

MINUTES

KANSAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL COMMISSION

October 18, 2007
Room 514-S—Statehouse

Members Present

George Fahnestock, Chairperson
Karen Conklin
Dr. Duane Dunn
Dr. Robert Edleston
Dr. Jerry Farley
Richard Hedges
Senator Janis Lee
Representative Ann Mah
Reggie Robinson
Dick Veach

Staff Present

Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dianne Rosell, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Judy Swanson, Committee Assistant

Conferees

Joseph Glassman, Chairman, Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

Others Attending

See attached list.

Chairperson George Fahnestock called the Commission meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. with a moment of silence for reflection on safe travels for those in attendance and to ponder the productive work of the Commission. He welcomed returning Commission members and introduced new Commissioners. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Dr. Edleston moved to approve the minutes of the January 26 Commission meeting. Senator Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, reviewed the make up of the Commission (Attachment 1). The Kansas Technical College and Technical School Commission is set forth by state statute. It is a legislative study commission and is a continuation of the Kansas Technical College and Vocational School Commission which had been created by proviso during the 2006 Legislative Session. The Commission is charged to study and conduct hearings on the governance, funding, and mission of Kansas technical colleges and technical schools. It is required to submit reports of its activities and recommendations to the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) by November 15, 2007. The Legislature also established the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (Authority) which has powers delegated from the State Board of Regents to coordinate statewide planning for postsecondary technical education, new postsecondary technical education programs, and contract training. The Authority also has powers to:

- Review existing and proposed postsecondary technical education programs;
- Review requests of state funding for postsecondary technical education and make recommendations to the State Board of Regents for funding amounts and distribution;
- Develop benchmarks and accountability indicators for the programs;
- Develop and advocate annually a policy agenda for postsecondary technical education;
- Conduct studies of ways to maximize resources to best meet the needs of business and industry;
- Make reports and recommendations to the State Board of Regents and the Legislature; and
- Coordinate the development of a seamless system for the delivery of technical education between the secondary-school level and the postsecondary-school level.

Statute requires that the governing bodies of the Northeast Kansas Technical College, Kansas City Area Technical School, Kaw Area Technical School, Salina Area Technical School, and Southwest Kansas Technical School submit a plan to merge or affiliate with a postsecondary education institution, or become an accredited technical college with an independent governing board by July 1, 2008.

Senator Lee said the Commission is an oversight committee to help with the efforts of the Authority. She complimented Chairman Fahnestock on the job the Commission has done to date to put the Authority into place.

Joseph Glassman, Chairman, Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority, said the Authority already has had a retreat and a meeting (Attachment 2). He presented a list of Authority members (Attachment 3). They are short one member from the Second District who will be appointed by the Governor. There have been two committees named: (1) Selection Committee for Vice President, and (2) Budget Committee.

Some of the major issues are alarming. There are over 52,000 job opportunities in Kansas, and Mr. Glassman said he feels that number is actually low. How those needs are addressed is a big issue. The Authority has asked the Secretary of Labor for reports of high school and technical school graduates who would be willing to change jobs. The Department of Labor is working on this information. There is a Florida model that he believes is excellent, because they have all of the information shared on one database. Kansas has lots of information, but it is not shared information. Cooperation from the Board of Regents, K-12, Department of Commerce, and Department of Labor has been overwhelming.

One of the key purposes of the Authority is to approach the Legislature and Governor in support of funding when necessary. He would like the Commission extended at least six months since the end of December 2008 is too soon to disband. He does not want to go before the Legislature until they are completely prepared, and he does not feel they will be ready by the 2008 Session.

Not one student should be left behind. A major issue is that there is an education standard but they must find the people to train. One of the big thrusts in Kansas is that the economic conditions must be considered. Baseline standardization of core curriculum should develop minimum standards of education system input, industry/commerce recommendations from employers, and overview from the technical department of the Authority. Technical education is much different than Regents' education. Industry and commerce must help set up the curriculum. They must have a check and balance of standards for assurance and quality of programs. This must be developed by staff with industry assistance, and approved and implemented by the Authority. Mr. Glassman said they propose a "Kansas Guarantee," certified education by discipline and free re-education when criteria are not met for a defined period.

