

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Benlon at 3:30 p.m. on March 14, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Vice Chairman Krehbiel (E)  
Representative Tanner (E)

Committee staff present: Paul West, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Stuart Little, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Avis Swartzman, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Dee Woodson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dr. Jerry Farley, President, Washburn University  
Dick Carter, Kansas Board of Regents (written only)  
Charles Wheelen, Executive Director, Kansas Association  
of Osteopathic Medicine  
Diane Lindeman, Associate Director of Fiscal Affairs,  
Student Financial Aid, Kansas Board of Regents  
Major General Greg Gardner, Adjutant General  
Kansas Army National Guard  
Craig Grant, Kansas National Education Association  
Garry Robbins, Executive Director, Kansas Optometric  
Association  
Senator Lana Oleen (written only)

Others attending: See attached sheet.

Minutes for the Higher Education Committee for February 14 and February 19 were presented for approval and corrections. Representative Lane made a motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented, and Representative Tapanelli seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**SB 8 - Washburn University, operating grants, determination**

Chairperson Benlon opened the hearings on **SB 8**. Dr. Jerry Farley, President of Washburn University, was the first conferee who testified in favor of this bill. He explained the need of this clean-up legislation for **SB 345**, and to clarify the language and its intended interpretation as to the year the appropriations would be based on. He said the Kansas Board of Regents' staff along with Washburn's worked together to develop language intended to bring the provisions of SB 345 (1999) in conformance with the University's interpretation. Dr. Farley stated that this language was approved by the Board of Regents at its December meeting, and the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) has reviewed and endorsed it. He clarified that the LEPC recommended the legislation to change the Operating Grant distribution formula so that the allocation to Washburn University was based on the higher of the FTE enrollment in the second or third fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made.

Dr. Farley testified that over the long run the implementation of this change would be fiscally neutral, and that fluctuations in the University's enrollment would be accounted for and adjusted in future appropriations. He said that with the Kansas Board of Regents endorsement **SB 8** will clear up the potential confusion over the current and prior years mentioned in the calculation formulas. Dr. Farley requested one amendment which was to change the effective date from publication in the Statute Book to publication in the Kansas Register. (Attachment 1)

Dick Carter, Kansas Board of Regents, presented written testimony from the Regents in full support of **SB 8**.

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He said that the bill represents extensive negotiations between Washburn and KBOR staff to come up with the agreed upon language to render the Washburn funding formula more definitive in its determination of Washburn's annual state operating grant. (Attachment 2)

After Committee discussion and questions, the Chair closed the hearings on **SB 8**.

Representative Gordon made a motion to pass **SB 8** out favorably and place it on the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Representative Kuether seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**HB 2014 - Professional service scholarships, osteopaths, optometrists, nurses, teachers, national guard officers**

The Chair opened the hearings on **HB 2014**. Diane Lindeman, Associate Director of Fiscal Affairs, Student Financial Aid, Kansas Board of Regents, testified in support of **HB 2014** which she said was their attempt to try and standardize their professional service scholarship program and streamline the administration of the programs by making them consistent with one another and generally update the law.. She told the Committee that in the fall of 1999 there was a group of representatives of the professional associations, legislative staff and Regents staff who worked together to recommend statutory changes in the programs to the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC). Ms. Lindeman said that this bill makes several changes to several programs which included Osteopathic Scholarship, Nursing Student Scholarship, Optometry Education, Teacher Scholarship, Ethnic Minority Fellowship, Advanced Registered Nurse practitioner, and the Kansas National Guard ROTC Scholarship. She added that it also amends the Ethnic Minority Fellowship Program, and by request of the Regents the 2000 Legislature approved similar amendments to the Ethnic Minority Scholarship Program. She explained the various changes that are included in **HB 2014** including the service obligations for scholarship recipients. (Attachment 3)

The Chair called the Committee's attention to copies of the Fiscal Note for **HB 2014** handed out to each member, and briefly reviewed it noting in the last paragraph that the Board of Regents could absorb the cost of an annual meeting. (Attachment 4)

