

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 1:30 p.m. on January 22, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jennifer Horchem, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Renaë Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Joseph Glassman, Chairman, Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Mah requested introduction of three committee bills: 1) Increase limit a KPERS retiree may earn from \$20,000 to \$25,000 when returning to work for the same employer; 2) Move firefighters at Forbes at the 190th from KPERS to the KP&F Retirement System; and 3) Tax credit for postsecondary education. Representative Rhoades moved to introduce these three requests as committee bills. There being no objection, the motion carried.

Joseph Glassman, Chairman, Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority, reported on progress toward the improvement of the postsecondary technical education system in Kansas. The Authority was created by the Legislature in 2007 and is charged with coordinating state-wide planning for postsecondary technical education, approve and review new and existing technical programs, recommend a new approach to funding technical education, develop accountability indicators, and coordinate the development of a seamless system between secondary and postsecondary education levels. The legislation also required the state's technical schools to merge or affiliate with a postsecondary education institution or become an accredited technical college with an independent governing board. It was learned that five institutions will merge or affiliate with other colleges and that the Salina Area Technical School has submitted a plan to become a stand-alone technical college with an independent governing board. He reported that in their first year of operation, the Authority had hired a Vice President for Workforce Development (Blake Flanders was introduced), established an operation committee structure to address issues related to program alignment, finance, and marketing.

He stated that improving the postsecondary technical education system will require legislative reform. The Authority members have approved the first phase of changes in statutes related to technical education which is now ready for legislative consideration. HB 2003 is a starting point and will lay the groundwork for potential new legislation and policy revisions to improve the postsecondary technical education system in the future. (Attachment 1)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee is scheduled for January 26, 2009.

HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE January 22, 2009

NAME	REPRESENTING
David Boucher	Intern - Rep. Mah
Blake Flanders	Ks Board of Regents
Trent Ambrust	Flint Hills Leadership
JOCELYN UMBERGER	" " "
Shama Gray	" " "
TERREY FOWS YTT	KUFA
Linda Fund	By Assoc. Council College Trustees
John Battelina	Pittsboro - Smith
Kip Peterson	KBOR
Rene' Eichem	KS. Rural Communities Foundation
Della Sass	Flint Hills Leadership
Scott Kohl	Highland Community College ^{Wamego} Campus
Pam Perry	Workforce Development, Ft Riley, KS
DICKY CARTER	JCCC
L A MEALY	KEARNEY ASSOC



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January 22, 2009

Technical Education Update

Joseph Glassman
Chairman, Technical Education Authority

Good afternoon Madam Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Joe Glassman and I am the Chairman of the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority. I am here at your request to report our progress toward the improvement of the postsecondary technical education system.

The 2007 Kansas Legislature in Senate Substitute for House Bill 2556 created the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (Authority), under the auspices of the Kansas Board of Regents, with the charge of reforming the postsecondary technical education system. Specifically, the legislation delegates authority from the Board of Regents to coordinate state-wide planning for postsecondary technical education, approve and review new and existing technical programs, recommend a new approach to funding technical education, develop accountability indicators, and coordinate the development of a seamless system between secondary and postsecondary education levels. The legislation also required the governing bodies of Northeast Kansas Technical College, Kansas City Area Technical School, Kaw Area Technical School, Salina Area Technical School and Southwest Kansas Technical School to submit to the Board of Regents a plan to merge or affiliate with a postsecondary educational institution or become an accredited technical college with an independent governing board. I'm pleased to report that four institutions have merged with other colleges effective July 1, 2008, and Salina Area Technical School has submitted a plan to become a stand-alone technical college with an independent governing board to become effective July 1, 2009.

The Authority has set a rapid pace on the road toward the improvement of the technical education system. Our strategic priorities, refined at our August 2008 retreat, respond to the legislative direction and support our mission to:

Drive the advancement of a robust technical education system in Kansas through immediate and long-term technical training recommendations based on data-driven factors that ensure the delivery model matches a skilled workforce with business demands.

In our first year of operation, we hired a Vice President for Workforce Development, established an operational committee structure to address issues related to program alignment, finance, and marketing, and scheduled alternate meetings outside the Topeka area to better connect with local regions throughout Kansas.

We commissioned Corporate Communications, Inc. from Overland Park, to develop and execute a plan to increase the awareness of technical education by developing a clear value proposition with

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Attachment 1

the goal of increasing technical program enrollments. This plan has been approved by the Authority and we are moving forward to increase the participation in the technical education system resulting in more skilled workers for Kansas businesses.

Additionally, we will continue driving a strategy to improve technical program offerings. We have approved a demand-driven approach to better align technical program curricula with the needs of Kansas businesses, improve the seamlessness of the postsecondary technical education system, and utilize industry-based assessments to verify the skills of program graduates. Many of these assessments will be administered by an unbiased third party which adds to the credibility of the evaluation.

Improving the postsecondary technical education system also will require necessary legislative reform. Working with information provided by Legislative Research, the Authority members have approved the first phase of changes in statutes related to technical education which are now ready for legislative consideration. An inclusive process was implemented to identify proposed statute revisions to reflect legislative intent, new federal legislation, current terminology, and repeal of statutes found to be obsolete. The proposed changes to be considered in HB 2003 are a starting point and lay the groundwork for potential new legislation and policy revisions to improve the postsecondary technical education system in the future.

The funding of technical education programs was an additional charge from the 2008 Legislature. The language from the proviso is as follows:

“ ...to develop a new credit hour funding formula for postsecondary technical training programs based on rates established by the postsecondary technical education authority: Provided further, That the formula should be tiered to recognize and support cost differentials in providing high-demand, high-tech training: And provided further, That the formula should target industries that are critical to the Kansas economy: And provided further, That the formula should be responsive to program growth.”

We are in the process of developing a new funding approach which satisfies the language from the proviso and will support a technical education infrastructure which is needed to ensure the viability of Kansas businesses. This tiered funding model will ensure that our investment drives colleges to develop and offer critically needed technical programs supporting high-wage, high-demand industries. We will also continue our focus on system accountability measurements such as return on investment for students and Kansas taxpayers, certification rates, and job placement percentages. With the appropriate approach to technical program alignment, marketing, investment, and accountability, we will build a robust technical education system that produces a pool of skilled program graduates and retains existing and attracts new businesses to Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I will be happy to answer any questions.