

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:35 p.m. on March 6, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Pat Apple

Committee staff present: Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ashley Holm, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Ann E. Mah
Dr. Robert J. Edleston, Kansas Association of Technical
Schools and Colleges

HB 2014 – Postsecondary education; establishing the technical college and technical school commission; powers and duties

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department, explained that **HB 2014** would establish the Kansas Technical College and Technical School Commission in fiscal year 2008. The Commission would have seven voting members and one ex-officio member, which would be the President of the State Board of Regents or that individual's designee. The bill describes the requirements for appointment and provides that the Commission would meet upon the call of the chairperson. She pointed out that the fiscal note indicated that the Commission would need about \$28,722 to continue to pay commission members. She went on to say that the bill would continue the Technical College and Technical School Commission which was originally created in a proviso of the 2006 omnibus budget bill. She noted that the originally established Commission was due to end June 30, 2007; but **HB 2014** would continue the Commission until the end of 2008, and it would require the Commission provide a report to the Legislative Educational Planning Committee by November 1, 2007, and a final report to the Legislature by November 1, 2008. She explained that **HB 2014** was amended by the House Committee on Education to ensure that the appointing authorities would have the same ability to appoint as they had in the original bill. The House Committee also added a provision to address the occurrence of vacancies on the Commission and to clarify that only voting members are counted when determining a quorum.

For the Committee's information, Ms. Wenger distributed copies of the Kansas Technical College and Vocational School Commission's final report and recommendations to the 2007 Legislature. A copy of the report can be obtained from the Kansas Legislative Research Department, Room 545-N, Statehouse. She also distributed copies of the bill which would implement the Commission's recommendations, **HB 2556**, which was scheduled to be heard in the House Committee on Education on March 8. She pointed out that a question that arose was, "If the recommendations were addressed in **HB 2556**, why would the Commission need to continue to meet?" She explained that the intent of **HB 2014** was to allow the Commission to oversee the implementation of their recommendations.

Representative Ann Mah testified in support of **HB 2014**. She noted that the 2007 Commission's seven members were largely from industry and education, and they tackled their assignment with enthusiasm and a determination to bring technical education into the 21st Century. She commented that the Commission's report was not an ending; but rather a beginning. She noted that the scope of the Commission's recommendations required additional time to see them through to completion; therefore the Legislative Educational Planning Committee recommended that the Commission be extended another two years. (Attachment 1)

Senator Lee commented, "Being a member of the Commission, what I envision that the Commission intended was that they would watch the progress of the new advisory authority under the Board of Regents established in **HB 2556**. I would just tell you that, having had the wonderful experience of serving on this Commission,

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MINUTES OF THE Senate Education Committee at 1:35 p.m. on March 6, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

to see the enthusiasm from these business leaders for education and for appropriate funding but demanding there be accountability for that funding, was exciting to me. I've not often seen business leaders that involved in education. They want to continue to see that in fact something does happen. That it's positive. That it's accountable. There's some concern on the Commission as to how this authority under the Board of Regents is going to work. The Commission made a lot of compromises in terms of the development of that process, and frankly, they want to see how it works; that indeed the authority and the executive director of the authority is able to work with the Board of Regents and make things happen."

Dr. Robert Edleston, Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges (KATSC), testified in support of **HB 2014** as a member of the Technical College and Vocational School Commission. He explained that the Commission did not limit its focus to the KATSC member institutions but instead concentrated on the need for enhancing technical education in all Kansas higher education institutions, especially the two-year technical and community colleges and schools. He noted that the main reason for requesting the extension of the Commission was for continued oversight as we move into a new era of technical education expansion in Kansas. He emphasized that the first task of the Technical Education Authority Board will be to establish high standards regarding education and training for Kansas' emerging workforce, existing workforce, and advancing workforce. He noted that research showed that, given the capacity, Kansas could be serving over 30,000 more students and placing those individuals in 80 percent of the jobs in Kansas that require training above the high school level but less than the four-year degree level. He pointed out that, for every dollar spent on technical education, the state should realize a return of at least 15 dollars. (Attachment 2)

There being no others wishing to testify, the hearing on **HB 2014** was closed.

