

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

3:30 ~~xxxx~~ a.m./p.m. on March 23, 1987 in room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representatives Hensley, Laird and Pottorff, all excused

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Thelma Canaday, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Robert L. Lineberry, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of
Kansas
Dr. Stan Koplik, Executive Director, Board of Regents
Kay Coles, Kansas National Education Association
Mark Tallman, Associated Students of Kansas
Dr. Merle Hill, Kansas Association of Community Colleges, speaking on behalf of
Dr. Tom Henry, President of Pratt Community College

Chairman Apt called the meeting to order and opened the hearings on HB 2384 concerning open admissions policy. The chair recognized Representative Van Crum who gave background on the bill which originated in the Appropriations Committee. Representative Van Crum stated there's a tremendous waste of taxpayers' dollars due to the number of students who withdraw because of academic reasons and suggested giving the Board of Regents the discretion to impose minimum admissions standards. (Attachment I)

A lengthy question and answer period followed.

Dr. Lineberry spoke in support of HB 2384 saying it would allow the Regents to work closely with the universities and with the high schools to insure better preparation for university-level education. (Attachment II)

Dr. Stan Koplik testified in support of HB 2384 stating his understanding of the bill is that it does not stipulate any particular mandate but if the bill passes, the Regents then may look at designating specific admission criteria. (Attachment III)

Kay Coles testified against HB 2384 saying it could create an elitist system in our regents' universities and that we need to be sure our high school programs are sufficiently funded to offer proper curriculum prior to any major changes. (Attachment IV)

Mark Tallman spoke on HB 2384 saying essentially the Associated Students of Kansas support the concept of HB 2384 but feels studies need to be made. He stated he is in support of higher standards and said perhaps the passage of this bill would stimulate a study of policy that would improve the educational system.

The chairman opened hearings on SB 208 which proposes to amend K.S.A. 71-203 to permit the Board of Trustees of any community college to expend any of its available funds not restricted to a specific purpose to provide scholarship support for students.

Dr. Merle Hill spoke on behalf of Dr. Tom Henry, President of Pratt Community College, who was unable to be present. Dr. Henry believes this is essential legislation and implementation of SB 208 will help many community colleges in the state better fulfill their role and mission of providing quality, accessible, and affordable programs of postsecondary education. (Attachment V)

A discussion period followed testimony from the conferees.

Hearings on HB 2384 and SB 208 were declared closed.

The meeting was adjourned by the chairman at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be March 25, 1987 in Room 519-S at 3:30 p.m.

DATE March 23, 1987

GUEST REGISTER

HOUSE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
Ruth Wilkin	Girl Scout Council	Topeka
Martha Fox	Girl Scouts	Hutchinson
Diana Bryan	G.S.	Lawrence
Heather Jones	G.S.	Hutchinson
Christy Doherty	G.S.	Wichita
Jane Fisher	G.S.	Medicine Lodge
Krislyn Schomaker	Girl Scouts	El Dorado
Julia Flowers	Girl Scouts	Liberal
Mandi Sturges	Girl Scouts	Liberal
Mary Maus	Wichita Area Girl Scout	Garden Plain
Ann Thompson	Burlington G.S.	Burlington
Jeannie Green	Girl Scouts	Sterling
Heidi Strohm	Girl Scouts	Burlington
Martie Aaron	ASK	Lawrence
Mark Tallman	ASK	Topeka
Kay Colas	K-NEA	Topeka
Heather Dyer	USD-259	Wichita
Charles Burnett	USD 501#	Topeka
Jim Kappally	USD # 512	Overland Park
Paul Mederian	USA	Topeka
Mark Hill	KACC	Topeka
Paul Kappally	WFT	Wichita
Richard Fink	KASB	Topeka
Herb Robertson	Tr. Vocational Area	Topeka

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER APPROPRIATIONS
TAXATION
JUDICIARY
JOINT COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL CLAIMS
AGAINST THE STATE

