

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Tony Powell at 3:30 p.m. on March 20, 2002 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Steve Huebert, Excused
Representative Carlos Mayans, Excused
Representative Gerry Ray, Excused
Representative Gwen Welshimer, Excused

Committee staff present: Ken Wilke, Revisor
Hank Avila, Research
Shirley Weideman, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

HB 3013 Proponents: Representative John M. Faber
Representative Dennis McKinney

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairman Powell opened the hearing on: **HB 3013 - Consulting contracts-disclosure requirements.**

Chair Powell recognized Representative John Faber as a proponent of **HB 3013**. Representative Faber questions how much universities receive for consulting with large corporations and how much do the dollars effect what universities research and is the outcome effected? He said that environmentalists suggest that land grant universities have been reluctant to challenge chemical companies on the safety of their herbicides and pesticides for fear of losing research dollars. Representative Faber also told the committee that Kansas taxpayers deserve to know how publicly funded universities are using their assets to augment outside income for public employees. He said that disclosing consulting fees would raise the integrity of a university to a higher level. (Attachment 1)

Representative Faber responded to committee members' questions regarding where the bill was introduced and which schools would be affected, which is only those under the Kansas Board of Regents. He indicated that the basic terms of the contract could not be disclosed because of trade secrets.

Representative Dennis McKinney appeared before the committee as a proponent of **HB 3013**. He said that an article in the November, 2001 Progressive Farmer highlights the potential conflict between the state's universities need to raise private money for research and consulting services and the public interest. Representative McKinney told the committee that the bill does not aim to reduce research or consulting or attack university faculty in any way. The proposal would require the disclosure of outside consulting by faculty members and this information would be open for public scrutiny. Supervisors at universities are already required to file statements of substantial interest and this would broaden it to include all faculty members and unclassified employees. (Attachment 2)

There was a question as to what the punishment would be for violation of this law and if it would be strong enough (a Class B misdemeanor).

Chairman Powell directed the committee's attention to the written testimony by Senator Jim Barone in support of **HB 3013**. (Attachment 3)

Hearing was closed on **HB 3013**.

Consideration was opened on **HB 3013**.

Representative Wilson moved and the motion was seconded by Representative Barnes that **HB 3013** be passed favorably from committee.

Representative Hermes moved that **HB 3013** be amended to have the disclosure filed with the Secretary of State as well as with the School Information Officer. The motion was seconded by Representative Morrison. Motion passed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE at on March 20, 2002 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

Guest, Representative Bruce Larkin, told the committee that a professor at Washburn Law School would like to have Washburn University included in this bill.

Representative Hermes moved and it was seconded by Representative Morrison that Washburn University be included in **HB 3013**.

Representative Goering said that including Washburn University without official input would not be right. Revisor Ken Wilke said the rules and regulations under this bill would be devised by the board of regents and Washburn is not directly subject to the Kansas Board of Regents.

Representative Hermes withdrew her motion and Representative Morrison withdrew his second.

The motion that **HB 3013 as amended** be passed favorably from committee carried.

Vice-chair Powers reminded committee members to be on time to committee.

Without objection, committee minutes for March 6 and 11 will be approved as received.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is March 25 at 3:30 p.m. [**Meeting was canceled.**]