

MINUTES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cindy Empson at 1:30 on February 23, 1995 in Room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Edward Pugh
Representative Ralph Tanner

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative David Heinemann briefed the Committee on the subcommittee report. The Subcommittee proposed the formation of a Kansas Council on Postsecondary Education. The Subcommittee recommends that legislation be introduced to statutorily create a council comprised of representatives of the various postsecondary sectors that would be charged with developing a plan for postsecondary education in Kansas.

The purpose of the Council is to develop a state plan for postsecondary education that encompasses institutions under the Kansas Board of Regents, the State Board of Education, Washburn University, and the independent colleges and universities. The Council is to develop a state plan that will address issues of concern to all segments of postsecondary education, including governance, coordination, finance, access to programs, and delivery and content of services.

The Council is to be comprised of (1) four members of the Kansas Board of Regents, including the Chairperson; (2) four members of the State Board of Education, including the Chairperson; (3) one members of the Washburn University Board of Regents, selected by the Board; (4) one representative of the independent colleges and universities, selected by the Kansas Independent College Association; (5) four legislators, one selected by the President of the Senate, one by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one each selected by the minority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the House, and (6) one appointee of the Governor. The Chairperson of the Kansas Board of Regents and the State Board of Education would serve as co-chairs of the Council. Members of the Council would be eligible for compensation and expenses paid by their respective appointing authorities. Members of the Council would rely upon their respective staffs for staff support.

It would be the duty of the Council to develop a state plan for postsecondary education by November 1, 1996. A status report on the development of the plan shall be made to the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) by November 1, 1995. Copies of the final plan would be submitted to the Governor, the Legislature, and to the respective governing boards of the various member of the Council. Following the completion of the state plan, it would be the duty of the Council to made findings and recommendations on the implementation of the state plan by November 1, 1998. A status report on the implementation of the state plan would be made to the LEPC by November 1, 1997. The Council would terminate December 30, 1998.

Discussion followed regarding whether it should be stated in the Committee report or in the actual bill that a bill will be ready to be worked in the 1997 Legislative Session.

Representative Empson stated she felt the one thing that needs to be emphasized is that this is not another study group, this is an action group - this is not a group to study the issue and make another status report that is stuck up somewhere - but a group that will give direction to implement legislation.

Staff informed that the Revisor may have questions as the bill is being drafted. If the Revisor has questions about the bill, staff will contact Representative Empson or Heinemann, and another meeting may be needed to review the bill draft to give more direction. After that, the Committee would review the bill draft, and also the draft report to decide if this is what the Committee wants.

Representative Heinemann suggested since the Senate has not been a player in the process, that the Senate be informed of this Committee's actions, with the possibility of a joint hearing.

Representative Heinemann moved to adopt the Subcommittee's report, to the full Committee. The motion was seconded by Representative Deena Horst. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 1995.

