

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:35 p.m. on March 6, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Pat Apple

Committee staff present: Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ashley Holm, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Ann E. Mah  
Dr. Robert J. Edleston, Kansas Association of Technical  
Schools and Colleges

**HB 2014 – Postsecondary education; establishing the technical college and technical school commission; powers and duties**

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department, explained that **HB 2014** would establish the Kansas Technical College and Technical School Commission in fiscal year 2008. The Commission would have seven voting members and one ex-officio member, which would be the President of the State Board of Regents or that individual's designee. The bill describes the requirements for appointment and provides that the Commission would meet upon the call of the chairperson. She pointed out that the fiscal note indicated that the Commission would need about \$28,722 to continue to pay commission members. She went on to say that the bill would continue the Technical College and Technical School Commission which was originally created in a proviso of the 2006 omnibus budget bill. She noted that the originally established Commission was due to end June 30, 2007; but **HB 2014** would continue the Commission until the end of 2008, and it would require the Commission provide a report to the Legislative Educational Planning Committee by November 1, 2007, and a final report to the Legislature by November 1, 2008. She explained that **HB 2014** was amended by the House Committee on Education to ensure that the appointing authorities would have the same ability to appoint as they had in the original bill. The House Committee also added a provision to address the occurrence of vacancies on the Commission and to clarify that only voting members are counted when determining a quorum.

For the Committee's information, Ms. Wenger distributed copies of the Kansas Technical College and Vocational School Commission's final report and recommendations to the 2007 Legislature. A copy of the report can be obtained from the Kansas Legislative Research Department, Room 545-N, Statehouse. She also distributed copies of the bill which would implement the Commission's recommendations, **HB 2556**, which was scheduled to be heard in the House Committee on Education on March 8. She pointed out that a question that arose was, "If the recommendations were addressed in **HB 2556**, why would the Commission need to continue to meet?" She explained that the intent of **HB 2014** was to allow the Commission to oversee the implementation of their recommendations.

Representative Ann Mah testified in support of **HB 2014**. She noted that the 2007 Commission's seven members were largely from industry and education, and they tackled their assignment with enthusiasm and a determination to bring technical education into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. She commented that the Commission's report was not an ending; but rather a beginning. She noted that the scope of the Commission's recommendations required additional time to see them through to completion; therefore the Legislative Educational Planning Committee recommended that the Commission be extended another two years. (Attachment 1)

Senator Lee commented, "Being a member of the Commission, what I envision that the Commission intended was that they would watch the progress of the new advisory authority under the Board of Regents established in **HB 2556**. I would just tell you that, having had the wonderful experience of serving on this Commission, to see the enthusiasm from these business leaders for education and for appropriate funding but demanding

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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there be accountability for that funding, was exciting to me. I've not often seen business leaders that involved in education. They want to continue to see that in fact something does happen. That it's positive. That it's accountable. There's some concern on the Commission as to how this authority under the Board of Regents is going to work. The Commission made a lot of compromises in terms of the development of that process, and frankly, they want to see how it works; that indeed the authority and the executive director of the authority is able to work with the Board of Regents and make things happen."

Dr. Robert Edleston, Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges (KATSC), testified in support of **HB 2014** as a member of the Technical College and Vocational School Commission. He explained that the Commission did not limit its focus to the KATSC member institutions but instead concentrated on the need for enhancing technical education in all Kansas higher education institutions, especially the two-year technical and community colleges and schools. He noted that the main reason for requesting the extension of the Commission was for continued oversight as we move into a new era of technical education expansion in Kansas. He emphasized that the first task of the Technical Education Authority Board will be to establish high standards regarding education and training for Kansas' emerging workforce, existing workforce, and advancing workforce. He noted that research showed that, given the capacity, Kansas could be serving over 30,000 more students and placing those individuals in 80 percent of the jobs in Kansas that require training above the high school level but less than the four-year degree level. He pointed out that, for every dollar spent on technical education, the state should realize a return of at least 15 dollars. (Attachment 2)

There being no others wishing to testify, the hearing on **HB 2014** was closed.

The Committee's attention was turned to the minutes of the February 15, 19, 20, and 21 meetings.

Senator Teichman moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 19, 20, and 21 meetings, seconded by Senator McGinn. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2007.