

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:35 p.m. on January 17, 2008, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Anthony Hensley

Committee staff present: Carol Toland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Matt Todd, Revisor of Statutes Office
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Christine Downey-Schmidt, Chair, Kansas Board of Regents
Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents

2008 Legislative and Public Policy Overview on Higher Education in Kansas

Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, introduced Christine Downey-Schmidt, Chairperson, Kansas Board of Regents. Ms. Downey-Schmidt commented that one of the things that found to be troubling when she began to serve on the Board was the realization that there is a difference in the direction between what the Board of Regents would like to see happen and what legislators would like to see happen. She noted that she and her colleagues strongly desired to act in partnership with legislators.

Mr. Robinson discussed the following questions on which he believes Kansas education leaders should focus in building a public agenda for higher education:

- Are we satisfied that high school graduation expectations are aligned with college preparation expectations?
- Are we satisfied with the level of participation in the higher education system?
- Are we satisfied with our institutional retention and completion rates?
- Are the programs, resources, and incentives of higher education aligned with the workforce demands of Kansas?
- Do those that complete programs have the cross-cutting competencies and skills necessary for success in work and in life?

Mr. Robinson went on to summarize actions taken by the Board since the conclusion of the 2007 Legislative Session, which included a report on the progress made in addressing the nurse and teacher shortage in Kansas. (Attachment 1) At this point, he responded to several questions from the Committee regarding the teacher shortage in Kansas. There being no further time, he agreed to return on January 22 to present an overview of the Governor's recommended budget for postsecondary education for FY 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2008.