BOB VANCNUM
REPRESENTATIVE, TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT
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OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS 66212
(913) 341-2609
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 175-W
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
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MEMORANDUM

TO: HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBERT J. VANCNUM
DATE: MARCH 23, 1987
RE: HB 2384---OPEN ADMISSIONS POLICY

This bill addresses another serious problem facing our Regents' institutions. Not only is the total number of students growing again after several years of flat or declining enrollments, but the number of students at the institutions that need remedial courses is increasing and the number that withdraw for academic reasons has reached a shocking level. Over 33% of our freshmen do not come back for their sophomore year. See the attachment received from the Board of Regents. This means that the taxpayers are paying over 80% of the costs of educating a substantial number of students who probably shouldn't have been at that institution in the first place. This is a tremendous waste of taxpayers dollars--but a worse waste of young careers. How many people have we all seen fail at a large university, return to community college for a year or two then do fine at a university?

There are many ways to address this problem. I have suggested that we give the Board of Regents the discretion to impose minimum admissions standards at one or more of our Regents' universities. I would hope they would do so as soon as such standards could be developed, but I am aware that on December 19, 1986 the former members of the Regents Board restated their longstanding commitment to open admissions.

Especially since the Appropriations committee has not elected to release tuition fees badly needed by several of our institutions to cover rapid growth, I think it is important to explore every possible way of restricting the growth of enrollment at these institutions--to those who will benefit the most from the experience.

This committee should also consider whether the peer institutions to which we are comparing our universities for funding purposes have an open admissions policy or not. I submit it is not reasonable for us to expect our institutions to take any high school graduate from Kansas, bring him or her through hundreds of hours of remedial courses and still be as efficient in using its resources as a school that limits enrollments.

I would be happy to answer any other questions.

Full Time Equiv.

