



## KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

### Joint Committee on Rules and Regulations November 26, 2012

#### Testimony Regarding Qualified Admissions Regulations

K.A.R. 88-29-1, 88-29-7, 88-29-8, 88-29-8a, 88-29-8b, 88-29-8c, 88-29a-1, 88-29a-2, 88-29a-7, 88-29a-8, 88-29a-8c and 88-29b-1 through 88-29b-10

**Julene Miller, General Counsel**

Good afternoon Madam Chair and Members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to provide background information and a brief summary of the Board of Regents' proposed amendments to the qualified admissions regulations.

During the 1996 Session, the Legislature enacted K.S.A. 76-717, thereby replacing the State's open admissions policy with a qualified admissions policy. The legislation authorized the Kansas Board of Regents to adopt rules and regulations to require that students applying as freshmen achieve one of three goals to be eligible for admission to any of the six state universities: 1) complete a Board prescribed precollege curriculum in high school; 2) score 21 or higher on the ACT; or 3) rank in the top 1/3 of the student's high school class. Article 29 contains the rules and regulations that were adopted by the Board to address these statutory requirements.

In 2009, K.S.A. 76-717 was amended to allow the Board to adopt rules and regulations establishing standards for admission of students to the six state universities that differ from those set forth in that statute. Pursuant to this authority and based on recommendations of a task force established to study ways to enhance student success at the state universities, the Board adopted the regulations that are contained in Article 29a. The primary difference between the Article 29a regulations and the statute and Article 29 regulations is that students applying as freshmen will need to achieve either a score of 21 or higher on the ACT or rank in the top 1/3 of the student's high school class AND complete the Board prescribed precollege curriculum. In accordance with the statutorily imposed timeline, the Article 29a regulations will first be applicable with applications reviewed for the 2015 summer session.

Shortly after adoption of the Article 29a regulations, the Board began working with the University of Kansas to investigate whether those newly developed standards or something different would be the best mechanism for enhancing student success specifically at the University of Kansas. Studies were conducted that determined an earlier application deadline, a slightly higher automatic admission standard, and an ability to base non-automatic admissions on a more comprehensive review of the student's background would result in better retention of students from the first to second year as well as better graduation rates for those students who begin at the University as freshmen. Accordingly, the Board directed its staff to develop rules and regulations to incorporate these requirements for the University of Kansas. Those are the regulations that are contained in Article 29b. Again, in accordance with the statutorily imposed timeline, the Article 29b regulations will first be applicable with applications reviewed for the 2016 summer session. The proposed changes have been developed in concert with the

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University of Kansas, and the regulations have received all the requisite approvals. Representatives from the University are here to provide additional detail regarding the rationale behind the Article 29b standards.

The other five state universities have been invited to forward any unique standards they determine would be appropriate for their student populations, but as of now no other recommendations have been forwarded to the Board.

Also before you today are amendments to existing regulations to do one of three things:

- Account for the new Article 29b regulations, primarily by changing the definition of “state educational institution” to exclude the University of Kansas beginning with the 2016 summer session
- Accelerate the 2012 Legislature’s requirement for student success plans for all students admitted as exceptions to the qualified admission standards
- Implement the 2012 Legislature’s requirement that persons in military service be given preference when determining which students to admit as exceptions to the minimum qualified admission standards

As of today, no comments have been received during the public hearing open comment period.