

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 p.m. on March 3, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Representative JoAnn Pottorff - absent

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Legislative Research
Debra Hollon, Legislative Research
Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes
Susan Allen, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Jerry Farley, President, Washburn University
Robert Kelly, Kansas Independent College Association
Marvin Burris, Vice-President of Finance and Administration, Kansas Board of Regents

HR 6005 - Board of regents reports on state financial assistance to students and tuition rates at non-main campus facilities.

Chairman Sloan opening hearings on **HR 6005** and recognized Robert Kelly, Kansas Independent College Association. In his testimony Mr Kelly supported the concept of "an assessment of the state financial assistance to students at nonpublic higher education institutions in Kansas", and suggested that the study be conducted by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee. He also supported a study of the Regent's institutions by the Kansas Board of Regents (Attachment 1).

The Chairman asked the Committee to review a report from Mary Galligan, Legislative Research, describing the history of state financial aid to students attending private colleges and universities in Kansas (Attachment 2).

Jerry Farley, President of Washburn University, gave testimony that opposed the studies mandated by **HR 6005**. Mr. Farley noted that **SB 345** required a comprehensive review of programs, but that the second part of the study, called the NORED study, was not completed due to lack of adequate funding (Attachment 3).

Marvin Burris, Vice President of Finance and Administration, Kansas Board of Regents, presented testimony prepared by Dr. Reginald Robinson, who was unable to attend the hearing. In his testimony, Dr. Robinson indicated that the Board did not support more studies without adequate funding to finance them. Additionally, Dr. Robinson indicated that the Board is trying to secure the funds necessary to complete the financing portion of the NORED study (Attachment 4).

With no further testimony, Chairman Sloan asked for questions. Representative Huntington asked Mr. Burris whether the cost per student from State appropriations at Kansas University included tuition. Mr. Burris responded that he did not believe that it did. Representatives Storm, Horst and Reitz asked Mr. Burris about the funding for the completion of the NORED study, and if it was necessary for the Board to use outside consultants to conduct the study. Mr. Burris replied that the Board did not have the manpower to conduct their own study. Representatives Kuether and Krehbiel suggested that they did not see a need for more studies than the ones required by **SB 345**.

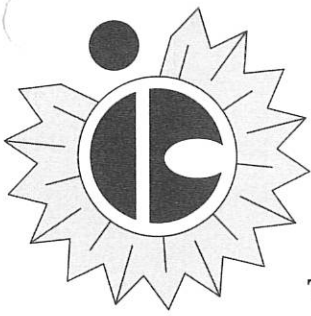
With no further questions, Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **HR 6005**. The Chairman then drew the Committee's attention to a letter he sent to the Legislative Coordinating Council suggesting that the Higher Education Committee be authorized to tour some or all of the thirty-six Regent's institutions (Attachment 5). The Chairman also drew the Committee's attention to a letter he sent to Janet DeBauge, the Chairperson of the Kansas Board of Regents, suggesting that members of the Board and members of the Committee meet informally (Attachment 6).

With no further discussion, Chairman Sloan adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m. The next meeting is

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE at 3:30 p.m. on March 3, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2004 in RM 231-N.



Kansas Independent College Association

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Testimony before the House Higher Education Committee on HR 6005 March 3, 2004

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Our association is pleased that you are requesting “an assessment of the value of state financial assistance to students at nonpublic higher education institutions in Kansas.” We know that this assistance has been highly beneficial to our students and, indirectly, to our colleges and to the state as a whole. We welcome such a study.

Our problems with HR 6005 lie with the research design for the student assistance study proposed. We believe it is faulty for the following reasons:

1. The Regents publish an Annual Report on State Financial Assistance Programs so (a) is superfluous.
2. The value of state assistance programs to the state of Kansas should be determined by the Legislature which appropriates the money. Therefore, we believe any “assessment of the value of state financial assistance to students” be undertaken by the LEPC which has reviewed this subject several times over the years.
3. The amount of tuition charged by state universities is irrelevant to the amount of student aid independent college students receive. If there were a trade-off as HR 6005 seems to imply, the amount of aid received by independent college students transferred in some way to universities would reduce a student’s tuition and fees by less than \$100 a year, not a substantial amount.
4. The tuition levels at Regent universities compared to their available need-based aid, state, federal, and institutional, is a subject worthy of study by the Regents. Other states generally raised tuitions and increased need-based aid after undertaking such studies.

