

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marc Rhoades at 9:10 a.m. on February 7, 2011, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Jim Wilson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Alan Conroy, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Shirley Morrow, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy O'Neal, Administrative Assistant, Appropriations Committee
Kathy Holscher, Committee Assistant, Appropriations Committee

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Kansas Board of Regents Update

Chairman Rhoades welcomed committee members and reviewed the committee agenda.

Representative Gatewood made a motion to introduce legislation to allow fire investigators the authority to determine evidence for additional crimes other than arson during investigations. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Dr. Tompkins, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, presented an update on the Kansas Board of Regents, (Attachment 1). He stated that a 10-year strategic agenda for higher education has been developed. Emphasis was placed on realignment of K-12 and the higher education system, focusing on increased participation and retention in the higher education system, and to ensure students' success to obtain essential skills and credentials to meet the needs of the Kansas economy. President Tompkins reviewed legislative priorities which included continued support of higher education, increased financial aid to students in need, deferred maintenance, implementation of a tiered technical education funding model, targeted program initiatives to support economic needs, and support of the Governor's FY 2012 budget recommendations. He stated that major growth has been experienced in the 2-year higher education systems. A review of student debt and need-based financial aid followed. President Tompkins discussed deferred maintenance issues and noted that most state-owned buildings are 30 years or older with an annual maintenance of approximately \$90 million. Maintenance projects that have been approved and those which have been completed were highlighted. The PEI loan progress and the development of a funding formula for technical training programs was reviewed.

President Tompkins responded to questions from committee members. He stated that additional information will be provided regarding buildings that have been raised and land availability, a prioritized deferred maintenance list based on critical needs and academic purpose, university comparisons with similar mission, size and rankings, and the economic impact on students who have not completed college. In regards to the consolidation of KTEC into the Department of Commerce, he stated that EPSCOR and STAR programs will remain with the Kansas Board of Regents. These programs receive leverage research funding, and a recommendation for an independent party to review of grant proposals and guide the process will be needed, he stated. Discussion followed regarding tax credit incentives, on-line and virtual courses, national rankings and guidelines, shared resources within universities and credit transfers, tier-funded formulas, programs and standards in alignment of business needs. Cultural changes, expectations and the increased interest in 2-year college programs was reviewed. The Technical Education advisory board is responsible for program approval, program alignment and development of the tiered funding formula, it was noted.

Ray Roberts, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Corrections, provided an overview of the department, (no attachments were provided). He discussed bed space, the impact of reduced funding, staff reductions, and increased shrinkage rate. With the abolishment of the Kansas Parole Board, three staff members who will make up the Prison Review committee will be absorbed into the central office staff, he noted. The department's goal is to become leaner and more efficient, which includes consolidation of the parole board and facilities, and low or no cost programs. Long term goals were identified and included

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Appropriations Committee at 9:10 a.m. on February 7, 2011, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

additional substance abuse and community based programs, upgrade fleet, update technology and radio systems, building repair and maintenance funding secured, facility, resources identified for anticipated increase in high-risk prisoners, and preparation for staff turn-over in the workforce.

Acting Secretary Roberts responded to questions from committee members. He highlighted recent fund raising events sponsored by prisoners, with proceeds to benefit the Spiritual Life Center. Discussion followed regarding prisoner release and transporting issues. He stated that statistics on prisoners leaving or coming to Kansas would be provided. Video conferencing equipment for efficiencies, further research regarding privately owned prisons and contract opportunities with low-risk prisoners should be explored, he stated. The Aramark contract was discussed, and he stated that the contract has not been signed to date, which would be for \$3.5 million over a three-year period and includes a reduction of 11 cents per meal per inmate. He added that the capital needed, to remain operational in the Kansas Correctional Industry, is approximately \$1 million, and the re-entry staff is working with employers to help with recidivism.

Chairman Rhoades reviewed the committee agenda for the remainder of the week, and thanked presenters for attending the committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 am.

Marc Rhoades, Chairman