueger</u>	Hutchinson Comm. Coll.	Hutchinson
<u>James Stueger</u>	Cloud County Comm. College	Concordia
<u>Wesley Wadsworth</u>	KCC	Langdon Ks
<u>Charles G. Carlson</u>	Johnson County Comm. College	Overland Park
<u>Carl F. Thomas</u>	Butler Co Comm. College	Elkhart, Ks
<u>Craig Grant</u>	K-NEA	Topeka
<u>Nancy Kelley</u>	KNEA	Emporia
<u>John Buzbee</u>	University Daily, Emporia	Laurance
<u>Deanne Vieux</u>	Ks Dept of Commerce	Topeka
<u>Cornie Heeger</u>	St. Basil of Tol	Topeka
<u>Richard Funk</u>	KASB	Topeka

TESTIMONY OF DR. STANLEY Z. KOPLIK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

HOUSE BILL 2102
FEBRUARY 5, 1987

House Bill 2102 would restructure Kansas Higher Education by significantly broadening the powers of the Kansas Board of Regents giving it far-reaching authority for budgetary and programmatic decision making across the entire spectrum of Kansas postsecondary education. I am appearing before you today on behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents. The Board views the proposed governance model as being a potentially cumbersome and unnecessarily expensive means of improving coordination among the various sectors of postsecondary education.

The Kansas Board of Regents has exercised its responsibilities for governance of the state's universities since 1925. Subsequent actions by the Legislature expanded the Board's authority to include Wichita State University (1963) and Kansas Technical Institute (1976). Additionally, in 1978, responsibility was given to the Board to rule on requests for degree-granting authority from any non-public educational institutions whose main campus is within Kansas. These legislative actions, in a sense, represent further affirmations of trust and confidence in the Board of Regents.

Last November, the Board of Regents considered the issue of governance and endorsed a proposal predicated upon the strong belief that, within Kansas, the Board itself is best suited to coordinate between and among all state financed institutions of higher education while at the same time provide governance for the present Regents institutions. Under the scheme suggested by the Board, the Board of Regents would assume the duties and responsibilities of statewide master planning, budgetary review, program planning, and improved overall coordination of higher education. The Board's responsibilities would resemble the "super board" concept called for in House Bill 2102.

Under the Board's proposal, it is anticipated that beyond governing the Regents universities and Kansas Technical Institute in essentially the same manner as has been provided to the Board through the constitution and statutory law, the Board would exercise an advocacy and coordinating authority on behalf of the state's community colleges and Washburn University. Specifically, coordination would include academic program approval, review of existing academic programs and authority for review of requests for state funds. Local boards of trustees would remain in place serving a key role in maintaining community identification and effective institutional responsiveness to local citizen and business demands. The case for unification by the Board of Regents is aimed at providing for the integration of the community colleges and Washburn University more completely into state-wide planning and coordination of higher education.

At a time when the various sectors of higher education and especially the state's universities are hard pressed to attain levels of fiscal competitiveness, it seems ill-advised to impose additional layers of expensive bureaucracy with questionable authority in dealing with campus matters. The Board of Regents is prepared to accept the challenges accompanying expanded responsibility and welcomes the opportunity to bring about more effective coordination and greater efficiency in Kansas higher education. The Board expresses a strong sentiment that it is eager to work cooperatively with the Legislature in addressing mutual concerns regarding the future of Kansas higher education.



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF KANSAS

The Student Governments of the State Universities

Suite 608 • Capitol Towers • 400 S.W. 8th St. • Topeka, Ks. 66603 • (913) 354-1394

Christine A. Graves
Executive Director

Mark E. Tallman
*Director of Legislative Affairs
and Development*

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Memorial Union
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316-343-1200 ext. 5494

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Fort Hays State University
Memorial Union
Hays, Kansas 67601
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Student Government Association
Kansas State University
Student Union
Manhattan, Kansas 66506
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Student Union
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762
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University of Kansas
Burge Union
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
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Student Government Association
The Wichita State University
Campus Activities Center
Wichita, Kansas 67208
316-689-3480

Statement on HB 2102

TO: House Education Committee
House Economic Development Committee
FROM: Mark Tallman, Legislative Director
DATE: February 5, 1987

Introductory Statement

ASK does not have a specific position on HB 2102, or on the structure of higher education per se. We do wish to bring to attention of the committees several concerns we believe should be addressed in any bill restructuring educational governance.

