

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 1:30 p.m. on February 1, 1995 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Langworthy  
Senator Hensley

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department  
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes  
Brenda Dunlap, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Merle Hill, Executive Director  
Kansas Association of Community Colleges

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Kerr -- Asked for introduction of a bill requested by Senator Parkinson to allow school districts to levy their own ad valorem tax for their Special Education programs. A motion was made by Senator Lawrence to introduce the bill, Senator Emert seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**SB 122 - Community Colleges, student tuition rates.**

Merle Hill, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community Colleges, spoke on behalf of the Council of Trustees of the Kansas Community Colleges, who asked for this bill to be introduced. It was introduced because the community colleges have no way to raise their revenue except by raising tuition rates or property taxes, and a number of colleges are having difficulty meeting their budget requirements. The bill increases the minimum credit-hour tuition from \$19 to \$23, takes off the \$27 "cap" tuition range and changes the out-of-state tuition rate to \$80.50 per credit hour. Mr. Hill further stated that upon reflection, they would like to suggest an amendment to the bill that would change the out-of-state tuition from 3 1/2 times to 3 times the rate of the in-state tuition amount. (See Attachment 1)

There was discussion that the bill might be amended to allow each community college to set its own tuition rates. Senator Oleen said she was not comfortable with allowing them to do this. Senator Corbin stated the schools would have to remain competitive or they would charge themselves out of the market. Students can always go elsewhere. Senator Lawrence stated each school serves a specific community area, and not all students can easily go to another school, especially as many of these students are not traditional students. Senator Emert said as the schools serve the particular community in which they reside, they will take care of charging the correct amount.

Senator Emert made a motion to amend SB 122 to delete the words "at an amount not less than \$19 per credit hour and not more than \$27 ~~\$23~~ per credit hour" and insert "by the local Board of Trustees" on line 16 and 17; and to change the amount on line 22 from 3 1/2 to 3. Senator Jones seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Senator Corbin made a motion that SB 122 be recommended favorably for passage. Senator Emert seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Senator Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 1995 Meeting. Senator Jones seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 1995.





# KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Jayhawk Tower, Suite 401 • 700 S.W. Jackson • Topeka, KS 66603

W. Merle Hill  
Executive Director

Phone 913/357-5156  
Fax 913/357-5157

To: Senate Committee on Education

From: Merle Hill

Date: February 2, 1995

Subj: Senate Bill No. 122: An act concerning community colleges; relating to tudent tuition rates; amending K.S.A. 1994 Supp. 71-301 and repealing the existing section.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for permitting me to appear before you today on behalf of the Council of Trustees of the Kansas community colleges. I am Merle Hill, executive director of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges.

You introduced this bill at the request of the Council of Trustees. Unfortunately, none of the three officers of the Council who hoped to appear before you could fit this meeting into their schedules. The short time frame between the bill being noticed for a hearing on Tuesday morning and this afternoon made it impossible for them to be here.

There has been no change in the tuition range at community colleges, set by the Legislature, for four years. Four years ago, a bill to increase the tuition range over a three-year period was passed. The current minimum tuition per credit hour of instruction is set at \$19 and the maximum is \$27. The minimum rate of out-of-state tuition is 2.5 times the maximum of \$27, or \$67.50.

At present, seven colleges charge the maximum of \$27 per credit hour, four charge \$26, three charge \$25, four charge \$24 and one charges \$20. The college currently charging \$20 per credit hour has already approved a tuition rate of \$23 for 1995-96.

In addition to the tuition charges, each college charges student fees on a credit-hour basis. Attached are the tuition and fees rates for all 19 colleges.

While tuition increases at the state universities have averaged better than five percent over the past few years, the community college "cap" of \$27 per credit hour has made it very difficult for a number of colleges to meet their budget requirements. The tuition rate (within

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Attachment 1*

the range legislated) is the only source of revenue over which the community college trustees have total control. They do not understand why they are limited by a tuition range set by the Legislature and should like to see the "cap" removed.

A 20-member Task Force, including two legislators, was appointed in 1986 by the Commissioner of Education. This Task Force recommended that student tuition fees make up a minimum of 20 percent of the **statewide** operating revenues of the community colleges. In 1993, the legislative Task Force on the Funding of Community colleges and the Kansas Postsecondary Vocational and Technical Training System also seemed to react favorably to that 20-percent figure.

In 1992-93, figures given in *Statistical and Financial Information of Kansas Community Colleges*, published the State Board of Education in March, 1994, indicate that "Student Sources" accounted for 17.99 percent of the colleges' statewide operating revenues. That figure did not change appreciably in 1993-94, nor will it increase much, if any, this year. The only way the colleges can reach that recommended 20-percent goal is for the Legislature to increase the minimum range and give the trustees leeway relative to how much they charge.

The Council of Trustees should like to request an amendment to the bill as printed. When the Revisor asked me one day what I thought the out-of-state tuition rate should be, I said, off the top of my head, 3.5 times the proposed minimum of \$23, or \$80.50. An increase from the current \$67.50 to \$80.50 is one of 19.26 percent, and the trustees believe that is too much an increase for the students (three percent of total head count) who commute across the Kansas line to attend such "border" colleges as Seward County Community College, Cowley County Community College, Coffeyville Community College, Labette Community College, Johnson County Community College, Kansas City Community College and Highland Community College.

The trustees recommend that the minimum out-of-state tuition rate be set at \$73.50, an increase of 8.89 percent over the current minimum of \$67.50.

Again, the trustees recommend (1) **increasing the minimum credit-hour tuition from \$19 to \$23**, (2) **taking off the \$27 "cap"** and (3) **amending the \$80.50 in the bill for out-of-state tuition to \$73.50 per credit hour.**

*3X the minimum or 69.00 for out of state*

*69.00*

I shall be pleased to stand for questions. Thank you.



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W. Merle Hill  
Executive Director

Phone 913/357-5156  
Fax 913/357-5157

## 1994-95 Tuition and Fees at Kansas Community Colleges

College	Tuition	Fees	Total
Allen County Community College	\$26	\$7	\$33
Barton County Community College	\$24	\$10	\$34
Butler County Community College	\$25	\$10	\$35
Cloud County Community College	\$27	\$10	\$37
Coffeyville Community College	\$20	\$10	\$30
Colby Community College	\$26	\$8	\$34
Cowley County Community College	\$25	\$9	\$34
Dodge City Community college	\$27	\$11	\$38
Fort Scott Community College	\$27	\$9	\$36
Garden City Community College	\$26	\$7	\$33
Highland Community College	\$26	\$10	\$36
Hutchinson Community College	\$27	\$6	\$33
Independence Community College	\$25	\$10	\$35
Johnson County Community College	\$27	\$7	\$34
Labette Community College	\$24	\$7	\$31
Neosho County Community College	\$24	\$11	\$35
Pratt Community College	\$24	\$11	\$35
Seward County Community College	\$27	\$7	\$34