

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 P.M. on March 6, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Annie Kuether- excused  
Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor  
Haley DaVee, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator John Vratil  
Major Ray Bergman, Kansas National Guard  
Colonel Deborah Rose, Kansas National Guard

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Sloan opened the hearing on **SB 436 - Community colleges and school districts; personnel evaluations** and welcomed Senator Vratil to testify as a proponent. Senator Vratil noted that the bill applies to K-12 school districts and community colleges. Senator Vratil reported that under current statutory law, an anomaly exists in that community college personnel evaluation provisions are found in the Chapter 72, which deals with K-12. He noted that the purpose of the bill was merely to separate the division for community colleges, not to change the subject of the law in any way, and put community college provisions into chapter 71, where the other community college provisions are found. It is essentially a cleanup bill.

Questions were asked by Representatives Storm, Horst, Sloan, and Phelps.

Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **SB 436** and opened the hearing on **SB 440 - Qualifications for admission to state educational institutions**. Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department, provided the committee with a brief explanation of the bill and noted that no fiscal impact has been predicted.

Chairman Sloan noted that written testimony in support of **SB 440** had been submitted from the Kansas Board of Regents. (Attachment 1)

Questions were asked by Representatives Horst, Krehbiel, Otto, Pottorf, Storm, and Craft.

Chairman Sloan welcomed Major Ray Bergman, Kansas Army National Guard, and Colonel Deborah Rose, Kansas Air Force National Guard, to the committee to speak on **SB 440**. They recommended that the bill be amended to allow any member serving the Kansas National, even those living outside the state, be eligible to receive state tuition aid from the state of Kansas. Major Bergman suggested by serving in the Kansas National Guard, these individuals are foregoing state aid in their state of residence and they should receive assistance from the state that they are serving in.

Questions and comments were offered by Representatives Pottorf, Sloan, Storm, Horst, Krehbiel, and Otto.

Chairman Sloan turned the committee's attention to **SB 332 - Authorizing regents' institutions to acquire insurance** and recognized Vice Chairman Johnson to serve as chairman during committee debate because Representative Johnson had chaired the committee when **SB 332** was heard.

Representatives Kelsey, Otto, Horst, Carlin, Sloan, Craft, Storm, Krehbiel, Menghini, and Pottorf offered comments and questions on **SB 332**. Concerns were raised over why there is not language in the bill specifying the nature of the insurance gathering process.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Higher Education Committee at 3:30 P.M. on March 6, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Representative Sloan moved that **SB 332** be amended to indicate that a competitive bidding process be used. Representative Carlin seconded the motion.

Representatives Krehbiel, Phelps, Craft, Otto, Sharp, Storm, and Hill offered comments on the proposed amendments.

The motion carried.

Representative Carlin moved that **SB 332** be passed favorably as amended. Representative Horst seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Chairman Sloan adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2006 at 3:30 in Rm. 231-N.





# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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March 1, 2006

Representative Tom Sloan  
Chairman  
House Higher Education Committee  
Statehouse, Room 446-N  
Topeka, KS 66612

Representative Sydney Carlin  
Ranking Member  
House Higher Education Committee  
Statehouse, Room 521-S  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Sloan and Ranking Member Carlin:

On behalf of the Board of Regents, I write to express the Board's support for Senate Bill 440.

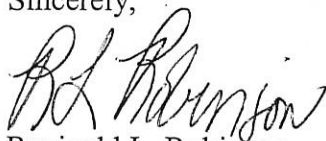
As members of your committee are aware, admission to the state universities in Kansas is governed by the "qualified admissions" standards the legislature adopted in 1996. The qualified admissions provisions are currently codified at Kansas Statutes Annotated, section 76-717, and delineate the threshold standards for those seeking admission to the state universities. In general terms, the statute provides that applicants must either (1) complete a specified pre-college curriculum with a minimum grade point average of 2.0, (2) achieve a composite score of not less than 21 on the American College Testing examination (ACT), or (3) rank in the top 1/3 of their high school graduating class.

As adopted, however, the state's qualified admissions standards apply, by the statute's terms, only to "Kansas residents" who graduate from "accredited Kansas high schools." Senate Bill 440 proposes to address these standards to a group currently not covered by the language of the qualified admissions statute: Kansas residents who graduate from accredited high schools outside of the state. As we understand this proposal, it would require the state universities to subject Kansas residents who graduate from out-of-state high schools to the same admissions standards as their colleagues who graduate from accredited Kansas high schools.

Our examination of the statutory language at issue suggests to us that the Board of Regents could achieve this objective through regulations. We do, however, have no objection to a proposal that seeks to achieve those ends statutorily. The Board is pleased to support SB 440.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Reginald L. Robinson  
President & CEO

House Higher Education Committee  
3-6-06  
Attachment 1