The Committee's attention was turned to the minutes of the February 15, 19, 20, and 21 meetings.

Senator Teichman moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 19, 20, and 21 meetings, seconded by Senator McGinn. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2007.

**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST**

DATE: March 6, 2007

NAME	REPRESENTING
Dr. Rob Edleston	KATSC
Blake Flanders	KBOR
Richard Somavito	Kunz/ASSOC
Juni Row	KACCT
David Gifford	Washburn University
Bill Brady	SFFF
HOWARD SMITH	PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
BILL REARDON	USD 500
Eric Stafford	AGC of KS

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 TECHNOLOGY

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
 TESTIMONY – HB 2014
 REP. ANN MAH
 March 6, 2007

Thank you Chairman Schodorf and committee for allowing me to testify today in favor of HB 2014. In the 2006 session there was a proviso to establish a technical school commission to look at the governance, funding, and mission of technical education in Kansas. The Technical College and Vocational School Commission made its initial report in December 2006 and finalized its recommendations last week.

The Commission's seven members are largely from industry and education. They tackled their assignment with enthusiasm and a determination to bring technical education into the 21st Century and give it the prominence it deserves. Their recommendations are far reaching and exciting, and you will hopefully hear more about that as HB 2556 works its way through the legislative process.

The scope of the Commission's recommendations requires additional time to see through to completion. The Legislative Educational Planning Committee recommended that the Commission be extended by another two years. HB 2014 establishes the Kansas Technical College and Technical School Commission for two years, to expire December 2008. The bill sets the initial appointments as the same members who served under the proviso. They are required to make annual reports to the legislature as the LEPC requested. I urge your support for this bill and will be glad to stand for questions.

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 Attachment 1



March 6, 2007

Honorable members;

Within the next few days you will be receiving a copy of recommendations from the Governor's Commission on the Kansas Technical Colleges and Vocational Schools. This document will give you somewhat of an idea about how much work this group did since last September. The Commission was charged with the task of identifying the mission of Kansas technical education, establishing a strong governance structure, and determining what kind of funding would be required to bring Kansas technical education to the level that it should be.

The Commission did not limit its focus to the KATSC member institutions but instead concentrated on the need for enhancing technical education in all Kansas higher education institutions, especially the two-year technical and community colleges and schools. You will see by HB 2014 that we recommend extending this work over the next few years. We are also recommending that the same basic group be re-appointed based on the enormous amount of information that was digested over the last six months. It would be an ominous task for a new group to come up to speed on all that has been discussed.

Our main reason for requesting the extension of the Commission is for continued oversight as we move into a new era of technical education expansion in Kansas. The beginning of the Technical Education Authority Board, the hiring of its first executive director, and the hiring of staff will be critical to the success of this venture. Their first tasks will be to establish high standards regarding education and training for Kansas' emerging workforce, existing workforce, and advancing workforce. They will also be charged with marketing technical education to show the citizens of Kansas what value exists in encouraging our citizens to pursue technical careers.

As a reminder to some, and possibly as news to others, our research has shown that, given the capacity, we can be serving over 30,000 more students and placing those individuals in the 80% of the jobs in Kansas that require training above the high school level and yet less than the four-year degree level.

Equally as important to you, our legislators, is to know that technical education in Kansas is an excellent return on the State's investment. The common consensus, gleaned from testimony throughout the U.S., was that for every dollar spent on technical education the

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State should realize a return of at least 15 dollars. When you consider that over 90 percent of our graduates stay in Kansas and the same percentage obtain jobs in the careers they trained for, it shows that our money is staying here and working very hard for Kansas.

We thank you for all that you have done for us and look forward to your continued support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Robert J. Edleston', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Robert J. Edleston, President
Manhattan Area Technical College and
Vice President, Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges