

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VISION 2020 COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 p.m. on February 7, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Mike Peterson- excused  
Representative Vern Swanson- excused

Committee staff present:

Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Sean Ostrow, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mary Koles, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Pat George, Kansas Department of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Sloan called for bill introductions. Representative Bill Otto moved to allow a bill introduction to sell bonds to raise funds for the Kansas Bioscience Authority. The motion was seconded and passed.

Chairman Sloan welcomed and presented Secretary Pat George, Department of Commerce, to the committee. Secretary George addressed issues confronting our educational system and legislature to ensure that Kansas is well positioned to attract new businesses and provide good employment opportunities for our citizens.

He reported that by 2018 over 60 percent of the jobs will require higher skills and credentials at a postsecondary level. Educational institutions and state government must support the common goal of providing an expanding pool of highly skilled, industry-endorsed/credentialed Kansans to serve a growing economy. Simultaneously, the Department of Commerce needs an improved procedure for documenting the supply side of education and training to prove to potential new businesses that we can provide them with a skilled, qualified workforce. This will, George said, require flexibility from our colleges and they will need additional resources; flexibility will serve our businesses well and support job growth. Furthermore, he maintained, our K-12 educational system needs to address marketable skills to meet the competitive requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century global marketplace.

Secretary George also commented on the Kansas Centers of Excellence and the Governor's recommendation that oversight of the centers be transferred from KTEC to the Department of Commerce. He noted that Commerce is committed to supporting these institutions and their goals. Throughout his remarks, Secretary George was optimistic about the future, near and distant, of business growth in Kansas. (Attachment 1)

Comments, discussions and questions followed Secretary George's presentation. Participants included Chairman Sloan and Representatives Gail Finney, Don Hineman, Barbara Bollier, Don Hill, and Ron Worley.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.