

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dwayne Umbarger at 1:35 p.m. on March 18, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley (excused)

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Steve Kearney, Executive Director, KS Assoc of Technical
Schools and Colleges
Shirley Antes, President, NE Kansas Technical College

Others attending: See Attached List

HB2820--Vocational education, determination of credit hour equivalencies by state board of regents

HB2821--Vocational education, tuition rates for postsecondary students

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes explained the two bills. **HB2820** concerns courses taken at the technical colleges. It would give the State Board of Regents the authority to determine the number of clock hours of instruction that would be equal to a credit hour for purposes of programs that lead to the associate of applied science degree. **HB2821** would authorize the local governing board of a vocational technical school or technical college to set the hourly tuition rate for postsecondary students.

Steve Kearney, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges advised that written testimony in support of **HB2820** and **HB2821** was passed out to members of the Committee from Duane Dunn, President, Manhattan Area Technical College and current President of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges. (Attachment 1) The Association of Technical Schools and Colleges asked for introduction of these bills to give the schools some flexibility to manage and handle concerns at the local level in this difficult budget year. Steve then introduced Shirley Antes, President, NE KS Technical College, Atchison.

Shirley Antes, President, NE KS Technical College gave testimony in support of **HB2821**. This bill would change the way technical schools and colleges collect tuition. Shirley explained that even though they are the smallest technical college, they have six buildings to maintain. This is the way their campus was designed. In order to meet expenses of upkeep, expansion, utilities, salaries and a need for current technology, the school needs the ability to raise more funds. **HB2821** provides a way to generate some additional funding without increasing the states financial obligation. The change in state statute would allow each institution to create a tuition rate that is appropriate to their community. (Attachment 2)

Senator Vratil stated that under current law, the boards had the authority to set tuition subject to the approval of the State Board of Regents. He believes because of the responsibilities given to the State Board that they should retain the right of final approval. Shirley Antes stated that she would not object to that amendment to **HB2821**.

Shirley also supports **HB2820**, but had not prepared testimony on this bill. The technical college requires almost twice as many hours as the community colleges to receive a credit hour. This bill would allow the Board of Regents to determine the definition of a credit hour and would align the operation of a technical institution with other institutions.

The Committee also received written testimony in support of **HB2820** and **HB2821** from Ken Clouse,

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President, NW KS Technical College, Goodland (Attachment 3) and from Dr. Kim Wilcox, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents. (Attachment 4)

Senator Schodorf stated her support of both **HB2820** and **HB2821**. **HB2821** will give some much needed financial assistance to the technical colleges. **HB2820** would equalize the clock hours needed to obtain a credit hour. It is needed to give the technical colleges an opportunity to keep students there instead of the them driving further to attend a community college.

In discussion, it was stated that the average cost for a student for a year is \$1384 and a 5% increase in tuition would be approximately \$50. Financial aid is available for students attending technical schools.

Senator Vratil made a motion to recommend **HB2820** favorably. Motion seconded by Senator Jenkins. Motion carried.

Senator Vratil made a motion to amend **HB2821**, page 1, line 16 after the word "board" by inserting the phrase, "subject to approval of the State Board of Regents." Seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion to amend **HB2821** carried.

Senator Jenkins made a motion to recommend **HB2821** favorably as amended. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried.

Senator Jenkins made a motion to approve the minutes for March 5, 6 and 7, 2002. Seconded by Senator Schodorf. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.