Major General Greg Gardner, Adjutant General, appeared before the Committee to testify in support of **HB 2014**, and how it affects the Kansas Army National Guard ROTC scholarships. He said the present law authorized 40 scholarships, pays tuition only, but with present funding only supports 22 scholarships per year. He said they support this bill for the purpose of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency having the Regents manage it, having their help in recouping money for students who reneged, and for having the flexibility to move the scholarships between schools. The Major General stated that they did not support changes in **HB 2014** that shift scholarships from covering tuition only to covering 70% of the average cost of attendance which means they will lose a number of scholarships, and thus lose a number of recruits. He stated that they would fully support **HB 2014** if the 160 authorized were funded. He Shared with the Committee the various reasons Kansas Guardsmen scholarships are good for Kansas. (Attachment 5)

Craig Grant, representing Kansas National Education Association, spoke in support of **HB 2014** which was introduced by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC). He said that they had asked for and LEPC included an addition to the scholarship by adding "underserved area" on page 21 of the bill to the list of qualifiers for a teacher service scholarship. Mr. Grant said they believed an incentive for teachers to go to certain geographic areas of the state should be given, and this bill was one of their legislative initiatives for the 2001 Legislative Session. (Attachment 6)

Charles Wheelen, Kansas Association of Osteopathic, testified in support of **HB 2014**. He stated that the amendments and new sections i the bill were the product of extensive hearings, staff work, and deliberations by the LEPC. He said the amendments would significantly improve the Kansas Osteopathic Medical Service Scholarship Program. He explained that the State of Kansas does not have the benefit of a school of osteopathic medicine at any of the Kansas academic institutions, but did have an excellent program that provides financial assistance to Kansas residents while they pursue a Doctor of Osteopathy Degree at an out-of-state college or

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university. He clarified for the Committee that if the doctors return to Kansas and practice primary care medicine in a rural county, the academic loan would be forgiven; whereas if they do not return to Kansas to practice medicine, they must repay the funding with interest. He stated that this bill also creates fundamental fairness in that it establishes equity between medical student loan recipients at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and scholarship recipients in the Kansas Osteopathic Medical Service Scholarship Program. (Attachment 7)

Committee questions and discussion related to the residency training required and the interest rate for repayments in Section 3 was changed from 15% to 14% due to the variable rates based on one year U.S. Treasury Notes.

Gary Robbins, Executive Director of the Kansas Optometric Association, testified that his association was strongly in favor of the improvements initiated by **HB 2014**. He directed his comments to the Optometry seat program covered in Section 7 of the bill. He explained that there are only 17 optometry schools in the United States, and that this program guarantees admission and continued enrollment for Kansas students. He stated that his association is extremely appreciative of the support from the Board of Regents in administering the current program. He concluded by saying **HB 2014** would further improve the administration of all the scholarship programs, and provide uniform guidelines for similar programs. (Attachment 8)

Representative Storm asked for clarification on the minority fellowship grant, and the Revisor explained the section covering it on page 27 and on lines 25 and 26 which included a service agreement with the ability to fulfill requirements at any school. Representative Storm commented that Kansas certainly needed minority teachers in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions. She said that all of the others have been based on people going into certain occupations, and we need to provide opportunities for ethnic minorities. She added that there was a need for ethnic minority MBA's in Kansas, and would like for them to stay in Kansas after obtaining their degrees.

Mary Prewitt, General Council for the Kansas Board of Regents, and the Revisor explained the original intent of the Ethnic Minority Fellowship and what the Ethnic Minority Scholarship Program covered.

The Chair directed the Committee's attention to written testimony submitted by Senator Lana Oleen in support of **HB 2014**. (Attachment 9)

The Chair asked if there were any opponents present who would like to testify before the Committee, and seeing none, closed the hearings on **HB 2014**.

Representative Kuether made a motion to pass **HB 2014** out favorably, and the motion was seconded by Representative Storm. The motion carried.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m., after announcing that this would be the last committee meeting for Higher Education during the 2001 Session.