

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Benlon at 12:35 p.m. on March 20, 2001 at the rail.

All members were present except: A quorum was present

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Paul West, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Stuart Little, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dee Woodson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dick Carter, Kansas Board of Regents

Chairperson Benlon opened the hearings on **SB 7**. Dick Carter, representing the Board of Regents, spoke in support of the bill and gave an overview of it. He said it concerned accreditation of community colleges, and would remove from the statutes the requirement that they be accredited by the State Board of Education. He stated that this was changed as a result of the Higher Education Coordination Act (1999 SB 345), and now falls under the Kansas Board of Regents. Mr. Carter said that the bill also removes the terminology of "junior college" from the statutes. (Attachment 1)

The Chair asked if there was anyone else present who would like to speak for or against the bill, and seeing none she closed the hearings on **SB 7**.

Representative Tanner made a motion to pass **SB 7** out favorably, seconded by Representative Kuether, and the motion carried.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at the rail at 12:45 p.m.

SB 7 – Senate Bill 7 concerns accreditation of community colleges and would remove from the statutes the requirement that they be accredited by the State Board of Education.

In the early to mid 1960's community colleges were accredited by the State Board of Education. Shortly after the community college act of 1965, the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges/Commission on Institutions of Higher Education began accrediting community colleges, and has done so since that time.

As a result of the Higher Education Coordination Act (SB 345), community colleges now fall under the purview of the Kansas Board of Regents. The bill simply deletes from the statute any connection to the State Board of Education, and removes the terminology of "junior college."

This bill will make the statute current to reflect the current practice of accrediting community colleges.

House Higher Education
3-20-01
Attachment 1