

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:35 p.m. on February 10, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Teichman (excused)

Committee staff present: Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research  
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research  
Reginald Robinson, President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents  
Dr. Duane M. Dunn, President of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges  
Dr. Lee V. Alderman, President, Flint Hills Technical College  
Connie Dietz, Board Member, Wichita Public Schools

Others attending: See attached list

### **SB7–Technical Colleges Governance**

Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research gave a brief description of **SB7**. The legislation requires that technical colleges that are currently governed by a school district would have to appoint an independent board of control and the bill lays out how that board is to be selected and also requires by July 1, 2005, that all technical colleges have an independent governing board. The change would allow technical colleges to be accredited by the North Central Association's Higher Learning Commission. (NCA-HLC)

Reggie Robinson, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents spoke as a proponent of **SB7**. Mr. Robinson explained that there are three types of governance models in place currently for the state's technical schools or colleges. The Board of Regents commissioned the Northwest Education Research Center to study governance issues in the state's system of postsecondary education. Among the recommendations that came from this study, the Board of Regents decided to introduce legislation that would require the governance for each of the state's technical colleges to be vested in an entity that is independent of a local unified school district board; and the Board established policy which requires that by 2009, each of the state's postsecondary degree-granting institutions achieve and retain accreditation from the NCA-HLC. Candidacy status must be obtained by 2006. The Board believes that the college boards that have the work of those colleges as their primary focus should govern colleges and the Board believes that this legislation is vitally important if the state of Kansas is to fully achieve the vision that was at the core of the Higher Education Coordination Act. (Attachment 1)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE at 1:35 p.m. on February 10, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Dr. Duane M. Dunn, President of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges spoke as a proponent of **SB7** stating that their association endorses the concept of **SB7** and supports the Board of Regents in their request for passage of the bill. Dr. Dunn listed items in the bill that they believe need to be clarified as the bill is discussed and which may need to be included in the statutory language. The Association supports legislation that would allow Type 1 technical colleges to form a governance structure appropriate for higher education. They believe **SB7**, with clarification, would provide that opportunity and allow institutions the potential to meet the local, area, and statewide workforce and employment enhancement needs essential for economic vitality. (Attachment 2)

Dr. Lee Alderman, President, Flint Hills Technical College spoke in support of **SB7** stating that passage of this bill would allow implementation of a more seamless system of higher education that would provide widespread benefits to many Kansans. Dr. Alderman encouraged consideration of giving local levy authority to technical colleges once they become autonomous in light of the budget conditions. They may need support from local tax or levy authority to finance the programs needed to provide highly skilled workers to business and industry. (Attachment 3)

Connie Dietz, Wichita Public Schools spoke as an opponent of **SB7**. The Wichita Board of Education is on record opposing any change in the current system of governance. The Wichita Board appointed a task force of community and district personnel to examine the issues involved with a change of governance. The executive summary of the report is attached to the testimony and the Wichita Board will review and deliberate on the report during their next two February meetings. They encourage the Education Committee to press the Board of Regents for conclusive answers to the questions found within the task force's 56-page document, prior to any further consideration of **SB7**. (Attachment 4)

Discussion followed each of the testimonies as time allowed.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 123-S.