

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:36 p.m. on March 6, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research  
Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Paul West, Legislative Research  
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Lynn Rogers, Wichita School Board Member  
Mr. Steve Pummel, Superintendent, Atchison  
Lee Alderman, Flint Hills District, Emporia

Others attending: See Attached list

**SB 7–Technical Colleges; governing body**

Chairman Umbarger stated that various entities have been working to come to an agreement on **SB7** so the bill can be advanced. Theresa Kiemann, Revisor of Statutes, advised that the bill was recommended for introduction by LEPC and requested by the State Board of Regents and it involves technical colleges and their governing boards. **SB7** provides that on or before July 1st, 2005 that the governing boards of all technical colleges shall develop and present to the State Board of Regents a plan to replace the existing governing body with a new governing board, which shall be separate and independent of any board of education of any school district. Theresa explained several amendments proposed by the various entities affected by the bill. (Attachment 1) Discussion followed with disagreement on the interpretation of the word "single" being inserted on page 2, line 5. Also, in the new Section 2, Senator Vratil offered new language to make the intent clearer. (Attachment 2)

Mr Lynn Rogers, member of the Wichita School District Board, advised that Wichita has studied this issue through a task force study. **SB7** does nothing in terms of the current “crazy quilt” technical college systems, it does nothing about the post secondary clock hours, does not help to establish a rapid response work force development, does not allow input from technical colleges without taxing authority, does nothing to allow other taxing authorities input on adding another taxing authority, does nothing about current bonded indebtedness, does nothing to assure tenured staff we want them or need them and does nothing to address fundamental flaws in the technical education system. The board does agree with the importance of accreditation. The board believes that **SB7** needs more study and requests that the Committee table **SB7** and they are asking for a statewide interim study on technical colleges. Senator

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Umbarger requested written testimony from Mr. Rogers which was provided and distributed to Committee. (Attachment 3). Discussion followed Mr. Roger's testimony.

Mr. Steve Pummel, Superintendent, Atchison provided testimony stating that they are starting two new programs with local grants and some state money. Their board of education sees the technical college as part of the K-12 system, they have known the college as long as it has been there, they have been there since the facility was built, the board is passionate and understands, they know technical education as well as anyone here, the school is well run, they provide programs that directly affect the community and they have great support. They believe the legislation is moving too quickly and that there are still questions that need to be answered. The Atchison Board of Education, believes that **SB7** needs more study, examination, and individual school analysis to determine the best governance structure. They request more time and study to determine the impact that this legislation may have on the Northeast Kansas Technical College. (Attachment 4)

Mr. Lee Alderman, President of Flint Hills Technical College, Emporia believes that **SB7** would allow implementation of a more seamless system of higher education and could provide widespread benefits to many Kansans as they are vital contributors to economic and workforce development in the state. In light of the budgetary constraints and with the passage of **SB7**, they encourage consideration of giving local levy authority to technical colleges once they become autonomous. (Attachment 5)

Chairman Umbarger will schedule **SB7** again early next week for continued discussion. Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 123S.