

Approved: 4-25-96
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara Lawrence at 1:30 p.m. on March 12, 1996 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Anthony Hensley

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Merle Hill, Kansas Association of Community Colleges
Larry Nelson, Dean of Technical Instruction Ft. Scott
Community College
Senator Bill Brady

Others attending: See attached list

SB 737: Community college credit hour state aid for allied health courses

Merle Hill addressed the committee as a proponent of **SB 737**. He stated that many allied health programs, nursing programs especially, cost up to three times per credit hour what a typical course in history, literature, english, psychology, etc. Costs. They have the most expensive per-unit cost of all courses offered by the community colleges. The majority of the colleges receive credit-hour aid at 1.5 times the base where the rest receive funding at twice the base rate. The association and its members believe all courses relating with any health/medical courses should be funded at twice the credit-hour rate. Mr. Hill provided in his testimony four main reasons for the significant difference in instructional costs (Attachment 1).

Larry Nelson addressed the committee as a proponent of **SB 737**. He provided as testimony the Nursing Program's costs and revenues for the 1994-95 school year at Ft. Scott. It showed a loss of \$227,801.00. He stated that the high program costs are due to several factors which is provided in his testimony. For these reasons he asked the committee to pass the bill out favorably (Attachment 2).

Senator Bill Brady addressed the committee as a proponent of **SB 737**. He stated that health care programs are very expensive to operate. State regulations require much greater levels of instructions in order to offer a certified program. Equipment necessary to have a qualified program is expensive. In many instances community colleges are offering these programs as satellite programs on other college campuses. These type of cooperative arrangements help reduce the need to have duplicate programs at nearby institutions. These cooperative arrangements should be encouraged by the state. Since colleges get only the stand vocational funding these arrangements require the sponsoring community colleges to either subsidize the program on another campus or obtain funding from the participating community college who has little control over the program. The state should be encouraging these cooperative programs. **SB 737** sends a message to community colleges that the state recognizes the importance of the allied health programs and wants to assist in a portion of the funding. Service need, reduction of duplication or economic development, whichever criteria you care to emphasize these programs deserve the committees support (Attachment 3).

Senator Lawrence closed the hearings on **SB 737**.

SB 658: An act enacting the Kansas National Guard education assistance act

Senator Lawrence stated that the committee would be working **SB 658**.

Senator Walker made a motion to pass **SB 658**. Senator Corbin seconded the motion. No action was taken.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 123-S Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on March 12, 1996.

Further discussion was held on SB 658 regarding the provisions of being a resident of Kansas and if additional moneys would be given each year.

Senator Walker made a substitute motion to pass **SB 658**. Senator Oleen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Oleen made a motion to call the vote to question. Senator Emert seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Corbin made a motion for division. Senator Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried and the bill failed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 1996.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: March 12, 1996

NAME	REPRESENTING
Mark Tallman	KASD
3 Marsh	STBJ ED
Merle Free	KACC
Larry R. Nelson	Fort Scott Community College
Helen Stephens	BV USD 229
Jim Yocally	USD #572
Cheryl Burnett	USD 501#
John W. Smith	KDOR DMV
Betty M. Bynum	KDOR DMV
Henry M. Martens	The Adjutant General Dept
DAMON RUSSELL	" " " "
Pam O'Toole	National Guard Assn. of KS
Jacquie Oakes	SQE
Robin Lehman	Olathe USD 233
Katie Sparks	DOB
Kelly Kuntala	KTZA
Glenda Ryan	CWA
Vivian West	USD 479
Miles M. Johnson	USD 429 BOE / MISSOURI / ATZ National Guard

Chuck Breckahl
Harold Pitts

Adjutant General's Dept.
OBSERVE

J. P. Small

National Guard Assoc./Kansas



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W. Merle Hill
Executive Director

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To: **Senate Committee on Education**

From: Merle Hill

Date: March 12, 1996

Subj: **Senate Bill No. 737, an act concerning community college credit hour aid; relative to any subject or course which is part of an allied health program offered by a community college.**

Madam Chairman, members of the Committee, I am Merle Hill, executive director of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges. Thank you very much for permitting the Association's trustees, presidents, business officers, nursing directors, nursing faculty members and students to speak in support of Senate Bill No. 737.

