

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Benlon at 3:30 p.m., March 5, 2001, in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Tafanelli (E)

Committee staff present: Carol Rampey, 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: Senator Mark W. Taddiken
Sue Peterson, Kansas State University
Dick Carter, Kansas Board of Regents
Kevin Robertson, Kansas Dental Association

Others attending: See attached sheet.

SB 196 - State Board of Regents, authority to sell and convey title to certain real estate for Kansas State University

Chairperson Benlon opened the hearings on **SB 196**. Senator Mark Taddiken testified that he introduced this bill at the request of Kansas State University, and that the passage of the bill would authorize KSU to sell two tracts of real estate. He explained what the two tracts covered, and how the proceeds from the sale would be used to purchase additional real estate for use as a research farm and also for student scholarships. (Attachment 1)

Sue Peterson, Kansas State University, presented written testimony from Richard H. Seaton, KSU Attorney. She clarified the reasons the University wanted to sell the two tracts of land for purchase of more suitable agricultural research property and for student scholarships. (Attachment 2)

Dick Carter, Kansas Board of Regents, submitted a written statement on behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents in support of **SB 196**. He stated that **SB 196** is part of the Board's legislative initiatives for 2001, and asked the Committee's favorable passage of this bill. (Attachment 3)

Following questions by the Committee, Chairperson Benlon closed the hearings on **SB 196**.

Representative Pottorff made a motion to pass this bill out favorably, and put it on the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Representative Kuether, and the motion carried.

SB 213 - Negotiation by State Board of Regents for dental seats at University of Nebraska and Creighton University

Chairperson Benlon opened the hearings on **SB 213**. Kevin Robertson, Executive Director of the Kansas Dental Association, testified in support of this bill as amended by the Senate Committee. He said that **SB 213** would require the Board of Regents to negotiate with schools of dentistry for additional dental seats for Kansas students. Mr. Robertson stated that the passage of this legislation would help to increase the supply of dentists in Kansas and better serve those populations that have reduced access to dental care. He added that the bill would also increase Medicaid reimbursement, reduce administrative hassles, and provide for a full-time Dental Director to coordinate and oversee dental program activities.

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Mr. Robertson told the Committee that the number of dentists in Kansas, particularly in rural Kansas, is decreasing. He said this is largely due to the total number of dentists being trained nationwide has decreased, the number of dental school slots available for Kansas residents is not replacing retiring

dentists, the location of dental schools are largely in urban centers, and student debt continues to increase. He added that the small number of dentists under the age of 35 is particularly troubling as Kansas attempts to replace its retiring dentists. He explained the bar chart handed out with his written testimony that depicted the age of Kansas dentists. He said it showed the need for new dentists, and how that need would drastically increase over the next several years. Mr. Robertson told the Committee that in Kansas, the Board of Regents and the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education have entered into an agreement whereby the UMKC School of Dentistry accepts a total of 80 Kansas students in their dental, dental specialty, and dental hygiene programs. He also explained the cost of tuition and fees at UMKC, and compared it with the higher costs at Creighton University in Omaha and the School of Dentistry at the University of Nebraska.

Mr. Robertson said that UMKC is considering increasing its dental class size as a result of pressure from the Missouri Dental Association and its Missouri alumni, and if the increase takes place most of those seats will go to Missouri students. He stated that the KDA has been exploring the possibility of finding additional openings for Kansas students at other neighboring state schools. (Attachment 4)

General questions and discussion followed regarding the reciprocity agreement of swapping dental seats for architectural students between Kansas and Missouri, how the students are selected to fill the seats and who certifies them, why all of the Kansas seats at UMKC are not filled, and how many Kansas residents are interested in becoming dentists.

Representative Tanner asked if the Committee could hold off working this bill until they heard about **SB 333** relating to Kansas residents designated for admission to certain accredited schools of dentistry and requiring agreements for service commitments and repayment of certain amounts. Representative Sloan suggested that maybe consideration of an amendment could be considered to be included in **SB 213**. Mr. Robertson said at that time **SB 333** was in the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and he felt it would be passed out favorably. The Chair agreed to wait on working **SB 213**.

Dr. Wilcox, Executive Director of the Board of Regents, commented to set the record straight, that there had not been a formal request to the Board to negotiate for additional dental seats, and would not do so without direction from the Legislature or the Board. He clarified the confusion of asking staff for assistance rather than putting it into a formal request that the Board could act upon.

The Chair asked if there was anyone else present that would like to speak in favor of this bill or in opposition to this bill, and seeing none she closed the hearings on **SB 213**.

Chairperson Benlon called the Committee's attention to previously passed out bills **SB 6** and **SB 10** during the previous meeting, but had not been placed on the Consent Calendar. She said the Committee Reports had been held up by the request of the Revisor. The Chair explained that the Revisor needed to make some corrections to both bills before they left Committee as they were in conflict with each other, but wasn't able to do so the day the Committee worked them since she was in another meeting. The Revisor made a recommendation that the bills be brought back to the Committee, and she offered an amendment where a part of **SB 6** would be combined into **SB 10** to correct the conflict between the two bills. (Attachment 5)

Representative Phelps having voted on the prevailing side of **SB 6** made a motion to bring it back for reconsideration, and Representative Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Representative Storm having voted on the prevailing side of **SB 10** made a motion to bring it back for reconsideration. Representative Krehbiel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Representative Storm asked for clarification of the amendment, and the Revisor explained the conflict between

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the two bills as written that originated in the Senate. Representative Storm made a motion to amend **SB 10** as proposed by the Revisor. Representative Wells seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Representative Phelps made a motion to move **SB 10** out favorably as amended, and Representative Krehbiel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Minutes for the Higher Education Committee for February 12 were presented for approval or corrections. Representative Tanner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Representative Sloan, and the motion carried.

Chairperson Benlon adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the House Higher Education Committee will be Wednesday, March 7, Room 231-N at the Capitol.