



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

April 16, 2015

TO: Representative Ron Ryckman, Chair
Members of House Appropriations Committee
FROM: Andy Tompkins
SUBJECT: Response to Request on Degree Prospectus

At the end of my testimony to the House Appropriations Committee on March 31, 2015 regarding SB 193, you requested that I send some information on how our system might approach the development of a degree prospectus. This memo is in response to that request.

If you want us to spend the time and resources to develop this idea, we would first work with each of the 32 institutions as well as parents and students to identify the specific information to be included in any standardized degree prospectus. I anticipate it would include:

- a) information on the coursework required for the degree including number of credit hours and expected years needed to complete the degree,
- b) a list of jobs that are generally pursued by people with this degree,
- c) a link to the U.S. Department of Labor website for each of the jobs, where average salary and expected demand for the job can be reviewed,
- d) information on the average cost for the degree, and
- e) an estimate of the time it would take to retire the average debt based on the expected salary for the degree.

Further, as employment data for graduates who stay in Kansas is available by degree, we would consider including this. We would also take into account the gainful employment information that is required by the U.S. Department of Education for each certificate program to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort by the institutions.

Finally, we would identify what each institution already has on its website and what additional information would be needed. Then we would identify a process for collecting the needed information in the most effective and efficient manner which will be critical to the sustainability of this effort and accuracy of the data. Ideally, the final design for the prospectus would take into account any special needs of each institution.

I hope this adequately responds to your request.

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