The colleges' trustees, presidents, academic deans and business managers have long supported funding allied health programs at twice the credit-hour base. A general rule of thumb is that many allied health programs, nursing programs especially, cost up to three times per credit hour what a typical course in history, literature, English, psychology, etc., costs. They have, in fact, the most expensive per-unit cost of all courses offered by the community colleges.

Currently, thirteen Kansas community colleges offer two-year nursing degrees. Eight of the 13 receive credit-hour aid at 1.5 times the base, while the remaining five, which are also designated as area vocational-technical schools, are funded at twice the rate - for identical courses.

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Currently, 13 of the colleges offer Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) programs. **Eleven of the 13 receive credit-hour aid at 1.5 times the base, while two receive funding at twice the rate - for identical courses.**

Currently, 16 of the colleges offer a curriculum for medical aides. **Eleven of the 16 receive credit-hour funding at 1.5 times the rate, while five receive funding at twice the rate - for identical courses.**

The Association and its members believe **all courses of this nature should be funded at twice the credit-hour rate.**

What is the typical instructional cost (does not include overhead costs) per student in nursing programs? At Garden City Community College the instructional cost per FTE-student is \$3,039, while the instructional cost for each nursing student is \$5,371! At Kansas City Community College, the figures are \$3,823 and \$5,848, respectively.

The four main reasons for this significant difference in instructional costs are: (1) the teacher-student ratio and other regulations imposed on the community colleges by the Kansas State Board of Nursing; (2) equipment needed for classroom/ laboratory work for students and clinical work far outstrips the costs of any other educational program offered; (3) the high cost of qualified and licensed faculty; and (4) the heavy regulation of the health industry.

1. The Kansas State Board of Nursing requires each nursing program to have a nursing director who does not teach. In addition, the State Board of Nursing sets the ratio of faculty to nursing students at 1:10. This ratio is based, first of all, on safety, since nursing students work very closely with sometimes extremely ill and infectious patients. Secondly, a nursing educator cannot adequately supervise in a clinical setting, a hospital or a nursing home, more than 10 students who are responsible for 20 patients. In Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) programs the ratio required is 1:6.

2. Equipment needs are constant. Instructional equipment for any allied health courses is far different from a few pieces of chalk and a new eraser every two years, "equipment" that might be adequate for a history, sociology or psychology course. Medical equipment is extremely expensive and becomes obsolete rapidly. To prepare nursing students adequately to step

into a clinical setting, expensive up-to-date equipment is a must because **teachers are teaching for the future lives of Kansans.**

There are also **many expendable supplies** required in a nursing program - from tongue depressors to rubber gloves to band-aids to 4 x 4 bandage squares to needles and syringes. The expendable-expense line for a nursing or allied health program is far higher than a similar expense line for typical liberal arts, general education and even science programs.

3. In certain medical specialties, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy and paramedic training, it is **difficult to employ qualified and experienced instructors.** Often it is necessary to contract with corporations and other agencies for instructors with the proper experience and certification. Some colleges, such as Neosho county community college, even have to pay extra for clinical supervisors for

In addition, it is necessary because of State Board of Nursing regulations to **employ only nurses with master's degrees.** The colleges are competing with hospitals and health care facilities for such master's-level nurses, and the tight labor market drives up the cost of instruction for the colleges.