In conclusion, if the Committee wishes to study the student assistance subjects described in HR 6005, we suggest the following:

1. The Regents undertake an analysis of tuition levels and need-based aid at state universities in Kansas and how they compare with other states.
2. The LEPC initiates a two-part study: (a) to assess the value of student assistance programs in terms of access, choice, and graduation rates for various sectors and (b) to measure the impact of how such aid is distributed among the various sectors of Kansas higher education.

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

Member Colleges and Universities

Baker University 1858 • Benedictine College 1858 • Bethany College 1881 • Bethel College
Donnelly College 1949 • Friends University 1898 • Hesston College 1909 • Kan:
Manhattan Christian College 1927 • McPherson College 1887 • MidAmerica Nazarene Uni
Ottawa University 1865 • Southwestern College 1885 • Sterling College 1887 • Tabor Colle

House Higher Education Committee

Meeting Date: 3-3-04

Attachment No.: 1

November 5, 2003

To: Representative Tom Sloan
From: Mary Galligan, Principal Analyst
Re: State Financial Aid To Students at Private Colleges and Universities

You asked for the history and rationale for providing state financial assistance to students attending private colleges and universities in Kansas. I have assembled the following from an examination of bill history and from information provided by the Kansas Independent College Association and the State Board of Regents. Carolyn Rampey also provided background documents.

Summary

In short, two policy considerations have guided decisions regarding financial aid to students attending private colleges and universities. The initial consideration in the early 1960s was alleviation of pressure to provide additional capacity at public colleges to accommodate the influx of the post-World War II baby boom generation and students attending college on the GI Bill. The second consideration, which manifested itself approximately a decade later, was the decline in private college enrollments related to perceived competition between private colleges and community colleges.

The number of private colleges in Kansas in the 1960s and 1970s and their distribution across the state (see attached graphic) also may have resulted in increasing legislative attention to those schools as representation shifted to the more densely populated eastern portion of the state. In addition, Senator Joseph Harder from Moundridge served as vice-chairman of the Senate Education Committee from his first term in the Legislature in 1961 until 1964 and as the Committee's chair from 1965 until he retired from the Senate in 1992. Senator Harder also chaired the Legislative Council's Education Committee for a number of years. The central Kansas district represented by Senator Harder is home to a number of private colleges and universities.

State Scholarship Program

The initial State Scholarship Program, created by the Legislature in 1963, provided financial assistance to outstanding Kansas students who demonstrated financial need. The program has undergone a number of changes in administration and financing, but from the program's inception it provided assistance to students attending both private and public colleges and universities. The 1963 authorizing legislation includes a legislative finding that by providing education to Kansans who might otherwise attend public colleges, private colleges alleviate pressure to expand public college facilities.¹

In 1969 the Legislative Council conducted an interim study regarding the financing of nonpublic colleges and universities. (*Reports to the 1970 Legislature*, "Financing Scholarship Loans and Grants: Co-operation of Private and State Supported." Proposal No. 12. 1969.) One

House Higher Education Committee

Meeting Date: 3-3-04

Attachment No.: 2

conclusion of that study was that "enrollments in independent colleges and universities tend to be affected by the development of public junior college systems. For this reason, the council believes that the problem of the private colleges cannot be considered apart from the development of the state system of public junior colleges. The relationship between the two kinds of institutions requires careful study and evaluation." (Legislative Council, 1969, pg. 140.) The Council recommended creation of a Master Planning Commission to "make recommendations relating to the method of preparation and adoption of a master plan for educational goals and objectives of Kansas . . ." (Legislative Council, 1969, pg. 140.) The resolution that created the Commission, as it ultimately was adopted by the 1970 Legislature, specifically charged the Commission with considering the role of private colleges and with including private colleges and universities in recommendations for coordination of higher education in the state.²

The Master Planning Commission's interim report to the 1970 Legislature articulated the Commission's mission as developing goals and objectives for education in the state. The 1971 interim report presented the Commission's first recommendations, neither of which addressed financial aid to private college students.

