

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dwayne Umbarger at 1:30 p.m. on March 25, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the Committee: Craig Grant, KNEA
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Paul West, Legislative Research
Clay Blair, Chairman, Kansas Board of Regents
Janice DeBauge, Member, Kansas Board of Regents
Robert Kelly, Executive Director, KS Independent College Assoc
Robert Hemenway, Chancellor, University of Kansas

Others attending: See Attached List

On March 20, 2002, a motion was passed to delete the language from SB2844 and insert the language from SB551. Chairman Umbarger explained that amending SB551 into HB2844 would not be beneficial and asked that the motion be withdrawn. Senator Teichman made a motion to withdraw the motion as recommended and Senator Schodorf who seconded the motion agreed. Motion carried.

SB638--Employment after retirement for certain school retirants

Craig Grant, KNEA offered written testimony in opposition of **SB638**. KNEA feels that this bill does not help the teachers or the boards of education. Teachers have no certainty under this bill that they will have a job from year to year and they have no protections. They are too many unknowns. (Attachment 1) Mr. Grant answered questions for the Committee.

Mark Tallman, KASB, offered written testimony in opposition of **SB638**. KASB is not supporting the bill because they are not supportive of changing the deadline dates. They feel this will cause more problems than good. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Umbarger asked Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes to go through the amendments already adopted. The amendments already adopted by the Committee are the balloon amendments as proposed by Senator Kerr, the effective date of the Act was amended to be effective in the Kansas Register, the program was extended to July, 2006 so there would be no gap between the sunset date and the interim study, and page 2, Subsection C was amended to include only those retirants who return to the district from which they retired.

An amendment still to be considered is to change the date the board may notify a teacher of non-renewal of a contract from May 1 to May 15 and the date for a teacher to give written notice not to renew a contract from May 15 to May 25. (Attachment 3)

Senator Teichman made a motion to adopt the amendment changing the contract dates as stated in the paragraph above with a one year sunset. After discussion Senator Lee made a substitute motion to change the dates from May 1st to May 15th, and May 15th to May 30th with a one year sunset. Seconded by Senator Downey. After more discussion, Chairman Umbarger elected to keep the motion on the floor, close the hearing on SB638 and move on to SB647 to allow the conferees from out of town to testify today.

SB647--Kansas higher education coordination act amendments

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION at on March 25, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Chairman Umbarger recognized Regent Clay Blair, Chairman, Kansas Board of Regents. Mr. Blair told the Committee that **SB647** was a result of the NORED study that was conducted for more than a year with privately raised funds. In their study, they realized that all those in higher education, universities, community colleges, Washburn and technical schools must work as a team. They need to be more collaborative, more efficient, and more accountable. Mr. Blair introduced Janice DeBauge.

Janice DeBauge, Member of the Kansas Board of Regents and Chair of Commission on Higher Education Coordination, a proponent for **SB647**, came before the Committee to present a system of 36 institutions at the direction of the legislature in 1999 through **SB345**. They are proposing amendments that would move the new Kansas system of post-secondary education to a greater maturity. Programs, in the past, were developed independently and not as a whole and as a result, each set its own policies, statutes and regulations. The vision of the legislature in 1999 was to develop a system that would combine programs and institutions into a true system that creates accountability and efficiency. The Board of Regents and 35 of 36 institutions have agreed to the proposed amendments which would create increased accountability, increased effectiveness, increased service to students, and an endorsement of the need for a coordinated higher education system. Washburn University has chosen not to endorse the amendments. (Attachment 4)

Chairman Umbarger allowed opponent, Robert N. Kelly, Executive Director, Kansas Independent College Association, to give his testimony before the remaining proponents so that he could attend a family funeral. Mr. Kelly stated that the Kansas Independent College Association opposes **SB647** because of one provision; they are not included under the definition of "postsecondary educational institution." They also have concern for the magnitude of change envisioned in **SB647**. The Association believes the proposed change is unnecessary and bad public policy. They believe there is no precedent for this exemption, no urgency to enact the provision, no historical evidence to support the exemption and no compelling state interest for any agency to be granted the broad exemption contained in this amendment. (Attachment 5)