Most fundamentally, we believe any system of post-secondary education governance must balance the principles of access and excellence. That is to say, it profits the people nothing if an educational system is open to all yet the quality of learning is not worth receiving. Neither do we benefit from the finest of academic programs if they are restricted to only a handful of people.

The unique characteristic of the American higher education system lies in our adherence to the dual goals of access and excellence. No nation has committed to so widely extending the benefits of advanced learning to so many, and yet maintains so many institutions that number among the finest in the world. Our state has shown this same commitment to both goals, as measured by the levels of educational achievement by our people, and the favorable reputations of our institutions.

In times of economic and population growth, each institution may aspire to be all things to all people. This is not one of those times. If access requires a growing commitment to special services, including remediation, to extending off-campus courses and the geographic proximity of programs, and keeping institutions financially affordable; and if excellence means raising salaries to draw to best faculty, upgrading operating budgets, equipment, libraries and laboratories, and proliferating graduate programs, centers of excellence and programs of national and world renown, then institutional ambition quickly run into limitations and conflict over scarce resources.

Currently - and perhaps inevitably - the establishment of priorities and determination of choices is resolved by the Governor and Legislature in a political environment. It seems significant that just about every sector of education, the Governor and many Legislators are advocating some kind of change in the present system.

Recommendations

I wish ASK had more advice to offer on how to proceed. All we can do is ask you to maintain three important principles, whatever structural changes may ultimately emerge.

1. We strongly urge you to adopt language to specifically charge the Board of Regents, or whatever body emerges as the highest governing or coordinating agency, with the responsibility to promote equal opportunity and access to post-secondary institutions of the state by all Kansans, based on their ability to learn and benefit from their educational programs.

We suggest that the following (or similar) language be added to Section 4 of HB 2102 (line 0111), which enumerates the responsibilities of the Board:

"Conduct continuous studies of how state policies affecting education, federal funding of student assistance and other programs, and Kansas economic and demographic trends impact on the accessibility of post-secondary education by Kansas students, and initiate programs to improve such accessibility."

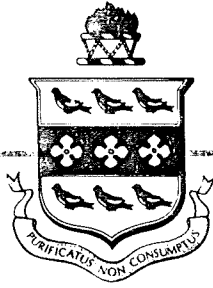
We believe an evaluation of higher education participation by students in terms of income, race, age and other factors, and strategies for overcoming academic, financial, social and physical barriers should be a part of any policy agenda for post-secondary education. We urge the legislature to go on record to place access among the primary goals of Kansas post-secondary education. Without such a step, there is a danger that system may fail to serve all the people of the state of Kansas.

2. We strongly support provisions in the bill in Section 4 (b), line 0115, which charges the Board with developing "procedures so that maximum freedom of transfer among and between educational institutions is ensured."

Studies show an increasing number of students transfer among the various institutions of the state. We believe many students are dissatisfied with the current process of transfer. Hopefully such a provision could address these problems.

3. As demonstrated by my speaking to you today, ASK strongly believes in the importance of student input into the educational governance process. The Legislature recognized this in 1975 when it created the Student Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents. SAC is a statutory committee composed of the student body presidents of the state universities and Kansas Technical Institute. We believe formal avenues for student representation should be provided for whatever governing or coordinating boards are created under this bill.

Members of the committees, thank you for your consideration.



WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA

Topeka, Kansas 66621
Phone 913-295-6300

Testimony on
HB 2102
February 5, 1987

Madame Chairman and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss the provisions of HB 2102. We view this bill as a far-reaching attempt to address the problems of governance of higher education in Kansas, and we applaud you for your efforts in this regard.

Although we support the concepts embodied in HB 2102, we continue to believe that the only long-range approach to full coordination of higher education in Kansas is for Washburn to become a full member of the Regents' system. We have previously had legislation introduced to that effect, and we continue to support that view. However, recognizing that full state affiliation is the University's ultimate goal, we can still support the proposals of HB 2102 as a first step in attaining that goal.