Tuition Grant Program

Prior to release of the Commission's final report, the 1972 Legislature authorized the Kansas Tuition Grant Program. That program was specifically designed to provide financial aid to students attending private colleges and universities. A Research Department memorandum presented to the Special Committee on Ways and Means in 1979 described the program as providing "sufficient funds to partially offset the differential between public and private tuition costs." The memorandum also included the observation that "independent colleges experienced enrollment leveling and decline earlier than did public institutions. The Tuition Grant Program has tended to stabilize enrollments at the private institutions in Kansas." (KLRD, 1979) The issue of declining enrollments at Kansas' private colleges and universities was addressed in the Master Planning Commission's final report issued at the end of 1972, several months after the creation of the Tuition Grant Program.

In keeping with the Commission's charge, the final report addressed several issues impacting Kansas' private colleges and universities.

- The Commission stated its belief that private, postsecondary educational institutions had made significant contributions by:
 - ▶ providing alternatives for students who desired a nonsecular education;
 - ▶ preparing leaders, scholars, scientists, and professionals with undergraduate education;
 - ▶ providing unique educational experiences that cannot be found at other institutions; and
 - ▶ allowing for instructional experimentation not generally possible in public institutions.
- The Commission noted that enrollment projections showed that by 1980 a number of private colleges and universities would not be able to keep their doors open.³
- The final report stated that the "number of postsecondary institutions exceeds that required to adequately serve the needs of the state." (Final Report, pg. 28)

- The Commission identified what it characterized as a mismatch between the predominant output of the postsecondary education system – bachelor’s and master’s degrees – and the needs of Kansas employers. (See attached Table 5 from the final report.)
- The Commission also found that all Kansans did not have an equal opportunity to obtain postsecondary education and training: “Broad educational opportunities are severely limited in urban areas, particularly for members of minority segments of the population . . . veterans, adults, handicapped, disadvantaged and other persons with obsolete or otherwise nonsaleable skills.” (Final Report, pg. 28)

Interestingly, in light of those mixed findings, some which might have been used to justify termination of state aid to private college students, the Commission decided that such aid should be enhanced and that the Commission would not make recommendations regarding the role of private educational institutions. However, despite stopping short of a policy recommendation, the Commission voiced support for private colleges and universities in its finding that “continued viability of this sector of postsecondary education would be in the best interest of the state. Maintenance of this element of education would ensure the provision of broad alternatives for future generations of college aspirants.” (Final Report, pg. 7)

Comprehensive Grant Program

In 1998 the Legislature folded nearly all the state’s student financial aid programs, including the Tuition Grants, into the Comprehensive Grant Program (K.S.A. 74-32,120, *et seq.*). As with the predecessor programs, comprehensive grants are available to students regardless of whether they attend public or private institutions. In order to receive a grant for attendance at a private institution, the school must:

- be a not-for-profit independent institution of higher education;
- be accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools based on the Association’s requirements as of April 1, 1985;
- be operated independently and not controlled or administered by the state or any agency or subdivision thereof;
- maintain open enrollment (does not discriminate in enrollment based on race, gender, religion, creed, or national origin); and
- have its main campus or principal place of operation in Kansas.

Conclusion

The practice of providing state financial assistance to students attending private colleges and universities in Kansas has been in place since the inception of state financial aid in the 1960s. The policy objective achieved by provision of that aid has shifted. Initially, private colleges and universities were determined to be an important bulwark against pressure to build additional public postsecondary classrooms to accommodate the growing demand for higher education. In subsequent decades, state aid was viewed as a means of providing a wider spectrum of educational choices for Kansans by helping maintain enrollments at private educational institutions.