4. Since the allied health industry is tightly regulated by both state and federal agencies, costs are further driven up by the additional professional and clerical **time required to complete and file the proper forms to insure compliance.**

From 1989 through FY 1997 (based on the Governor's recommendation for a one-percent funding increase)), credit-hour funding for all community colleges **will have decreased by 8.37 percent.** This decrease in credit-hour funding is further **compounded by the costs necessary to operate quality vocational programs, including allied health programs.**

The Kansas Association of Community Colleges hopes that you will **recommend Senate Bill No. 737 favorably for passage.**

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

Testimony Presented to
Senate Committee on Education

on

Senate Bill Number 737

by

Larry R. Nelson, Dean of Technical Instruction
Fort Scott Community College

March 12, 1996

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Introduction

The nursing program at Fort Scott Community College is approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing and accredited by the National League of Nursing to provide instruction for a total of 80 nursing students each year. Most of the graduates from the program are employed by hospitals, physicians' offices, home health agencies, and nursing homes within a 50-mile radius of Fort Scott.

Student Profile (104 ^{students} graduates - '94-'95 school year)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of Graduates</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Age		
20-25	40	38.5%
26-30	17	16.3%
31-35	11	10.6%
36-40	13	12.5%
41-45	12	11.5%
46-56	11	10.6%
Male	12	11.5%
Female	92	88.5%
Single	33	31.7%
Married	71	68.3%
Economically Disadvantaged	62	60.0%

Nursing Program Costs/Revenues ('94-'95 school year)

Gross revenue		\$133,935
Direct costs	\$288,511	
Indirect costs	<u>\$ 73,225</u>	
Total costs	\$361,736	
Net Gain (loss)		(\$227,801)
Cost per credit hour		
	$\$361,736 \div 1507$ credit hours =	\$240

All Other Students - costs ('94-'95 school year)

Direct & indirect costs	\$3,338,263	
Cost per credit hour		
	$\$3,338,263 \div 44,372$ credit hours =	\$75

Cost Per Credit Hour Ratio - Nursing Students to All Other Students

$$\$240 \div \$75 = 3.20$$

Summary

The nursing program at Fort Scott Community College and other nursing programs across the State are providing a vital service to the health care industry in Kansas. Graduates of these programs are productive, tax paying citizens of the State, but due to the costs incurred in providing these programs, providers are faced with some difficult decisions.

These high program costs are due to several factors including low student to faculty ratios in the clinical setting, mandated by the KSBN (10:1) as well as the high cost of equipment and supplies. Another significant factor is the cost of hiring Master's Degree-prepared instructors. The cost of instructors for this program accounts for 94% of the direct costs, which makes it very difficult to institute any significant cost containment measures.

dw/lmnurrpt/wp96

TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Senator Barbara Lawrence, Chairman

I appreciate the opportunity to present SB737 to the Education Committee. The educational training at the Community College for allied health professionals presents one of the best forms of economic development going on in Kansas today. The students graduating from these programs have no trouble finding employment at excellent salary levels. More importantly than the economic development aspect of these programs however is the importance these programs play in filling the need for qualified, competent health professionals to help maintain the health care delivery system throughout this state. These programs in nursing, respiratory care, radiology, medical records just to name a few, serve as a primary resource in the rural areas of the state to staffing health care institutions.

These programs are very expensive to operate. State regulations require much greater levels of instructions in order to offer a certified program. Equipment necessary to have a qualify program is expensive. In many instances, Community Colleges are offering these programs at satellite programs on other college campuses. These type of cooperative

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arrangements help reduce the need to have duplicate programs at nearby institutions. These cooperative arrangements should be encouraged by the state. Yet, since colleges get only the standard vocational funding, these arrangements require the sponsoring community college to either subsidize the program on another campus or obtain funding from the participating community college who has little control over the program. The state should be encouraging these cooperative programs. SB737 sends a message to Community Colleges that the state recognizes the importance of the allied health programs and wants to assist in a portion of the funding. Service need, reduction of duplication, or economic development whichever criteria you care to emphasize these programs deserve your support.

SENATOR BILL BRADY,
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT
March 12, 1996