

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Benlon at 3:30 p.m. on January 22, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Carol Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Paul West, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Stuart Little, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dee Woodson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Jim Morrison
Eric L. Sexton, Director of Governmental Relations, Wichita State University
Dr. Amanda Golbeck, Director of Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

Others attending:

See attached sheet.

HB 2001 - establishment of the Northwest Kansas Technical College

Chairperson Benlon opened hearings on **HB 2001**, and called the first conferee, Representative Jim Morrison, to present his testimony in support of the bill. Representative Morrison testified that Northwest Kansas Technical School had met all the requirements needed to become a Technical College by North-Central Accreditation, Kansas State Board of Regents, and Colby Community College. (Attachment 1)

Representative Morrison said that the Technical School had enjoyed a great relationship with Colby Community College (CCC) for several years, and CCC provided instruction for selected students so that upon completion of their technical school studies, they were awarded an Associate of Arts degree by CCC. He stated that what this bill does is to have the AA degree conferred by the Northwest Technical College rather than CCC, and there would be no change in the relationship between CCC and the Technical College. Representative Morrison added that one of the members of the Board of Regents recommended an amendment be added to have the act take effect after publication in the Register rather than after publication in the Statute Book so graduates could be conferred this May with a degree from Northwest Technical College rather than CCC. He testified that the members of the Board of Regents and the Director of the Northwest Technical School, Larry Keirns, are in strong support of this legislation and the proposed amendment.

Chairperson Benlon closed the hearings on **HB 2001**.

Representative Tanner made a motion to amend the bill as proposed by Representative Morrison and pass it favorable out of Committee. The motion was seconded by Representative Kuether. The Chair called for discussion and Representative Reardon asked if the Regents chose not to testify on this bill, and Dick Carter, Director of External Relations with the Kansas Board of Regents, said that he had submitted written testimony to the Committee on behalf of the Regents on bills **HB 2001** and **HB 2016**. (Attachment 2) The Chair called for a vote by the Committee, and the motion carried unanimously.

HB 2016 - revision of certain definitions and statutory provisions applicable to Wichita State University.

Chairperson Benlon opened the hearings on HB 2016. Eric L. Sexton, Director of Governmental Relations for Wichita State University, was the first conferee speaking in support of this bill. He explained the bill basically

revises certain definitions and statutory provisions applicable to Wichita State University.

Mr. Sexton testified that Section One revises K.S.A. 76-116d which would add Wichita State university to the current list of five universities allowed to dispose of “certain books or art objects” at a private sale without regard to other laws regarding surplus property. He added that this statute was enacted in 1953 and was apparently not revised when the university became a state educational institution. Mr. Sexton explained that Sections Two and Three revise K.S.A. 76-156a and 76-756 to simply change all references in these statutes from the Wichita State University Endowment Association to the Wichita State University Foundation. (Attachment 3)

Following questions by the Committee, Chairperson Benlon closed the hearings on **HB 2016**.

Representative Sloan made a motion to pass this bill out favorably and have placed on the Consent Calendar, seconded by Representative Lane. Discussion followed with Representative Wells making a substitute motion that someone carry the bill instead of it going on the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Representative Reardon. The Chair asked for a vote on the substitute motion, and the motion failed. Division was requested and the motion failed on a 6 to 7 vote.

Chairperson Benlon referred the Committee back to the original motion for it to be put on the Consent Calendar, and she asked for Discussion. There being none, vote was taken and the motion carried.

HB 2018 - qualifications of students for admission to state educational institutions

Chairperson Benlon opened the hearings on **HB 2018**. Dr. Amanda Golbeck, Director of Academic Affairs for the Kansas Board of Regents, testified in support of the bill. She explained that several errors and omissions in the original statute, K.S.A. 76-717, had been brought to their attention. She said the Board of Regents had approved several changes at their November meeting, and forwarded them the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) who drafted **HB 2018**. Dr. Golbeck outlined the requested changes as shown in her written testimony (Attachment 4). She said the intention of the original qualified admissions legislation was to raise the standard above the minimum for admission to universities. She stated that the change of language in the bill regarding the earning of a general educational development (GED) certificate differs from that proposed by the Board of Regents. Dr. Golbeck’s written testimony on page contained a table which summarized the minimum passing GED.