Comparison Fall Enrollments 1980, 1984, 1985 and 1986

	% 80 to 85																			Soph to Freshmen *****
	Freshmen	Sophomor	Jr	Sr	Other Undr Gd	1st Prof	Masters	PhD	TOTAL	Freshmen	Sophomor	Jr	Sr	Other Undr Gd	1st Prof	Masters	PhD	TOTAL		
Univ of Ks																				
1980	5,277	3,673	3,177	4,021	216	676	2,150	1,857	21,047											
1984	5,330	3,551	3,381	3,731	600	643	2,718	1,826	21,700	8.58	-3.10	7.68	-5.57	104.17	-3.70	27.63	-0.97		5.39	
1985	5,730	3,559	3,421	3,797	441	651	2,744	1,839	22,102	7.50	0.23	1.18	1.77	-26.50	1.24	0.96	0.71		1.85	-33.23
1986	6,220	3,845	3,515	3,815	369	624	2,751	1,955	23,094	8.55	0.04	2.75	0.47	-16.33	-4.15	0.26	6.31		4.11	-32.90
Kansas State																				
1980	4,357	3,163	3,527	3,414	284		1,350	579	16,674											
1984	3,842	2,753	3,156	3,806	300		1,470	654	15,981	-15.77	-14.57	-20.87	12.21	-1.06		6.00	13.13		-7.87	
1985	3,670	2,702	2,791	3,831	281		1,431	655	15,361	-4.48	-1.85	-11.57	0.66	-6.33		-2.65	0.15		-3.88	-29.67
1986	3,603	2,583	2,818	3,611	303		1,589	709	15,216	-1.83	-4.40	0.97	-5.74	7.83		11.04	8.24		-0.94	-29.62
Wichita State																				
1980	2,586	1,743	1,496	1,718	725		2,085	29	10,382											
1984	2,573	1,792	1,699	1,965	737		2,332	33	11,131	-1.39	-2.64	15.24	14.49	-2.34		11.65	27.59		6.86	
1985	2,550	1,697	1,724	1,967	708		2,328	37	11,011	-0.89	-5.30	1.47	0.10	-3.93		-0.17	12.12		-1.00	-34.05
1986	2,640	1,581	1,576	1,950	588		2,333	51	10,719	3.53	-6.84	-8.58	-0.86	-16.95		0.21	37.84		-2.65	-38.00
Emporia State																				
1980	1,432	882	924	805	69		718		4,830											
1984	1,186	743	797	855	58		811		4,450	-18.16	-19.05	-12.01	-2.48	-7.25		12.81			-9.77	
1985	1,172	714	813	785	64		810		4,358	-1.18	-3.90	2.01	-8.19	10.34		-0.12			-2.07	-39.00
1986	1,090	734	809	804	66		841		4,344	-7.00	2.80	-0.49	2.42	3.13		3.83			-0.32	-37.37
Ft. Hays State																				
1980	1,189	842	847	864	38		554		4,334											
1984	1,127	674	821	858	6		754		4,240	-9.50	-16.27	-4.72	0.35	-89.47		44.22			-1.75	
1985	1,076	705	807	867	4		799		4,258	-4.53	4.60	-1.71	1.05	-33.33		5.97			0.42	-37.44
1986	1,087	682	836	847	4		821		4,277	1.02	-3.26	3.59	-2.31	0.00		2.75			0.45	-36.62
Pittsburg																				
1980	1,052	786	830	875	100		586		4,149											
1984	859	692	795	915	56		619		3,936	-16.44	-2.41	-7.47	0.23	-11.00		19.45			-1.86	
1985	879	689	768	947	89		700		4,072	2.33	-0.43	-3.40	3.50	58.93		13.09			3.46	-19.79
1986	945	664	831	981	127		762		4,310	7.51	-3.63	0.20	3.59	42.70		8.86			5.84	-24.46
Total Regents																				
1980	15,093	11,009	10,001	11,697	1,432	676	7,443	2,465	61,416											
1984	14,917	10,205	10,649	12,130	1,757	643	8,704	2,513	61,518	-5.13	-8.57	-4.42	4.25	10.82	-3.70	18.39	2.68		-0.28	
1985	15,077	10,066	10,324	12,194	1,587	651	8,812	2,531	61,242	1.07	-1.36	-3.05	0.53	-9.68	1.24	1.24	0.72		-0.45	-32.52
1986	15,585	10,089	10,385	12,008	1,457	624	9,097	2,715	61,960	3.37	0.23	0.59	-1.53	-8.19	-4.15	3.23	7.27		1.17	-33.08

Testimony to House Committee on H.B. 2384

Robert L. Lineberry, Dean of the College of
Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Kansas

February 26, 1987

I am pleased and honored to have the opportunity, at the invitation of Representative Vancrum, to make a statement about H.B. 2384, a bill which authorizes the Kansas Board of Regents to implement variable admissions criteria at the Regents' institutions.

All of us at the University keenly appreciate the difficult task facing the Governor and the Legislature this year. We know that the issues facing the State are real ones and we hope to do all that we can to assist our State in these troubling times. The issue we face here, although not directly about the urgent issues of economic growth, is far from casually related to the future of our State.

Let me first say a few words about my position and our interest in this issue at the University of Kansas. I am Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University, and have been since 1981. I am also a Professor of Political Science. I have taught freshman American government for 20 consecutive years, at Texas, Northwestern and here. Our College is the largest academic unit at the University of Kansas, with a fall, 1987 enrollment of nearly 13,000 undergraduate students and 2000 graduate students. Our College enrolls about two-thirds of the freshmen students at the University of Kansas, but we provide general education courses to an even larger proportion of the student population. We work closely with both the professional schools at the University and with the public schools throughout the State. We take a particular pride in the fact that the College sends a biennial publication, called Teacher to Teacher to every high school teacher in the State of Kansas and the Kansas City, Missouri area. It is important to us as a College, and to us as a University, to have a strong partnership with the public schools.

The purpose of H.B. 2384 is to place in the hands of the Regents -- which I believe is a proper place -- authority for determining admissions criteria at the several Regents' institutions. Specifically, it permits the Board to adopt different standards at one institution from those adopted for another institution. I support this legislation, as does the University of Kansas. It is important, too, that this is permissive, and not mandatory, legislation.