Education must be implemented towards levels of excellence. The challenge is to compete globally by defining higher standards of output for graduates to employment sector and to measure competence and efficiency by industry/commerce yearly of graduates. Each school cannot be everything for everybody. There is going to be a shortage of funding. Until the core standards are set up, they will not be ready to go before the Legislature. They must educate and elevate.

During Committee discussion, Chairman Fahnstock said the Commission must report to the Legislature on where the Authority is in regard to curriculum and funding. He asked what benchmarks the Authority saw happening between now and 2014. Mr. Glassman said the vice president should be hired by February 2008; they already have a mission and know where they are going. But the big issue right now is the human component, how and who is going to teach. They have some housekeeping problems before they go to the Legislature. Their intermediary goal is a two-day retreat and two-day meeting. Their meeting dates for the entire year are set and they will be in the field more than in the Regents Office. Meetings will be held on a monthly basis, and they are scheduled through 2008.

The Budget Committee will report within 60 days on how they want the \$4 million budget spent. It has goals and objectives for the Commission to review. Mr. Robinson said he thought Mr. Glassman was modest about what the Authority has already accomplished, since it was only formed in July 2007. He thought steps so far have been impressive. The Commission must remember this is a new group, and the process must start from the beginning. It has embraced a process, and is moving forward with it quickly. One of the areas he urged the members to look into is the people issue. Technical education has gotten a "bad wrap" from counselors and others. Mr. Glassman said the Authority must be willing to commit to technical education, because if they do not, India and China will. Marketing must be made available.

In response to Dr. Edleston, Mr. Glassman said the Department of Labor is the place to find out about the group of students who begin at the university level and then quit. The database will capture information from the Department of Education, which is gathered from the schools. However, within school districts there is a tracking of interest and test scores that is not shared with the State Department of Education. KACTE has not yet discussed what it is going to do with the Authority. The revenue streams for technical education are messy as they come from many areas. They must define definitions of courses and parameters for instruction.

Representative Mah suggested an allotment of money to the five technical schools to get through their certification process. The Authority should be the central contact for new technical jobs. She suggested some of the \$4 million be used to eliminate waiting lists for classes.

Ms. Conklin wished the Authority success. She said minimum standards are to be determined by the Authority. To accomplish this, Mr. Glassman said some in education are going to have to "get off of their soap boxes." Taxpayers are not interested in losing their tax dollars. Ms. Conklin suggested there may be legal ramifications if there were minimum standards set for core classes. Unfortunately, drugs are an issue. Seven out of ten in Atchison cannot pass drug tests. Mr. Hedges said they must get students earlier to get them into technical education. Counselors must provide technical education information, and be trained to be advocates of technical education. Mr. Dunn suggested Mr. Glassman check with Wichita State University to find out why so many graduates are leaving the State. He recommended Mr. Glassman work with the United School Administrators and Kansas Association of School Boards to get information distributed about technical education.

As far as certification, there must be a long-term commitment with industry to support certification, and that might be difficult to get. Goodyear and Kaw Valley cooperation is an excellent example of how cooperative training works. Mr. Dunn said developmental education is an issue because some students are not ready to go into the training. The immigration issue needs to be addressed in 2008. Baby boomers are going to be retiring, and that loss of workforce must be addressed. Mr. Glassman thinks there is an opportunity to do some retraining of retirees for part-time jobs.

Chairman Fahnestock said the Commission must stay away from micromanaging the Authority. Instead it should:

- Oversee the Authority;
- Support initiatives;
- Promote legislative suggestions; and
- Make sure the Authority keeps them abreast of what they are doing.

Chairman Fahnestock requested Legislative Research and the Office of the Revisor of Statutes provide a draft report to the Commission for review and comments by October 24. Commission members should review and comment back no later than October 31, so a report to the Legislative Educational Planning Committee can be furnished by November 5. If no response is received, it shows agreement with the report. The report should reflect support for Mr. Glassman's commitment, and states that funding is very important. Comments from the Commission for the approved budget do not need to be reflected in the report.

Mr. Robinson said as technical schools achieve independence, there will be a need for additional resources in FY 2009. Senator Lee requested Commission members be put on a notification list of when and where the Authority is meeting. She also said the Commission should

wait until the legislative session to decide if the Commission needs to be extended past December 2008.

Being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Prepared by Judy Swanson
Edited by Audrey Dunkel

Approved by Commission on:

October 25, 2008
(Date)