The final report of the Task Force on Higher Education pointed out that there is fragmentation in the governance of Washburn University, namely five state instrumentalities and nine legislative committees. The consultant's report to the Commission states that the legislature is essentially the governing body for Washburn. State statutes presently regulate the maximum tax levy to operate Washburn, limit the establishment of schools within the University, limit the expansion of graduate programs, even to the locales in which they may be taught, and decrees regional accreditation. Further, statutes prescribe the rate of state aid and stipulate the categories of hours which may be paid. In spite of the statutes and restrictions I have listed, state support of Washburn amounts to only 21 percent of our general fund budget. Washburn students contribute 38 percent of the support in the form of tuition payments, compared to a 25 percent contribution by students at other public four-year institutions in Kansas. The local taxing district provides another 25 percent of support.

Given this situation, what are the advantages of HB 2102? It does reduce from five to four the number of state instrumentalities involved in the governance of Washburn. Supervision of Washburn would be transferred from the State Board of Education to the State Board of Regents, through the Board of Governors. It gives this Board the ability to review state funding for Washburn and to make recommendations to the Board of Regents and, we presume, to the Legislature. Our understanding of HB 2102 is that regulation and approval of new programs at Washburn will be limited to vocational offerings.

Attachment III

House Education 2/5/87 **3**

I should note, however, that we feel that the supervisory powers given to the new board place it in a dichotomous position. Its mandate to operate seven institutions may not integrate well with its new responsibility to "supervise" another institution which is largely dependent upon student and local tax funds for operation, but is in many ways a vital segment of four-year public higher education in the state. As long as Washburn continues to be financed as it is now, and this would not change under the provisions of HB 2102, most of the problems previously stated would remain intact.

Viewed in its entirety, Washburn considers HB 2102 as a first step, or phase, toward the eventual acceptance of Washburn as a full member of the Regents' system. We feel that the long-range health of not only Washburn but of the entire system of four-year public higher education in Kansas will be resolved by Washburn's acceptance into the Regents' system. No long-range planning can be realistically accomplished for the economic development of Kansas unless every available segment is utilized. With limited state financing and the additional limitations of a small tax base, Washburn cannot, under this particular bill, obtain the status which we feel is necessary to meet the overall goals of the Economic Development Commission.

We can support the concept of HB 2102, as I have said, with the caveat that we consider this the first step in the process of Washburn becoming a state university. We would suggest that a significant improvement in the bill would be the inclusion of a section stating that on a certain date, two or three years down the road, Washburn would become a full member of the State Regents' system. It would not be necessary to make reference to financing considerations at this time, but it would give the University and the Board of Regents time to work and plan together for a smooth and economical transition to a truly statewide system of higher education.

We congratulate you on your efforts to date, and pledge our support of this first step as well as the further steps which will be necessary to achieve the farsighted aims which you have previously set down and adopted.



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Columbian Title Bldg., 820 Quincy • Topeka 66612 • Phone 913-357-5156

W. Merle Hill
Executive Director

To: House Committee on Education

From: Merle Hill, Executive Director
Kansas Association of Community Colleges

Date: February 5, 1987

Subj: House Bill #2102, an act concerning education; relating to the supervision and operation of public institutions of postsecondary education and public institutions of secondary education; affecting the powers and duties and functions of the state board of regents; creating the state board of community colleges and vocational education and the state board of governors of state educational institutions and municipal universities and providing for the powers, duties and functions thereof.

Madam Chairman, members of the Committee. I am Merle Hill, executive director of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges.

The Kansas Association of Community Colleges appreciates this opportunity to appear before you to discuss the governance of community colleges, an issue that has been of the greatest interest to the 19 Kansas community colleges for more than a decade.

A proposal entitled "The Kansas Regional Education Act" was prepared by the Kansas Association of Community Colleges in 1975. That proposal was introduced into legislative bill form by the House Committee on Education in 1976, a bill which was designated as #3202. The major thrust of that bill was the creation of a state board to be known as the board of control for community colleges and postsecondary occupational education, a proposal somewhat similar to a portion of House Bill #2102. A hearing was held on HB #3202, but it did not get out of committee.

