

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Everett Johnson at 3:30 P.M. on January 30, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Carl Krehbiel- excused
Representative Tom Sloan- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor
Haley DaVee, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Katrin Osterhaus, Legislative Division of Post Audit
Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Representative Otto
Mary Prewit
David Shulenberger, Provost, University of Kansas

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order and introduced Katrin Osterhaus, Legislative Division of Post Audit, to brief the committee on the Performance Audit Report for Regents Institutions: Reviewing Proposals for Increased Maintenance Funding at the State's Colleges and Universities. She reported that there is a serious maintenance backlog that exists on state university campuses due primarily to a lack of funding and the age of the buildings. Reginald Robinson, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, provided a response to the audit. He noted that the Board of Regents is pleased with the content and findings of the report. (Attachment 1)

The floor was opened for questions and Representatives Otto, Carlin, Huff, Pottorf, Storm, and Hill asked questions.

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on:

HB 2603 - Tuition for Kansas high school graduates after military service.

Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor, provided a short explanation of the bill. He noted that the bill deals with in-state tuition rates at the Regents universities. Specifically, a person who lived in Kansas and entered the military service within six months of graduation from a Kansas high school, and enrolled in a state university within a year of being honorably discharged from military service, the person would qualify for in-state tuition instead of out-of-state tuition.

Chairman Johnson welcomed Representative Otto to testify as a proponent of **HB 2603**. Representative Otto noted that he believed that this problem was fixed last session but apparently it has not been. He suggested that individuals in the military should not be penalized for moving away from Kansas for military service. (Attachment 2)

A number of questions were raised regarding the tendency for military individuals to change their home state on record to avoid paying state taxes. Representatives Krehbiel, Huff, Horst, Storm, Carlin, Phelps, and Sharp voiced concern on this issue.

Chairman Johnson welcomed Mary Prewitt, General Counsel of the Kansas Board of Regents, to provide neutral testimony regarding **HB 2603**. She noted that most Kansas individuals in the military are protected by the statutes already in the books. (Attachment 3) She asked the committee if it was okay for an individual to take an affirmative action to make some other state their residence—likely for the purpose of avoiding the

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payment of income taxes—to come back to Kansas and enroll as a resident at resident rates.

Chairman Johnson closed the hearing on **HB 2603** and opened the hearing on:

HB 2593 - State board of regents; procurement of health insurance for students at state educational institutions.

Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor, gave a brief description of the bill. Chairman Johnson drew the committee's attention to written testimony submitted by the Kansas Board of Regents in support of **HB 2593**. (Attachment 4)

Chairman Johnson welcomed David Shulenberger, Provost, University of Kansas, as a proponent of **HB 2593**. He argued that the Board of Regents is better able to secure health care insurance for students at Regents universities than are the multiple agencies now doing so. (Attachment 5)

Questions were asked by Representatives Horst and Otto.

Chairman Johnson closed the hearing on **HB 2593** and adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. in Rm. 231-N.