NOTES

1. "The legislature has found and hereby declares that the provision of a higher education for all residents of this state who desire such an education and are properly qualified therefor is important to the welfare and security of this state and nation, and consequently is an important public purpose; many qualified high-school graduates are deterred by financial considerations from completing their education, with a consequent irreparable loss to the state and nation of talents vital to welfare and security; the number of qualified persons who desire higher education is increasing rapidly, and the physical facilities, faculties, and staffs of the institutions of higher learning operated by the state soon will have to be expanded greatly to accommodate such persons, with an attendant sharp increase in the cost of educating such persons; suitable but unused facilities exist among the private institutions in the state, with adequate faculties and staffs to conduct the required educational programs, but many qualified persons are unable to sustain the financial burden of tuition and other fees, in such private institutions; a system of state scholarships for highly qualified residents of college age, which will enable them to attend qualified institutions of their choice in the state, public or private, thereby promoting the full use of all resources for higher education in the state, will tend to alleviate the foregoing problems and will reduce the expense to the state of providing the additional facilities and personnel needed for achieving the public purposes stated above; and the maximum amount of the individual scholarship provided by the state scholarships law for attendance at a private institution is less than the cost to the state of providing comparable facilities and instruction in institutions operated by the state." (1963 SB 10; L. 1963 ch. 342; K.S.A. 72-6801; repealed 1974) [Emphasis added.]

A 1961-1962 Legislative Council study of higher education needs (the focus of which was whether to take the municipal university at Wichita into the state system) noted the dramatic enrollment increases that placed pressure on the state to expand its higher education capacity. "Kansas college enrollments in the Fall of 1962 passed the 60,000 mark with an increase of 7% over 1961. The greatest increase was registered in the state schools which had 2,661 more students than last year, or an increase of 9%. Private four-year colleges increased 8% and municipal universities [at that time Wichita and Washburn] increased 2%. . . . In the next twelve years student population is expected to double and in some instances to triple. A statement of the chairman of the state board of regents to the Associated Press on September 26, 1961, makes it clear that the additional thousands of young Kansans who will be seeking higher education cannot be accommodated in the facilities now available at our present State colleges and universities. He said:

"1) The tide of students has overflowed into basements, barracks and hotels

2) Besides immediate action in the form of budge and building requests, the regents are seeking long range answers." (Legislative Council, 1962, pp. 99-100.)

The Council's report also cited the Comprehensive Educational Survey of 1960 which concluded that the state had no alternative to preparing for a doubling of enrollments in public and private colleges.

2. "(d) . . . (1) Prepare a plan of the educational goals and objectives of Kansas for the area between the elementary-secondary school system and the four-year colleges and universities, taking into account the role and functions of private colleges and universities.

(2) Project the educational needs of Kansas students and the needs of the state and its economy in this middle educational level through the mid 1980's.

(3) Determine what the optimum role, financial structure, and school organization should be for:

(A) Community junior colleges offering one or more of the following educational programs: two-year general, terminal, technical, occupational, and transfer type courses;

(B) vocational education schools offering general, occupational, vocational, and technical programs.

(4) Propose the optimum organization for the coordination of all post-high school institutions which are not under the state board of regents, and recommend methods for the coordination of post-high school institution programs with those of secondary schools and the public and private four-year colleges and universities.

(5) Indicate the impact of the first phase of the master plan on the capability of independent colleges and universities continuing to provide diversity of higher educational opportunities in the state.

(A) Define what the role of the private colleges and universities should be as a part of the total education program of the state of Kansas.

(B) Outline changes in the organization, relationships, or financing of private institutions necessary to enable them to fulfill their role in the education program of Kansas, and to preserve their educational freedom." (L. 1970, ch. 302; 1970 SCR 40) [Emphasis added.]

3. "EXISTING SYSTEM PROJECTED TO 1980

The existing system of postsecondary education was projected to 1980 to provide a basis for evaluating its adequacy relative to the future needs of Kansas. The procedure of analysis, which will be described in a subsequent report, assumed no changes in the number or type of institutions or in their governance or finance. Further, it was assumed that current trends and patterns would continue relative to postsecondary participation rates, student aspirations, societal attitudes and values, program offerings, rate of inflation and student mix (e.g., ratio of adults to young people).

Under these assumed conditions, 92 percent of all postsecondary students would be enrolled in public education by 1980 – up seven percent from 1970. A number of private colleges would no longer be economically viable. By that time, the percent of entering students enrolled in four-year colleges and universities would have decreased to just under 50 percent – down 10 percent from 1970. An extension of the existing construction moratorium on community junior colleges and area vocational-technical schools would have prevented this trend from advancing any further." (Final Report, pg. 20.)

SOURCES

Kansas Legislative Council. *Reports to the 1970 Legislature*. Topeka, Kansas. December 1969.