Chancellor Robert Hemenway from the University of Kansas gave testimony in support of **SB647**. Chancellor Hemenway assured the Committee that the six state universities stand behind the proposed amendments and welcome the challenges they represent. They are ready to work closely with the community colleges and technical schools and colleges in order to better coordinate their efforts and better serve the people of Kansas. The university welcomes the opportunity to be held accountable and are willing to be evaluated on how well they collaborate, perform and on how efficiently they use state resources. (Attachment 6)

Chairman Umbarger adjourned at 2:30, but added that the Committee would meet again today after the Senate adjourns and at 1:00 p.m. tomorrow.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE - 3-25-02

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Jim Allen	KACCT
(Amy Brunner)	KASB
Jim Emert	Self
Denise Apte	USA - USD. 500
John D. Pinegar	Washburn University
Christy Caldwell	Topsa Chamber of Commerce
Jacque Oakes	SQED
Donald Hawks	USA
Bob Kelly	KICA
Sheila Fiedor	KACCT
Jackie Vietti	Chair, Community College Council of Presidents
Tom Schnitker	Shawnee Mission West HS
Diane Lindeman	KBOR



CONCERNS ABOUT SENATE BILL 638

One wonders whom this bill portends to help. If the overall goal is to help the teacher, the bill falls way short. The uncertainty of not knowing year to year whether or not the teacher has a job will only make the policy unattractive. Since the bill does not extend the continuing contract law to these retirants, the board of education could wait until the middle of the summer to notify the person whether he/she will be allowed to teach in that district. If fact, the district could wait until the day before school opens in the fall to inform the teacher. Most teachers would find that unacceptable.

This bill will not assist the boards of education either. Most vacancies in hard-to-fill areas occur in urban areas where we also have our aging population of teachers. Districts will not be able to compete with other districts in surrounding areas to retain retired teachers if there are absolutely no protections provided to those teachers. If the teacher has a choice of staying in the same district with no rights or moving to a different district within the same driving radius with some protections such as the continuing contract law, the teacher will most likely choose the new district. After two years in the new district, the teacher would have due process rights. The teacher is covered immediately by the continuing contract law. There is not an even playing field for districts that want to keep their retirants in the district.

Another concern KNEA has is the changing of the continuing contract dates. Whether for this year only or permanently, we have always asked for the 15-day window between the notification dates. This would give teachers a chance to see what jobs are available and still give proper notice to the board.

In short, KNEA believes it would be better with no bill – with the status quo – as SB 638 provides no advantages to either Kansas boards of education or to Kansas teachers.

Senate Education
3-25-02
Attachment 1
Web Page: www.knea.org

TO: Senate Committee on Education
FROM: Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy
DATE: March 25, 2002

RE: Proposed Change in Non-Renewal Dates in SB 638

KASB did not testify on SB 638 because our Delegate Assembly has not adopted a policy on the issue of rehiring teachers. However, we understand that the committee will be considering an amendment that would extend the non-renewal dates for teachers under the Kansas Continuing Contract Law. KASB will not be supporting such a move for several reasons.

First, our policies, as adopted by our Delegate Assembly, state the position of our membership that the dates should be May 1 and May 15.

Second, in recent years the final decision on school finance has often been unresolved at the time of the May 1 date. We don't have a clear idea of when school finance will be decided this year, so changing the date to May 15 may not help at all.

Third, many districts have in their negotiated agreements liquidated damages clauses which require a penalty if teachers resign after May 15. Since if the notification date for boards to teachers is moved, the date for notification of teachers to boards would likely be moved as well, many districts would still have to comply with the current deadlines.

Fourth, many districts have already taken the action to send notice of non-renewal to teachers and more plan to do so in April. These districts would be at a distinct disadvantage if the date were moved now.

We are certainly sympathetic to the impact non-renewal or reduction in force notices will have on teachers, moving the deadlines is likely to cause more problems for more people (including teachers) than leaving the dates alone. Thank you for your consideration.

*Senate Education
3-25-02
Attachment 2*

Proposed Amendment to SB 638

On page 4, in line 7, following the period, by inserting "Commencing July 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2006, the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to retirants who either retired under the provisions of subsection (1), or, if such retirant retired under the provisions of subsection (4), were retired more than 30 days prior to July 1, 2002, and who were employed as teachers in a hard-to-fill teaching discipline during such period pursuant to the provisions of this act, except that the provisions of this act may continue to not apply after June 30, 2006, to any such retirant still determined by such retirant's participating employer to be teaching in hard-to-fill teaching discipline."; and the bill be passed as amended.

