

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Karin Brownlee at 8:30 a.m. on February 05, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: April Holman, Legislative Research
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statues
Sherman Parks, Revisor of Statues
Lea Gerard, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Doctor Kim Wilcox, Director, Board of Regents NORED
Barb Reavis, Workforce Development Coordinator
Kris Kitchen, Executive Director for Heartland Works

Others attending: See attached list.

Committee members were provided with a copy of the response from Janet Buchanan, Chief of Telecommunications, KCC regarding a summary of KUSF funds (Attachment 1).

The Kansas Corporation Commission submitted a report to Committee members to comply with requirements of KSA 66-11-7b (Attachment 2).

Chairperson Brownlee introduced Barb Reavis, Workforce Development Coordinator. Barb Reavis introduced Doctor Kim Wilcox, Executive Director for the Board of Regents who presented an overview of the NORED report and the Regents perspective of Workforce Development (Attachment 3).

Dr. Kim Wilcox briefed the Committee on progress since July, 1999 when **SB 345** reorganized higher education in Kansas and changed the scope of responsibility and authority for the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents created a plan for coordination of higher education which is comprised of the following five goals: 1) Increase access to higher education; 2) Improve movement from one institution to another in Kansas; 3) Improved quality of life workforce development and research; 4) Create a system for adequate and equitable funding of post secondary education; 5) organization and governance. The NORED report was commissioned to assist the Board with the transition and has 31 recommendations for Kansas higher education. Dr. Wilcox stated one of the most fundamental aspects of the report is the recommendation that the Board of Regents position itself to be a policy board and not an administrative board. The distinction between the two is that a policy board should set standards for higher education in Kansas, focus on educational and economic development priorities for the state, and be centered on accountability.

Barb Reavis, Workforce Development Coordinator briefed the Committee on the statewide advisory board for the Workforce Network Kansas Board (Attachment 4). The Workforce Network consists of six state agencies administering 30 individual programs.

Committee questions and discussion followed regarding the definition of workforce development and bringing everything under one roof may not be the solution. The Committee appreciated Barb Reavis' comments that the board will work very hard to make every effort that they are not duplicating efforts for clients and to make the clients job in finding help easier.

Kris Kitchen, Executive Director for Heartland Works presented an overview of Heartland Works (Attachment 5).

Senator Steineger moved, seconded by Senator Jordan that the Minutes of January 22, 23, 24 and 29, 2002 be approved. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 06, 2002 at 8:30 a.m.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE at on February 05, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.