Kansas Legislative Council. *15th Biennial Report and Recommendations of the Kansas Legislative Council Submitted to the 1963 Legislature*. Topeka, Kansas. December, 1962.

Kansas Legislative Research Department. *Student Financial Aid*. Memorandum to the Special Committee on Ways and Means. Topeka, Kansas. July 30, 1979.

Master Planning Commission. *Post Secondary Educational Planning to 1985: Final Report and Recommendations* (Final Report). Topeka, Kansas. December 1972.

Master Planning Commission, *Post Secondary Educational Planning to 1985: Interim Report and Recommendations*. Topeka, Kansas. December 1971.

Master Planning Commission, *Post Secondary Educational Planning to 1985: Interim Report and Recommendations*. Topeka, Kansas. December 1970.

STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED BY KANSAS PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

2001-2002 Academic Year

Source: Kansas Board of Regents
09/08/03

PROGRAM

INSTITUTION	Comprehensive Grant	State Scholarship	Ethnic Minority Scholarship	Teacher Service Scholarship	Nursing Service Scholarship	TOTAL
Baker University	\$743,102	\$72,500	\$12,950	\$5,000	\$47,250	\$880,802
Benedictine College	\$621,506	\$28,000	\$1,850	\$20,000	\$0	\$671,356
Bethany College	\$477,085	\$37,000	\$0	\$12,500	\$0	\$526,585
Bethel College	\$370,490	\$34,352	\$4,814	\$12,500	\$7,000	\$429,156
Central Christian College	\$70,207	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$71,207
Donnelly College	\$187,730	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$187,730
Friends University	\$730,175	\$18,500	\$11,100	\$0	\$0	\$759,775
Hesston College	\$132,918	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,250	\$141,168
Kansas Wesleyan University	\$485,078	\$10,500	\$1,850	\$15,000	\$57,750	\$570,178
Manhattan Christian College	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$65,000
McPherson College	\$255,513	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$258,513
MidAmerican Nazarene U.	\$497,484	\$15,019	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$512,503
Newman University	\$686,489	\$12,500	\$3,575	\$5,000	\$0	\$707,564
Ottawa University	\$324,793	\$3,000	\$1,850	\$0	\$0	\$329,643
Saint Mary College	\$189,200	\$5,000	\$5,550	\$2,500	\$0	\$202,250
Southwestern College	\$345,726	\$15,000	\$3,138	\$0	\$10,500	\$374,364
Sterling College	\$356,170	\$20,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$391,170
Tabor College	\$327,262	\$17,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$359,262
TOTAL	\$6,860,928	\$300,371	\$46,677	\$102,500	\$127,750	\$7,438,226