Chairperson

Senate Education
3-25-02
Attachment 3

TK1

Proposed Amendment to SB 638

On page 5, in line 2, by striking "statute book" and inserting "Kansas register";

Proposed Amendment to SB 638

On page 4, following line 41, by inserting:

"Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 72-5437 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-5437. (a) All contracts of employment of teachers, as defined in K.S.A. 72-5436, and amendments thereto, except contracts entered into under the provisions of K.S.A. 72-5412a, and amendments thereto, and contracts with retirants to whom the provisions of subsection (5) of K.S.A. 74-4914, and amendments thereto, do not apply shall be deemed to continue for the next succeeding school year unless written notice of termination or nonrenewal is served as provided in this subsection. Written notice to terminate a contract may be served by a board upon any teacher prior to the time the contract has been completed, and written notice of intention to nonrenew a contract shall be served by a board upon any teacher on or before May ~~±~~ 15. A teacher shall give written notice to a board that the teacher does not desire continuation of a contract on or before May ~~±~~ 25 or, if applicable, not later than 15 days after final action is taken by the board upon termination of professional negotiation absent a binding agreement under article 54 of chapter 72 of Kansas Statutes Annotated, whichever is the later date.

(b) Terms of a contract may be changed at any time by mutual consent of both a teacher and a board.";

Proposed Amendment to SB 638

On page 2, in line 14, before the period, by inserting "and to whom the provisions of subsection (5) of K.S.A. 74-4914, and amendments thereto, do not apply"; and the bill be passed as amended.

_____Chairperson

Proposed Amendment to SB 638

On page 2, in line 34, following the period, by inserting "The board also shall establish a procedure by which a school district may request the board to designate a vacant position, not listed in the board's list, as a hard-to-fill discipline in that school district. After review of the school district's request and any supporting documentation required by the board, the board may designate such position as a hard-to-fill position for such school district.";

Conforming amendments to the rest of the bill; and the bill be passed as amended.

Chairperson

Proposed Amendment to SB 638

On page 2, in line 12, following "(c)" by inserting "(1)"; in line 13, by striking "teacher" and inserting "professional employee or administrative employee"; in line 14, before the period, by inserting "and to which the provisions of subsection (5) of K.S.A. 74-4914, and amendments thereto, do not apply"; following line 14 by inserting:

"(2) As used in this subsection, "professional employee" and "administrative employee" shall have the same meaning ascribed thereto by K.S.A. 72-5413, and amendments thereto.";

Conforming amendments to the rest of the bill; and the bill be passed as amended.

_____Chairperson

Testimony in support of S.B. 647
Senate Education Committee

March 25, 2002

Janice DeBauge
Member of the Kansas Board of Regents
and
Chair of Commission on Higher Education Coordination

Chairman Umbarger and members of the Senate Education Committee—Three years ago the legislature directed the Kansas Board of Regents to create a system of 36 institutions. That system appears before you today. Thousands of hours by numerous public servants have created a vital and active entity. The Board of Regents, 35 of 36 institutions, the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, and the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges, in affirmation of that entity, request the enactment of amendments that would move the new Kansas system of post-secondary education from infancy to greater maturity.

The amendments build on the plan set forth by the legislature in 1999. At its most basic, that plan aspired to greater **accountability, efficiency, and collaboration** within the higher education system in Kansas. I can report to you that Kansans should feel proud of the efficiency and effectiveness of their higher education institutions; but we all recognize that more can be done. The question that is before you today is will we achieve even greater success?

Over a period of more than 100 years, Kansas nurtured its higher education programs. Unfortunately, however, those programs were developed in isolation and not as complementary parts of a whole. As a result, we developed **several** systems of higher education, each with its own set of policies, statutes, and regulations. We could choose to continue as in the past and address the differences among these systems independently, but that would not be consistent with your vision of 1999. Instead, we are proposing that, in partnership with the legislature and the 36 institutions, the Board of Regents create an integrated, performance-based system that will serve to combine our already effective programs and institutions into a true system that creates and relies upon accountability and efficiency.