Traditionally, the State of Kansas has been committed to the concept that every student who graduates from an accredited high school in the state should have the opportunity to pursue his or

Attachment II
House Education

3/23/87

her academic goal at an institution of their choice. At the University of Kansas, and throughout our State, we have placed great emphasis on the goal of equality of opportunity for higher education.

We have placed equal emphasis on excellence in our higher education system. It is no accident that the University of Kansas remains an institution of choice for outstanding students from other states and other nations. What President Reagan calls "competitiveness," what we in Kansas often call economic development, what we all know we need as a State and nation, will not be achieved without high quality higher education. Breakthrough research in biotechnology, in pharmacy, in the understanding of human behavior cannot be achieved in an institution which does not put quality first. And, quite frankly, quality cannot always be achieved if quantity is our ever-present worry.

When I became Dean of the College in August, 1981, we were just breaking the 10,000 mark in the number of undergraduate students enrolled with us in the College. I expect to see us break the 13,000 student mark next fall.

We now face a very grave mismatch of enrollments and resources at our university. I have sometimes described the situation in our College -- and there are certainly other parts of the University in comparable circumstances -- as "gridlock." This occurs when we simply run out of space, staff, and slots. And it happens with greater frequency annually. Let me give you one concrete example from last fall.

We are exceptionally proud of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, one of the best five such departments in the country. Last fall, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese had a 24 percent enrollment growth over the past year. The Department, reasonably enough, tried to accommodate students who had already been in Spanish the year before. Thus, first year Spanish closed early, reached gridlock and 150 students were turned away who wanted to take first year Spanish. The Department had to take on additional graduate teaching assistants, and the graduate teaching assistant staff went from 24 to 44 in a single year. And this was done with no new faculty. Here is an example of how constant worries over sheer quantity may eventually erode quality.

Let me also say something about the undergraduate student profile at the University of Kansas. It is a strong one, and continues to be so. ACT scores of entering freshmen continue to be ahead of national averages. We are also particularly pleased that minority enrollment is growing, in sharp contrast to national patterns.

The Regents have recently been concerned about the academic preparation of students coming to institutions of higher education. We share those concerns at the University and

strongly support the Regents' efforts. As you know, the Regents have recommended a high school preparatory curriculum. Our studies have focused on the percent of our new students who have met those suggested courses. Here is our information:

- o The Regents suggest four units of English. At the University of Kansas, 86 percent of our entering students have met this suggestion.

- o The Regents suggest three units of mathematics. An equivalent 86 percent have completed this. As Dean of the College, though, I continue to be distressed that more than 1000 students annually must initially enroll in high school level mathematics.

- o The Regents suggest three units of social studies. About 68 percent have done this.

- o The Regents suggest three units of natural science. About 54 percent have done this.

- o The Regents suggest two units of foreign language. Some 58 percent have done this.

Overall, though, less than 20 percent of our entering students have met all the Regents' suggested curriculum in high school.

Within the College, we have adopted a new curriculum, which goes into effect this fall. It will, quite honestly, be a much more rigorous curriculum. It will require better high school preparation to complete it satisfactorily.

The Regents have also adopted individual mission statements for the various institutions. Their statement of our mission emphasizes a strong research and graduate presence for the University, but calls upon us to continue to offer strong undergraduate programs to well-prepared students. I believe that all of us at the University of Kansas support this conception of our mission. We must, though, take seriously their injunction that the quality of undergraduate education we offer is most suitable to the adequately prepared student.