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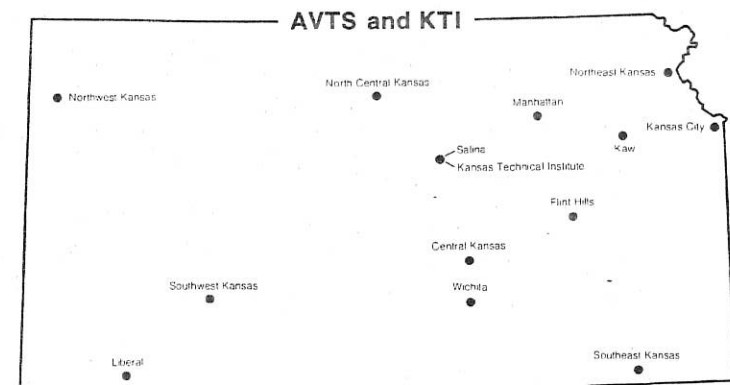
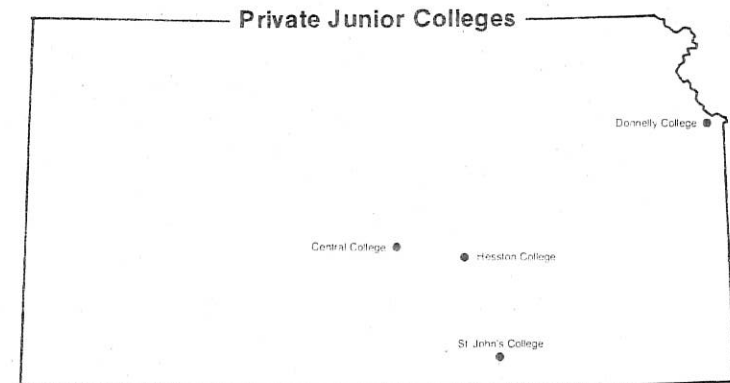
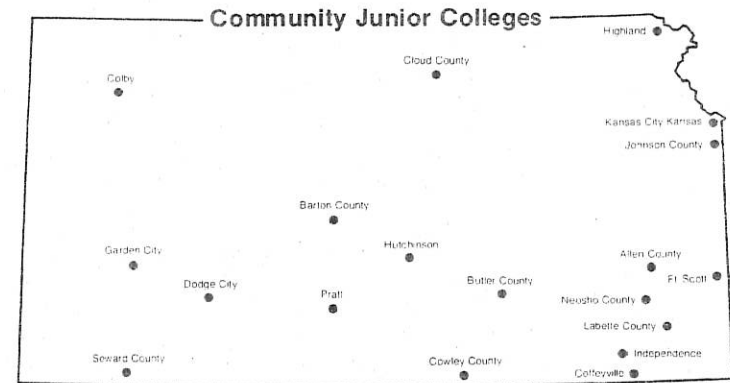
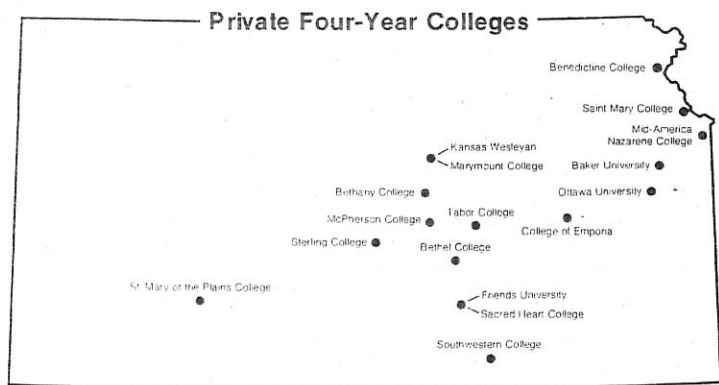
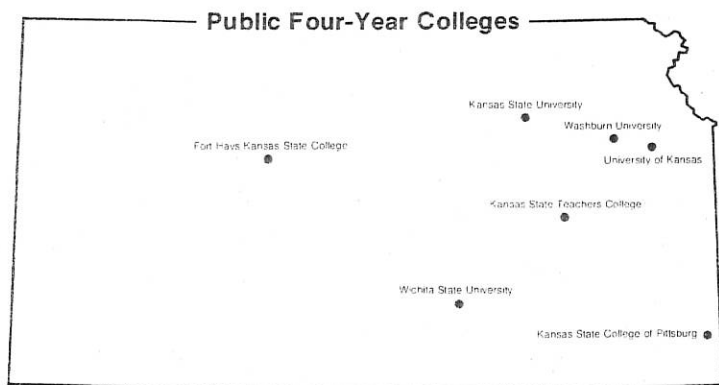
STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED BY KANSAS PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

2001-2002 Academic Year

Source: Kansas Board of Regents
09/08/03

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FIGURE 1
EXISTING SYSTEM OF POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS



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WASHBURN UNIVERSITY
Office of the President

**Testimony to the
House Committee on Higher Education
by
Jerry B. Farley, President
Washburn University
March 3, 2004**

RE: HR 6005

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss House Resolution 6005. This resolution mandates three studies. Two focus on the adequacy of funding and benefits to the state for the Comprehensive Grant Program and Washburn University. The third focuses on off-campus tuition policies at the state educational institutions. All are worthy topics. While we always welcome an opportunity to discuss Washburn's value to the state, this does not appear to be the time to mandate three additional funding studies for the Kansas Board of Regents.

In 1999, the Legislature enacted SB 345. The central purpose of this legislation was to create a coordinated system of higher education in Kansas following thirty years of debate, discussion and study on how we should be organized. We are now in the fifth year of this ambitious plan. We have had our disagreements but we can all agree progress is being made, particularly with coordination of the academic enterprise and the programs and services offered to students.