Prior to 1999, there was significant collaboration within higher education throughout the state. Now, that collaboration is much broader, more cohesive, and complete. The CEOs and other leaders of the community colleges and technical colleges as well as trustees from those institutions have attended every meeting of the Board of Regents. That has led to a deeper level of understanding and appreciation of mission and purpose among the partners. Just as we have learned about the challenges of effecting local goals, the institutions have seen the challenges we face in addressing statewide issues.

*Senate Education
3-25-02
Attachment 4*

Recently, an independent consultant confirmed what we had already observed: for Kansas to move ahead we must place greater emphasis on accountability throughout the system. The Board of Regents and 35 of 36 institutions have determined that these goals can best be accomplished by tying incremental state funding to performance agreements executed between local autonomous governing boards and the Board of Regents. Recent studies confirm that performance agreements such as those in the proposed amendments create significant efficiencies and result in greater focus on core missions and the needs of students. The 35 institutions represented here today are committed to maximizing state taxpayer dollars, and are asking that they be held accountable for their efforts in reaching that goal. They understand that institutions must collaborate and compromise in order to thrive in the 21st century. They understand that their missions can be supported and enhanced by complementary activity.

Local priorities are very important, and the state and local interests should complement each other—Similarly, the Board of Regents is willing to be held accountable by the legislature for the performance of the entire higher education system. Presently, the Board is largely free of that responsibility, in that the funding formulae are set in statute and are unrelated to institutional performance. As a result, the Board has very little ability to enforce accountability for state tax dollars. To create an integrated accountability system, we are requesting that future incremental funding be tied to performance and that both the institutions and the Board be held to performance standards. While this is a relatively small change in terms of dollars (only the annual increases in state funding) it is significant in terms of the ability to achieve state goals.

The amendments also sunset the commission structure that was implemented in July of 1999. The Commissions have fulfilled their initial purpose of providing a forum and focus for sector-specific issues, but the Board is increasingly experiencing their divisiveness and their role in maintaining isolated, rather than, integrated discussions among different types of institutions. We would ask that the Board be allowed to organize itself in ways that best fit our responsibilities and resources. Further, we would suggest that this change coincide with the implementation of the performance-based funding system in July, 2004. This will allow the Board and its institutional partners two full years to create new decision-making structures and policies.

Washburn University has chosen not to endorse these amendments, preferring to assert a position that the coordinating authority created by this legislature should not bind it. But if one governing board possesses a veto over coordination policy, then surely 29 other governing boards do as well. The state cannot achieve the goals outlined in SB345 if 30 governing boards are not obligated to participate in the coordinated system envisioned by you in 1999. The Board, 35 of 36 institutions, KACCT, KATSC, and an independent consultant agree that separate but equal governing boards, and a lack of compliance with coordination policy, defeat the concept of a coordinated system and circumvent implementation of SB345.

As I have already noted, the changes that we are proposing are significant and any change brings risk. Apparently, Washburn believes the risks in this proposal outweigh the benefits; ultimately, that decision is yours. I believe, however, that your vision of a **more highly coordinated system of higher education** demands a break from the thinking of the past, and a recognition that the Board of Regents can only be held accountable if it has the ability to lead **all** institutions in the system.

In summary, the Kansas Board of Regents, 35 of 36 public institutions, KATSC and KACCT request the committee's endorsement of these amendments. Your support of these amendments is support for: increased accountability, increased effectiveness, increased service to the students of Kansas, and an endorsement of the need for a truly coordinated higher education system Kansas. It is also an affirmation of three years of commitment to the greater good of Kansas higher education that has been exhibited by these 35 institutions and their governing boards. Please help us bring to fruition the vision that you created on July 1, 1999.



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

1000 SW JACKSON • SUITE 520 • TOPEKA, KS 66612-1368

TELEPHONE – 785-296-3421
FAX – 785-296-0983
www.kansasregents.org

February 18, 2002

As the next step in developing the Kansas system of higher education, we endorse the attached amendments to the Higher Education Coordination Act of 1999.