H. B. 2384 would permit the Regents to work closely with the universities and with the high schools to insure better preparation for university-level education. It does not close the door of higher education to anyone. It would not mandate an immutable curriculum, which schools and students might or might not be able to meet. It would permit variability, perhaps in accord with different missions of different institutions. We think at the University of Kansas that this is a sound idea and we support it.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2384

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

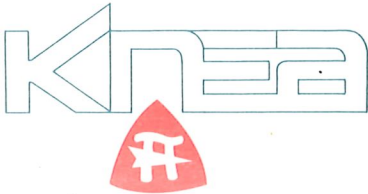
Stanley Z. Koplik
Executive Director
Kansas Board of Regents
March 23, 1987

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I wish to speak on behalf of the concept embodied in House Bill 2384. The bill, which is permissive in nature, would allow the Board of Regents to establish minimum admissions guidelines or criteria affecting any of the state educational institutions under its jurisdiction.

Although the Board as recently as December 1986 reaffirmed its commitment to freshmen open admissions at all institutions, the authority provided in House Bill 2384 would add an important dimension to the Board's ability to respond in a different manner, if future conditions justify change.

Kay Coles Testimony Before The
House Education Committee
March 23, 1987



Thank you, Madame Chairman. My name is Kay Coles and I represent Kansas-NEA. I appreciate this opportunity to visit with the committee about HB 2384.

Kansas-NEA opposes HB 2384. We believe that the provisions could create an elitist system in our regents universities. This caste system is not needed and we must look for ways to coordinate our post secondary system without discriminating against some of our high school graduates. Kansas-NEA also testified last week that the state needs to proceed with caution before we eliminate our long-standing open enrollment policy. We need to make sure our high school programs are offering proper curriculum prior to any major changes.

For these reasons, Kansas-NEA opposes HB 2384. Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Attachment IV
House Education 3/23/87

To: House Committee on Education
From: Tom Henry, President
Pratt Community College
Date: March 23, 1987
Subj: Senate Bill 208

Ladies and Gentlemen. Senate Bill 208 proposes to amend K.S.A. 71-203 to permit the Board of Trustees of any community college to expend any of its available funds not restricted to a specific purpose to provide scholarship support for students. There are a number of reasons why this legislation is deemed essential, beginning with the basic philosophy of the community college in Kansas and across America.

Rationale:

1. A basic mission of the two-year college is to assure access to those citizens typically denied the opportunity to pursue a post high school program of study and to assure affordability to pursue an educational program.
2. Access to a post high school educational program is not a major issue in Kansas. The Kansas population is well served by the placement of institutions of higher education within accessible geographic distance around the state. Affordability, however, is an issue, and one that must be more carefully addressed if we are to assure those interested in attending the two-year college the opportunity to do so.
3. Currently, each local board of trustees may assist students who reside within the boundaries of a community college district. Needy students who reside outside the home county are excluded from such tuition scholarship assistance.
4. S.B. 208 would allow a board of trustees to exercise local control and decide if a portion of its available funds should be used to

assist students from neighboring counties. This act would assist in correcting a serious inequity that currently prohibits scholarship assistance to worthy students who, because of geographic location relative to the county line, cannot receive the same financial support as their neighbors.

5. The issue of affordability is particularly critical in the current economy. Unemployed farmers, oil production workers, other unemployed and underemployed workers and their families who can benefit from a community college program abound in **all** Kansas counties, not just in those fortunate enough to have a community college. To deny these people assistance to further their education and upgrade their training skills not only restricts their ability to become productive tax-payers but also restricts the economic development potential of the state.
6. Federally-funded assistance programs have not kept pace with student need. As an example, the 80%-federal-funded college work study program support has not increased for the past three years, while the number of needy students and the needed assistance has increased significantly. The average student work study award on our campus has declined 33% since 1984, while the number of financial aid applicants has more than doubled during this same time period.
7. As the federal government shifts more and more of the financial responsibility for public programs to the state and local levels, changes must be made in our methods of operation if we are to address the needs of our citizens. The recommended changes addressed in S.B. 208 provide permissive authority for local boards to allocate a portion of their funds to assist service area students.
8. Accordingly, we ask that you give every consideration to acting favorably on this important proposed legislation. Implementation of S.B. 208 will help many of the community colleges in the state better fulfill their role and mission: provision of quality, accessible, and affordable programs of postsecondary education.
9. We deeply appreciate your time and consideration in this request.

TH:m