

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 1:30 p.m. on February 16, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Mario Goico
Cynthia G. Baum, Vice President, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Walden University,
Baltimore, MD (written only)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Midwestern Higher Education Compact's response to questions and requests for more information from Kansas legislators and staff at the January 21, 2009, meeting was distributed. ([Attachment 1](#))

Hearing on HB 2298 - Distance-learning educational credits for qualifications to take licensure examination by health care providers

Chairman Huntington opened the hearing on **HB 2298**. Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained that this bill creates a new statute allowing for course credit obtained through internet learning to be applied in whole or in part to the educational course work required to take a licensing examination for a health care provider. It provides that 1) where an examination is required as one of the qualifications for licensure of a health care provider and 2) where educational course work is a prerequisite for taking the examination, such course work obtained through distance learning, i.e. the internet, shall be applied in whole or in part as the required educational course work by the appropriate licensing agency if: 1) The online course credit work meets in whole or in part the required educational course work as determined by the appropriate licensing agency and 2) Such online course work is approved by the relevant credentialing authority and the appropriate licensing agency as having substantially the same quality as other educational courses approved to meet the educational requirement to take the examination for licensure for that particular classification of health care provider. ([Attachment 2](#))

Representative Mario Goico spoke in support of **HB 2298** introduced at the request of Representative Delia Garcia. He stated that as distance learning and the internet have become more common, it is important to recognize this technology in our educational requirements for licensure of health care providers. He indicated he would have an amendment if the bill is worked in committee.

Cynthia G. Baum, Vice President, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Walden University, Baltimore, MD, provided written testimony in support of **HB 2298** which would afford graduates from accredited, online institutions the same opportunities as graduates from accredited, campus-based programs. ([Attachment 3](#))

There being no other conferees, the hearing on **HB 2298** was closed.

It was the consensus of the committee that they would need to hear from the state board of healing arts and other licensing boards before considering this legislation. It was also felt that this bill should be heard and considered by the Health and Human Services Committee. The Chairman will contact House leadership to see if the bill could be re-referred.

Discussion and action on HB 2197 - State educational institutions; admission standards

Chairman Huntington opened discussion on **HB 2197**. Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained that this legislation specifies that students from non-accredited private secondary schools could be

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admitted to a state university with an ACT score of 21 points or more. Also, up to 10.0 percent of admitted students who would transfer 24 credit hours to a state university would not have to meet the minimum admission standards. This would be the same policy that is currently applied to freshmen admissions to state universities. The Board of Regents would have to establish the criteria and guidelines for exemptions to be applied systemwide. The Board would have to present a report on the number and percentage of exceptions made by January 31 of each year to the Legislature. This and related reports would be submitted at one time to the Legislature.

Under this bill the standard pre-college curriculum would no longer require one unit of computer technology. In addition, for students who attend a school that does not have units of credits or grade point averages, the Board of Regents would determine the students' level of education and grade point average. **HB 2197** would give the Board of Regents the authority to adopt rules and regulations establishing standards for the admission of students to state universities. The standards could be different for each state university in accordance with each institution's educational mission. If the rules and regulations are more rigorous than those outlined in current law, they would not go into effect before the 2014-2015 academic year.

Representative McLeland, seconded by Representative Rhoades, moved to recommend **HB 2197** favorably for passage.

Representative Mah offered a substitute motion to amend **HB 2197** on page 4, lines 16 - 18 by removing the sentence: "Such standards may be different for each state educational institution in accordance with each institution's educational mission." Seconded by Representative Horst, the motion passed.

Chairman Huntington offered a motion to include SAT as well as ACT scores; that wherever "ACT" is used in the bill, "or SAT equivalent" be inserted. Julene Miller from the Kansas Board of Regents reported that this is currently done. The Chairman withdrew her motion.

Representative McLeland moved to recommend **HB 2197**, as amended, favorably for passage. Seconded by Representative Horst, the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee has not been scheduled at this time.