

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 p.m. on January 26, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

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:

Mary D. Prewitt, General Counsel, Kansas Board of Regents
Dr. Robert Masters, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

Others attending:

See Attached List.

The Chairman asked for the introduction of bills. There were none.

HB 2507 - Health care coverage for certain college faculty.

The Chairman opened the hearings on **HB 2507**.

Mary D. Prewitt, General Counsel, Kansas Board of Regents, gave testimony on the issues the Board found with providing health insurance coverage to “adjunct” employees. Ms. Prewitt pointed out that there is no definition of the “adjunct” in the bill and that the term varies from institution to institution. Ms. Prewitt discussed various administrative issues regarding the choice of health care plans available to the individual employees and the need to coordinate the many health care plans currently offered at the Regent’s institutions. Ms. Prewitt pointed out that there will be fiscal costs associated with the implementation of the proposal (Attachment 1).

Questions were asked by Representatives Storm, Reitz, Horst and Neighbor concerning the determination of eligible employees and the added costs to the Regents’ institutions for providing them health care benefits.

With no further questions, Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **HB 2507**.

HB 2508: Concerning remedial coursework for high school graduates.

Chairman Sloan opened the hearing on **HB 2508**.

Dr. Robert Masters presented testimony outlining the educational function of Community Colleges. He noted that it is often necessary for Community Colleges to provide instruction in basic and remedial skills. Dr. Masters concluded that **HB 2508** provided for a much needed reimbursement plan to cover the excess costs of developmental education courses at Community Colleges (Attachment 2).

Representative Neighbor suggested that the word “developmental” replace “remedial” in the bill. She also commented that while the purpose was a good one, she was concerned that the necessary funding might not be available. Chairman Sloan asked about the success rate for students who enrolled in remedial course work. Dr. Masters felt that it was rather high, and that the students were placed in remedial courses based on the score they received on a pre-test. Dr. Masters noted that **HB 2508** would require a standardized testing at all Community Colleges prior to enrollment.

Representatives Storm, Horst and Huntington asked questions about the number and type of students enrolling in remedial courses. Representative Krehbiel asked Dr. Masters for a further explanation of the