

MINUTES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cindy Empson at 1:30 on February 16, 1995 in Room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Caroline Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Laura Howard, Legislative Research Department
Helen Abramson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Rosemary A. Kirby, Wichita Area Vocational School
Keith Stover, Flint Hills Technical School
Bill Berry, Manhattan Technical Center
Ferman Marsh, Department of Education

Others attending: See attached list

Rosemary A. Kirby, Director, Wichita Area Vocational School, briefed the Committee regarding SB 586. This bill amended K.S.A. 72-4412 to provide for the establishment of technical colleges. Within the contents of this bill, achievement of specific standards and measures are necessary prior to the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBOE) approving a vocational school to become a technical college. On February 15, 1995 the KSBOE granted approval to the Wichita Area Vocational Technical School to be a Technical College in FY 1996.

The need for a technical college in Sedgwick County was substantiated by a business and industry survey. The legislation indentified three procedural steps in the conversion process: (1) Wichita Board of Education resolution to establish a technical college, (2) KSBOE's approval of the technical college application (in consultation with the Board of Regents (Regents), and, State legislation authorizing conversion of the Wichita Area Vocation Technical School.

Students attending the technical college will be able to opt between two types of technical programs: certificate or associate degree. A majority of the proposed 40 associate degree programs were not being offered by any of the four community colleges within a 100 mile radius of Wichita. Under the Wichita Area Vocational Technical college items remaining the same are: mission, board of control, facilities, certificate programs, funding and tuition. Changes would be: academic partnerships (Wichita State University and others), associate of applied science programs and associate of applied science degree, and college credit.

Dr. Kirby briefed the Committee on criteria of the Technical College: (1) the present and projected need for expansion or alterations of the existing postsecondary educational services; (2) types of postsecondary institutions presently operating in the geographic area (3) potential enrollment in the programs to be offered and maintained, (4) higher education accreditation, and (5) the operational and financial structure.

Bill Berry, Director, Manhattan Area Technical Center (MATC) informed the Committee the Center is taking a little longer to become a technical college. The Center is a Type I school, and part of the school district. In 1990 an articulation agreement was signed between MATC/USD 383, Kansas State University, and Cloud County Community College (CCCC) for the availability of credit transfer and the associate of applied science degree from CCCC for MATC students and graduates. Implementation of the Manhattan Technical College is proposed for July 1, 1996. Mr. Berry briefed the Committee on the technical college's benefits to the consumer, the business/employer, the community, and to the Board of Education.

Mr Berry informed the Committee he hopes someday there will be a seamless process where the student will be able to take the training the Center offers, receive the college credit, receive the degree, go back and forth from work to more education - and all along the way credits will be transferable.

Mr. Berry expressed his belief that under the current governance configuration, the State can achieve a seamless system, but not without a lot of overhaul. The coordination and cooperation that is currently occurring between the State Board of Education and the Board of Regents could be a way of achieving a seamless system.

Keith Stover, Director, briefed the Committee on the Flint Hills Technical School. In 1989, Flint Hills Technical School, Emporia State University and Butler County Community College signed a joint agreement for the delivery of two-year associate of applied science degrees. The KSBOE yesterday approved the Flint Hills Technical School as a technically college. The school provides 75 percent of the instruction (1665 clock hours/45 credit hours), while Emporia State University and Butler County Community College deliver the general education classes making up the remaining 25 percent of the two-year associate of applied science degrees. The agreement offers a viable associate degree option for some student. However, it does not provide the opportunity for technical students to receive credit for their individual classes; rather, they only allow credit accrual upon completion of the two-year associate degree. These students must then take an additional nine to twelve credit hours at the community college - as the community college signs the degree. The College seeks to advance its North Central Accreditation to higher education standards to improve matriculation to the regents universities. Under the technical college designation, no change in financial structure would be required - no pressure exerted on state general fund sources or student tuition.

Ferman Marsh, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Education, informed the Committee the KSBOE has the responsibility for authorizing the applied courses.

Discussion followed regarding out-district tuition, clock and credit hours, and student financial aid.

The question was asked of the vocational schools, if legislation was proposed by this Committee to merge or affiliate community colleges with regents schools should area schools be part of that proposal. Phil Berry, Manhattan Technical Center, stated yes, (but consideration should be given that if people at the university level loses sight of the mission of the technical training schools) as this could be the downfall of the system. Rosemary Kirby stated she would build on Mr. Berry's remarks - on joint efforts of the area schools, the rigidity of certain organizations could strangle the Wichita Area Vocational School, as technical schools have to have the flexibility to start and stop in order to meet the needs of the community.

The meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 1995.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 16, 1995

NAME	REPRESENTING
Ross Thomas	Dodge City Com college
Bill Reeves	NCIC ATUS
Toby Hale	Liberal AVTS
Quentin Combs	Johnson Co. AVTS
Rehée Vincent	Flint Hills Technical School
KEITH STORER	Flint Hills Technical School
Roumang A. Kury	Wichita Area Voc Tech. Sch.
Bill Berry	Manhattan Area Technical Center
Larry Schaefer	Wichita AVTS
J Mann L	ST BD EJ
Ed Galbreath	Washburn U
DICK McWhorter	KAW TECH SCHOOL
LARRY KEIRNS	N.W. KS. TECH SCHOOL
Shelby Smith	KACC
Dave Deke	KCOVE