Despite the similarity of that 1976 bill and today's bill of reference, the Kansas Association of Community Colleges **does not support House Bill #2102**. In 1985, the State Department of Education created a task

House Committee on Education

Re: HB 2102

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force to study and make recommendations on the (1) role, scope and mission, (2) funding and (3) governance of the community colleges. Representative Crumbaker and Senator Johnston served on that Community College Funding Task Force, as did two county commissioners, two members of the State Board of Education, four community college presidents, two community college trustees, a representative of business and industry, a dean of instruction, a dean of adult/continuing education and several staff members from the State Department of Education.

After a year of deliberation and study, and sometimes heated debate, **the Task Force recommended that a separate, independent board of control be created for the 19 community colleges.** (The charge of the Task Force from the State Board of Education did not include the element of vocational education.)

The State Board of Education did accept the Task Force's recommendations on the mission, role and scope of the community colleges as well as the funding recommendations but did not accept the recommendation that it relinquish control and supervision of the community colleges to a new, independent board.

The Delegate Assembly of Kansas Association of Community Colleges, comprised of one trustee, one administrator, one faculty member and one student from each college, did accept the governance recommendation of the Community College Funding Task Force and made it the principal thrust of the Association's legislative efforts for 1987.

The community colleges value their long and productive association with the State Board of Education but believe their comprehensive programs can better serve the state, especially in the area of economic development, if their governing board is **responsible solely for this level of postsecondary education.** When the Community Junior College Act was passed in 1965, the 16 community colleges existing then enrolled fewer than 10,000 students. Today's enrollment in credit courses is more than 4 times the 1965 figures, and the total number of

House Committee on Education

Re: HB 2102

February 5, 1987

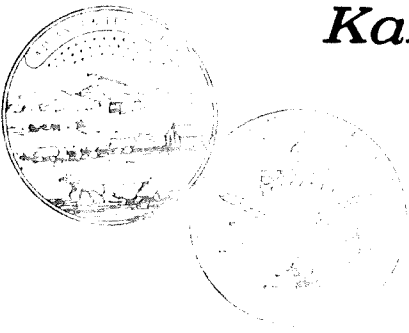
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students being served in credit **and** non-credit classes is 9 times the 1965 number. The "fall" 1986 headcount enrollment on which the State Department of Education authorizes the payment of credit hour state aid for the community colleges actually exceeds the headcount enrollment at the six regents' universities in 1965 when the Community Junior College Act was passed (53,010 to 50,903). Size alone would seem to suggest that a separate, independent board of control would be appropriate for the community colleges.

The Kansas Association of Community Colleges sincerely appreciates the recommendation for a board of control for community colleges and vocational education to be placed on the same level as the board of governors for the state universities and Washburn University of Topeka. However, the fact that this proposed board of control would, in effect, have to have its actions approved by a higher board of control means that the paradigm proposed in House Bill #2102 does not conform to the recommendation for a separate and independent board of control espoused by the Delegate Assembly of the Association.

The Kansas Association of Community Colleges believes a separate and independent board of control for this dynamic sector of postsecondary education is in the best interests of its constituents and will ensure better representation before the Legislature and throughout the entire state. Consequently, the Kansas Association of Community Colleges respectfully requests you to report House Bill #2102 unfavorably for passage. Thank you.

MH:am



Kansas State Board of Education

Kansas State Education Building

120 East 10th Street Topeka, Kansas 66612-1103

Mildred McMillon
District 1

Connie Hubbell
District 4

Bill Musick
District 6

Evelyn Whitcomb
District 8

Kathleen White
District 2

Sheila Frahm
District 5

Richard M. Robl
District 7

Robert J. Clemons
District 9

Paul D. Adams
District 3

February 5, 1987

Marion (Mick) Stevens
District 10

TO: House Committee on Economic Development
House Education Committee

FROM: State Board of Education

SUBJECT: 1987 House Bill 2102

My name is Connie Hubbell, Chairman of the State Board of Education Legislative Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee on behalf of the State Board.