One of the key elements in Senate Bill 345 was a comprehensive review of programs, missions and roles. We employed outside consultants and the results were published in the so-called NORED study. With your assistance, we have begun to implement many of those recommendations and assess others. It has provided overall guidance to our activities over the past several years and will do so for years to come.

To date, the missing element is a comprehensive study on higher education finance in Kansas. Not a study to go on the shelf, not a study of adequacy of funding, but a study to include recommendations regarding how budget requests are to be generated, evaluated, and approved by the Kansas Board. A study which can identify elements to assist the executive branch and the Legislature in evaluating and assessing the budget requirements for higher education. And finally, and most importantly, a method for allocating those resources back to the institutions and the students in a way which implements and supports system level goals and initiatives. This is the study we should be discussing today.

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March 3, 2004

The Kansas Board of Regents has been requesting state support for such an investigation and has been actively soliciting private support. We again today request your assistance in this matter.

As to the studies mandated in HR 6005, any comprehensive study would include considerations of the adequacy of funding for institutions and programs. To mandate separate studies outside of a comprehensive consideration which includes issues of process, procedure and policy seems duplicative to us. However, should you wish to proceed with separate studies, we have no objection because any unbiased assessment can only conclude the state receives significant benefits from its modest investment in Washburn University.

Thank you for your consideration of our prospective.

TESTIMONY/PRES/HS.HIGH.ED.HR6005:030304



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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**Testimony Before House Higher Education Committee
House Resolution 6005
March 3, 2004**

Reginald L. Robinson – President & CEO

Good afternoon, Chairman Sloan and members of the committee. I am pleased to offer views on behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents regarding proposed House Resolution 6005.

This Resolution would direct the Board of Regents to conduct an array of studies and assessments related to state financial assistance, tuition and fees for off-campus students, and credit-hour-based state aid, and report to the Governor and the Legislature regarding its findings by January 1, 2005. While we have no particular objection to the idea of examining the general topics identified for study in this proposed legislation, we have serious concern about the piecemeal approach that directs the Board of Regents to conduct studies and assessments without providing any resources to undertake the required work. In addition, we believe that instead of the piece-by-piece approach that this proposal represents, a more comprehensive examination of a range of issues related to the funding of higher education in Kansas is required. That is why the Board of Regents has been working to gather the resources necessary to conduct such a study.

As you know, the Board has already conducted a study that focused on issues of higher education governance in Kansas. The so-called NORED study produced a range of important recommendations that have been at the core of many of the initiatives the Board has undertaken in the last three years. As planned, that initial study was intended to examine both governance and higher education funding/financing issues. Unfortunately, however, the Board did not have the resources necessary to pursue the funding/financing piece of that work. That work still remains to be done, and I am convinced that the study contemplated by the Board would encompass many of the issues this proposed resolution identifies.

The financing study the Board would like to pursue would, among other things, for example –

- Review and analyze current condition of financing of the four sectors of public postsecondary education.

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Attachment No.: 4

- Analyze public postsecondary funding models by sector and compare with those of other states.
- Include in the analysis tuition policies, residency/non-residency policies and statutes, state student financial aid, and capital funding.
- Recommend any changes to funding models by sector for the system that would improve the adequacy and equity of funding.
- Recommend benchmarks the Board may use for ongoing evaluation of funding adequacy and equity.
- Present other models from which comparisons and contrasts to the current system in Kansas may be made.

Thus far, the thirty-six institutions that comprise the Board of Regents family have agreed to contribute collectively half of the dollars the Board needs to conduct this financing study. We are currently working with the Governor's office to obtain the other half of the required funding from private sources.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, while we understand the objectives of this Resolution, we do not support this approach. We encourage the Committee to support our efforts to obtain the funding necessary to conduct the kind of comprehensive financing study that will more effectively provide the broad system improvements that we all seek.