Clay Blair
Chairman
Kansas Board of Regents

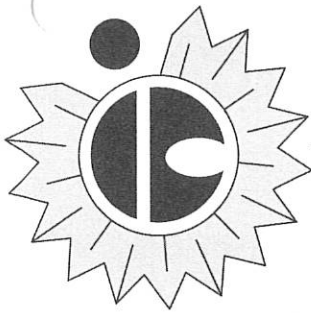
Kim Wilcox
President and CEO
Kansas Board of Regents

Kay Schallenkamp
President, Emporia State University
Chair, State University Council of Presidents

Jackie Vietti
President, Butler County Community College
Chair, Community College Council of Presidents

Duane Dunn
President, Manhattan Area Technical College
President, Kansas Assn of Technical Schools
and Colleges

Sheila Frahm
Executive Director
Kansas Association of Community
College Trustees



The Kansas Independent College Association

700 S. Kansas Avenue • Suite 515 • Topeka Kansas 66603
Phone: 785-235-9877 • Fax: 785-235-1437 • www.kscolleges.org

Robert N. Kelly, *Executive Director*

Testimony before Senate Education Committee on SB647 March 25, 2002

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. My name is Bob Kelly, Executive Director of the Kansas Independent College Association.

Our Association has difficulty with the magnitude of change envisioned in SB647, but we are here in opposition to only one provision because we are not included under the definition of "postsecondary educational institution". The one provision we oppose is the amendment to exempt the Board of Regents from the provisions of the rules and regulations statute. We believe that this proposed change is unnecessary and bad public policy.

First, there is *no precedent* for this exemption. Let us look at K.S.A 77-415(4) and peruse the eighteen exemptions specified in the act. Every one of these exemptions refers to a specific issue or area of rule making that does not lend itself to the procedures inherent in the rules and regulations act. Not one of these provisions is so broad as to include "the exercise of any duty, function, or authority".

Second, there is *no urgency* to enact the provision. The Kansas rules and regulations law is not a cumbersome procedure but a balanced one in which the administrative needs of the agency are balanced against the interests of the affected parties to be heard in a public hearing. As the Chairman knows, it is also a fair procedure where the legislative intent of the enabling legislation, legal considerations, and structural concerns are considered. Finally, it is not a slow or cumbersome procedure because of the authority the agency has to adopt temporary rules, as the Regents just did in regard to degree standards for out-of-state institutions.

Third, there is *no historical evidence* to support the exemption. The previous Board of Regents was able to govern the six state universities without this authority. This exemption allows them to avoid the rules and regulations authority in dealing with not only those institutions it governs, but also those it merely coordinates. Look at K.S.A. 34-3202 (c) and ask yourselves if it is good public policy to allow the Regents to be adopting rules in the areas of a "comprehensive plan" (5) or "core indicators" (7) or "resolve conflicts" (8) without being held accountable to the procedures of the rules and regulations statutes.

Senate Education
3-25-02
Attachment 5

Fourth, there is *no compelling state interest* for any agency to be granted the broad exemption contained in this amendment. It should be noted that the State Board of Education has “self-executing powers” (a situation that many of you bemoan) but nonetheless follows the state’s rules and regulations provisions.

I am well aware that the Regents (and maybe some of you) are irritated by this testimony because they believe our colleges are not covered by this exemption because the definition of “postsecondary educational institution” does not include us. I would argue that we would be affected because any “comprehensive plan,” “needs of the state’s system of higher education,” “a policy agenda for higher education,” etc. involve our colleges. In fact, it is the rules and regulations procedure itself that allows us a public hearing to address these issues if we feel ignored or adversely affected by a Regents’ decision. We do have an interest here.

Finally, on a totally different point, this provision we oppose and the entire far-reaching bill are very difficult to view in a detached manner. All of us in this room are amazed and thankful for the quality of dedication of the nine members of our present Board of Regents. Each is honest, fair, and determined to do the right thing for Kansas higher education. Moreover, they are open and willing to listen to all points of view. If our colleges could assume that these nine individuals or people with identical qualities could remain into the future, I would not be appearing here in opposition. Unfortunately, in my thirty years in Kansas higher education, I have seen much rancor and change. About the only constant has been that power given away inadvisably to an agency is difficult to reclaim. Therefore, our colleges are convinced that it is bad long-term public policy to exempt the Regents from the state rules and regulations provisions.