The State Board of Education believes that the creation of two additional boards under the general control and supervision of the State Board of Regents would not be cost effective. It is the State Board's recommendation that the Kansas area vocational-technical schools and community colleges remain under the direct supervision of the State Board of Education. The coordination of vocational education as this activity relates to economic development is very crucial to the recruitment of new business to our state.

There is also a concern by the State Board of Education on what would happen under House Bill 2102 to the vocational programs operated by Kansas secondary schools. This bill appears to transfer the supervision of vocational education operated by unified school districts to the State Board of Community Colleges and Vocational Education under the supervision of the State Board of Regents. This could possibly cause a conflict of management and responsibility, particularly for the unified school districts. For example, school district vocational education programs would be under the supervision of the State Board of Community Colleges and Vocational Education while all other secondary programs would be under the State Board of Education.

The State Board believes that the current plan is more efficient and offers better coordination than the plan outlined in House Bill 2102.

Attachment V

House Education 2/5/87

KANSAS CITY KANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

USD NO. 500

Testimony on House Bill 2102

I am Jacque Oakes, and I am here representing Kansas City Kansas Public Schools.

We believe that vocational education at the secondary or post secondary level should be administered by the same state agency and that the State Board of Education should continue to be the sole agency for supervision of vocational education.

Because of the direct ties and close relationship between secondary schools and vocational technical schools in the finishing of many students for their life jobs, it is most necessary that vocational technical schools stay under the same Board that regulates USD's.

We see no basis for changing the governance of vocational education.

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

"Area Vocational-Technical Schools of Kansas -
the unsung heroes, our State's best kept secret!"

The Kansas Association of Area Vocational-Technical Schools opposes House Bill 2102. The reason for this opposition is that the Association supports the present structure of governance and control for Area Vocational Schools and Area Vocational-Technical Schools, the responsibility for which rests with the Kansas State Board of Education. A major factor in this position is that Kansas Vo-Tech Schools presently serve secondary, as well as postsecondary skill training needs within our State.

By law, one governing body must be identified by the State as the receiving agent for federal vocational education funds. The K.A.A.V.T.S. further supports and encourages the retention of the Kansas State Board of Education as the receiving agent for the state of Kansas. This agent is also responsible for providing for the position of State Director for Vocational Education.

While addressing the position of the Kansas Association of Area Vocational-Technical Schools, it is important to understand what has been, and is, taking place in the sixteen Kansas Area Vo-Tech Schools in the way of customized training for business and industry. During school year 1985-86, ninety-five (95) customized programs were designed, implemented, and completed. These ninety-five courses trained 5,866 people to meet specific business and industry needs. This year, 1986-87, eighty-one (81) programs have been implemented to date, with 4,534 people trained as a result.

All of these special programs have been offered in addition to the "regular" on-going Vo-Tech courses. The economic impact on our State as a result of this cooperative working relationship between the Area Vo-Tech Schools and Kansas business would be difficult to measure. However, successful economic development, as well as the assurance of a skilled work force, depend on education and training that is responsive and timely. Kansas Vo-Tech Schools are on the leading edge of our State's economic future.

Due largely to local autonomy and minimal barriers at the State Board of Education level, Kansas Vo-Tech Schools are able to work with, and, in most cases, meet the demands from business and industry for customized skill training.

In addition, Kansas Area Vocational-Technical Schools serve the needs of secondary, postsecondary, and adult populations, preparing these people for careers that may last a lifetime. It is said that a person entering the work force today will require retraining and/or upgrading at least six times during his/her working career. The Vo-Tech Schools in Kansas, currently under the governance and control of the Kansas State Board of Education, offer initial skill development as well as retraining for displaced workers or updating.

Cooperative agreements and/or direct local governance exist between Vo-Tech Schools and local unified school districts for the purpose of serving the needs of secondary students. These local districts are responsible for tuition costs for their secondary students.

The present funding reimbursement plan for postsecondary students in Kansas Area Vo-Tech Schools is a model approach and should be continued and protected.

The Kansas Association of Area Vocational-Technical Schools supports a close working relationship with business and stands ready to assist in immediate and long range planning for an increased commitment to economic development, the industrial community, and the citizens of Kansas.