STATE OF KANSAS

TOM SLOAN
REPRESENTATIVE, 45TH DISTRICT
DOUGLAS COUNTY

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
CHAIRMAN: HIGHER EDUCATION
MEMBER: UTILITIES
ENVIRONMENT
GENERAL GOVERNMENT &
HUMAN RESOURCES
BUDGET



TOPEKA

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December 15, 2003

President Dave Kerr
Vice President John Vratil
Majority Leader Lana Oleen
Minority Leader Anthony Hensley
Senator Dwayne Umbarger

Speaker Doug Mays
Speaker Pro-Tem John Ballou
Majority Leader Clay Aurand
Minority Leader Dennis McKinney

Dear Leaders:

The citizens' of Kansas' greatest financial investment at the state level is in educational facilities, programs, and personnel. Legislative policy-making related to higher education has, in my opinion, been unnecessarily subservient to the Board of Regents and Governors. Our ability to engage in macro, long range planning discussions has been limited by the usual legislative impediments of too little time and resources, plus the micro perspective resulting from our districts not including a representative sample of higher education institutions.

In an effort to increase my awareness of the challenges and opportunities confronting the 36 higher education institutions governed and coordinated by the Board of Regents and their stakeholders, I traveled more than 4,000 miles this summer and fall visiting campuses and administrators. My travels included visits to more than 25 vocational-technical colleges, community colleges, and universities. Each campus administration has similar responsibilities, but often significantly different opportunities and problems. Local legislators naturally support their local institution, but too few of us have a statewide perspective of the challenges and opportunities for policy-making.

Based on what I have learned at these campuses, I recommend that the Legislative Coordinating Council authorize the Senate Education and House Higher Education Committee members, and staff, to spend two days during each interim period touring institutions. At your discretion, members of the Legislative Educational Planning Committee could be included. Such tours should be organized and compensated on the same basis as the Ways & Means/Appropriations tours, though for a shorter time period. Reflecting the shorter time frame, the higher education tours will cover the state's institutions on a four-year cycle.

House Higher Education Committee

Meeting Date: 3-3-04

Attachment No.: 5

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Without undermining the Board of Regents' ability to coordinate higher education governance and operations, we must be more relevant and successful in participating in the formation of public policies. Tours of campuses; conversations with administrators, faculty, and students; personally discovering the unique and common course offerings; and discussion of higher education-related problems associated with changes in state population demographics will be invaluable to legislators. Such tours represent an opportunity for legislators to acquire a statewide perspective of higher education's potential, actuality, opportunities, and problems.

If you would like a list of campuses I have visited or additional information about the reasons for this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom". The signature is written in a cursive style with a checkmark-like flourish above the "o".

Tom Sloan
45th District Representative

cc: Reginald Robinson
Rep. Deena Horst
Rep. Sue Storm
Alan Conroy
Norm Furse
Jeff Russell
Dolph Simons

TOM SLOAN
 REPRESENTATIVE, 45TH DISTRICT
 DOUGLAS COUNTY

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HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT
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 MEMBER: UTILITIES
 ENVIRONMENT
 GENERAL GOVERNMENT &
 HUMAN RESOURCES
 BUDGET

January 23, 2004

Ms. Janice DeBauge
 Kansas Board of Regents
 1966 Morningside Dr.
 Emporia, KS 66801

Dear Madam Chairperson,

The Kansas Board of Regents and the House Higher Education Committee have responsibilities and opportunities to guide public policy debates and formation. Your appearance before the Committee on behalf of the Board and the state's thirty-six (36) public higher education institutions stakeholders, was very informative and appreciated.

Most of our respective members do not personally know their counterparts and I believe that an opportunity for interaction between Committee members and Board members would be beneficial to both groups.

In addition to performance agreements and improvement of the image of higher education with the populace and elected officials; the establishment of a shared vision for higher education that can be implemented might be productive discussion topics.

While we are unlikely to reach any conclusions, the dialogue process will have value. As you and I privately discussed in Chicago at the MHEC meeting and as I have conveyed to Reggie on several occasions, bills in the Committee, correspondence suggesting promotional opportunities, and other communications from me should be perceived as efforts to engage the Board, Committee, and higher education stakeholders in dialogues about how best to achieve shared objectives.

On behalf of the House Higher Education Committee members and staff, I look forward to meeting with the Board, staff, and institutional sector representatives.

Sincerely,

Tom Sloan
 Chair, Higher
 Ed. Committee

cc: Reggie Robinson
 TS:sa

House Higher Education Committee

Meeting Date: 3-3-04

Attachment No.: 6