

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 p.m. on January 28, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Legislative Research
Debra Hollon, Legislative Research
Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes
Susan Allen, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Robert Masters, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Sheila Frahm, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees
Steven Kearney, Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges
Kenneth Clouse, Northwest Kansas Technical College
Reginald Robinson, President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Mark Desetti, Kansas NEA

Others attending:

See Attached List.

The Chairman directed the Committee's attention to the minutes of January 12, January 14, and January 21 meetings.

Representative Neighbor made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Representative Storm. The motion carried.

Chairman Sloan directed the Committee's attention to a map, provided by Mary Galligan of Legislative Research, on which all of the public and private post-secondary institutions in Kansas were indicated. (Attachment 1).

HB 2509: Providing for focus on excellence centers.

Chairman Sloan opened the hearings on **HB 2509**.

Dr. Robert Masters, Kansas Board of Regents, presented testimony delineating the history of the review and consolidation of academic programs offered by State universities, noting that SB 345 includes the Community Colleges in an annual review of academic programs. Dr. Masters pointed out that **HB 2509** would identify and reward the exemplary programs at the Community Colleges and Technical Schools, and he expressed his concern about how this narrow focus would affect the ongoing quality improvement efforts. Dr. Masters also pointed to SB 647, which became law in 2002, which included a provision that would reward exceptional program performance (Attachment 2).

The second conferee, representing the Community Colleges, was Sheila Frahm, Kansas Association of Community Colleges. Ms. Frahm presented testimony demonstrating a number of "unique and exemplary programs" that are currently offered at Community Colleges in Kansas (Attachment 3).

Chairman Sloan commended the Community Colleges for their programs and asked if strides were being made to offer some of these programs statewide. Ms. Frahm responded that the funding was not available to provide the courses throughout the state, particularly for the higher cost programs such as the nursing programs. Chairman Sloan asked Dr. Masters what requirements existed for a program to be designated as a "Center for Excellence" at the six Regents' institutions. Dr. Masters responded that while specific criteria existed in the policy handbook at the Regents' universities, he was not aware of any such requirements at the Community Colleges.