Dr. Golbeck testified that the Board of Regents continues to feel that nonresident students with less than 24 hours of transferable course work be admitted to state universities with GED scores, and would like an amendment to **HB 2018** permitting them to do so. She then introduced two individuals, both of who are Associate Directors for Academic Affairs at the Kansas Board of Regent, Dr. Kathy Rupp, who is the Board’s qualified admissions expert, and Dr. Patricia Anderson, who is the Board’s GED testing expert. She said Dr. rupp also is responsible for coordinating the standards and implementation of the Qualified Admissions Program and approves courses. She also stated that Dr. Anderson holds the title of State Administrator for Kansas GED testing. Dr. Golbeck said the three of them would stand for questions from the Committee.

General discussion followed with questions directed to Dr. Golbeck regarding inconsistency of test scores between high school graduates and GED students for admission’s qualifications, further clarification on the table on page 4 of Dr. Golbeck’s written testimony regarding the minimum passing GED score and the changes requested by the Board of Regents compared to what wording was suggested by the LEPC, whether there is still a provision within the statute that allows an adult of 21 years of age or older to be admitted without reference to any other criteria if they are a resident of Kansas, questions concerning whether the State of Kansas’ standards are too low for admission qualifications, and the problem of non- resident students coming into the state because it is easier for them to get admitted in Kansas and the tuition is usually less too. Dr. Golbeck explained that the problem with the non-resident student who does not have the number of credit hours in transferrable course work is that person who has a GED and cannot enter a university at all with his/her GED, and whether that person should have a higher GED standard than a resident student was another question. She said what they were concerned with was that the student has no avenue whatsoever to be admitted.

Representative McLeland stated that his understanding was that a person with a GED may not have to meet as high a standard as a regular high school graduate. He asked if there was a reason why we don’t require a person with a GED to pass an ACT or SAT test to show they have met the standards. Dr. Anderson responded she would support him totally on that, and added the American Council on Education states in all their manuals that colleges really are not encouraged to use the GED as a sole means for admittance and encourage the use of the

ACT and SAT. Dr. Ruff stated that as the law reads right now a student can enter with a GED score if they passed the GED. She said at the present time all universities require students to take the ACT after they have been admitted so they will have records of the ACT scores, but it is not part of the admission requirements at this time.

Questions were also raised about remedial training in the early years of college, how many students enter college after getting a GED, and if the success rate of the GED people and the SAT people are tracked in order to see how well these students are doing. Dr. Kim Wilcox, Executive Director of the Kansas Board of Regents, responded to the questions. He said that the purpose of having the GED students take the ACT exam across the board was so they could start to make the analysis that would let them interpret what was the appropriate GED score and what would that equate to, and what number of those students are succeeding and which are failing in order to make better decisions. He expressed his appreciation to the legislature for the extra funding for a unit in the Board of Regents to allow them to do this, because in the past they did not have the legal ability before **SB 345** or certainly not the fiscal resources to create the student system that would allow them to identify those students and track them in the State of Kansas. Representative Tanner stated that there would probably be several amendments offered from Committee members when the bill was worked.

Chairperson Benlon said that this bill would be held for further discussion and working at another meeting, and asked if there were any bill requests. Dr. Wilcox requested three bills be introduced to the Committee and drafted. He said the requested bills related to: (1) code compliance review of Community colleges, AVS, AVTS, and TC building plans, (2) Community College student fees and scholarships, and (3) a technical amendment regarding education benefits for dependents of deceased public safety officers. (Attachment 5) The Chair asked if there were any objections to the drafting of these bills, and there was none.

Chairperson Benlon adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee will be Wednesday, January 24, Room 231-N at the Capitol.