Thank you, and I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Senate Education Committee: SB 647

Monday, March 25, 2002

Room 123-S, State Capitol

[c. 810 words]

Testimony by Robert Hemenway, Chancellor, The University of Kansas

Chairperson

- Dwayne Umbarger (R-Thayer)

Vice Chairperson

- John Vratil (R-Leawood)

Members

- David Corbin (R-Towanda)
 - Jay Scott Emler (R-Lindsborg)
 - Lynn Jenkins (R-Topeka)
 - Lana Oleen (R-Manhattan)
 - Jean Schodorf (R-Wichita)
 - Ruth Teichman (R-Stafford)
 - Christine Downey (D-Inman, Ranking Minority Member)
 - Anthony Hensley (D-Topeka)
 - Janis Lee (D-Kensington)
-

- Thank you Mr. Chairman. My remarks today will be brief. On behalf of the University of Kansas and the five other state universities, I simply wish to underscore what Regent DeBauge and Dr. Wilcox have already said concerning SB 647.
- I also want to assure you that the six universities stand behind these proposed amendments and welcome the challenges they represent.

Senate Education
3-25-02
Attachment 6

- Those challenges take two forms. First, can we create and adhere to an accountability mechanism that ties future funding increases to performance on specific indicators?
- Second, are these six institutions prepared to work together more closely with each other and with the community colleges and technical schools and colleges in the future than we have in the past, in order to better coordinate our efforts and better serve the people of Kansas?
- Speaking for myself and the other presidents, the answer to both questions is an unequivocal yes.
- During the past decade, a number of states have developed and implemented accountability reporting systems, with varying degrees of success.
- Some have been based on measurements of input (such as the percentage of a state's high school graduates enrolled). More recently, the focus has been on outcomes, such as evidence that attending college has fostered the development of critical thinking skills.
- (In other words, did you get an education, or merely a degree?)
- SB647 provides the Board of Regents and the other governing boards in Kansas the opportunity to craft a performance funding system that is uniquely Kansan, respecting what is good about our existing system while at the same time striving for something better. During the past ten years, there have emerged enough models, and there's been enough

research done, that I'm confident we can produce a mechanism that will work.

- "Accountability" is nothing new for KU. Legislators, regents, students, parents, alumni, donors, and countless other stakeholders know where to find us if we disappoint them, and they all know my e-mail address!
- We are accountable and responsive to numerous accrediting bodies, the NCAA and the Big 12 Conference, and the many foundations and federal government agencies that fund so much of our research.
- KU has nearly 140 years of experience exceeding expectations and demonstrating our accountability. As a public university, we depend on more than tuition and appropriations. We must also have the trust and goodwill of the people of Kansas if we are to survive as an institution that serves the state.
- So we welcome the opportunity to be held accountable within a formal framework of performance, assuming that such a system, as one observer put it, "can develop into something other than a series of hoops and hurdles that reveal little about the university."
- Ideally, an accountability system will instead become "a genuine exercise in strategic planning and a meaningful assessment of performance," not an "act of coercion from the outside but a promise from the inside" that helps the public keep faith with its universities.
- I think this is possible, in part, because of the new environment of collaboration and cooperation that exists today among the six

universities, the 19 community colleges, the 10 technical schools and colleges and the Board of Regents.

- In January, for example, a number of legislators went to Manhattan for a presentation on university research needs that was jointly sponsored by KU, Kansas State and Wichita State. The legislative trip away from Topeka was unprecedented, but so was the joining of our universities in this kind of mutual effort.
- A month later, the state university CEOs (along with our athletic mascots!) went together to Silver Lake Elementary School to visit classes and deliver a Valentine's message that read: "Education is the Heart of Kansas." Not only were the campus leaders joining forces - we made common cause with the K-12 schools in a plea for sustained state funding of a precious resource: our system of schools and universities.
- Since November, the six institutions have kept each other informed as we respond to a Regents' mandate to develop multi-year tuition-setting proposals. In February, the KU and Kansas State provosts appeared together in Topeka to speak on this subject to a group that included the state commissioner of education and 60 Kansas school superintendents.
- These are three recent examples of a remarkably changed climate for public higher education in our state, one that encourages cooperation and diminishes suspicion. This has been a positive outcome of the landmark legislation (the Higher Education Coordination Act of 1999) that the amendments contained in SB 647 would improve still further.

- We support these amendments and accept the challenge of being held accountable by the state in a more formal way. We are willing to be evaluated on how well we collaborate, how well we perform, and how efficiently we use state resources to achieve goals the public can support.
- We have a long history of accountability, a relatively recent history of collaboration, and a strong desire to help complete the work begun by the Governor and Legislature in 1999. These amendments will help make that happen.