

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rhoades called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. on April 28, 2011, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Donohoe - excused

Committee staff present:

Jim Wilson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Alan Conroy, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J.G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Shirley Morrow, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy O'Neal, Administrative Assistant, Appropriations Committee
Kathy Holscher, Committee Assistant, Appropriations Committee

Others attending:

See attached list

Conferees:

Mark Schreiber, Westar Energy
Jim Maag, Spirit AeroSystems
Ron Gaches, Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

Chairman Rhoades welcomed committee members and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Senate Substitute for HB 2149: University engineering initiative act

Mark Schreiber presented testimony on behalf of Westar Energy as a proponent of **Senate Substitute for HB 2149** (Attachment 1).

Jim Maag presented testimony on behalf of Spirit AeroSystems as a proponent of **Senate Substitute for HB 2149** (Attachment 2).

Ron Gaches, Executive Director, Kansas Society of Professional Engineers, presented testimony as a proponent of **Senate Substitute for HB 2149** (Attachment 3), and responded to questions from committee members. He stated that the engineering schools are at or near capacity for the past several years, and he reviewed the Project Lead the Way, which is an industry initiated program on pre-engineering courses for middle schools and high school students. Mr. Gaches stated with the expansion of the engineering schools the state will receive the best return available on its investments. He discussed out-of-state recruitment efforts and emphasized the importance of meeting the needs of this industry as well as oversight to ensure strong and vibrant programs. It was noted that expanded lottery act revenues fund (ELARF) provides the funding source for this bill.

Committee members requested a list of programs with dedicated funding sources from the Board of Regents.

Stuart Bell, Dean, University of Kansas Engineering School, responded to questions from committee members regarding foreign compared to American student graduates. He noted that the market for undergraduate students in engineering is high and offers so many opportunities, which presents a concern for American students that are not pursuing advanced degrees and foreign students who have received advanced degrees.

Chairman Rhoades stated that written testimony in support of **Senate Substitute for HB 2149** has been distributed to committee members, which included the American Council of Engineering Companies (Attachment 4), Cessna (Attachment 5), Lawrence Chamber of Commerce (Attachment 6), OneOk (Attachment 7), Kansas Good Roads, Inc. (Attachment 8), Economic Progress Council (Attachment 9), Hutton Construction (Attachment 10), and Lawrence Chamber of Commerce (Attachment 11).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Appropriations Committee at 9:08 a.m. on April 28, 2011, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

Chairman Rhoades stated that recruitment statistics from the Ft. Hays Pipeline Program, will be provided to committee members, as requested.

The hearing was closed on **Senate Substitute for HB 2149**.

Dr. Ralph Richardson, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine – Kansas State University, presented information on Veterinary Education, as previously requested by committee members (Attachment 12), and responded to questions from committee members. He stated that the universities are experiencing a decreasing number for enrollment from high school graduates and he reviewed the recruitment process. Dr. Richardson noted that the budget is approximately \$61 million, which is equally divided by tuition, grants, state revenue, estate gifts and state funding. This program has exceeded expectation through two site accreditation visits, and currently a planning process is underway with input from faculty, staff and students, companies, federal laboratories and practicing veterinarians on a shared long-range vision of where we need to be in order to develop a road map to meet expected demands, he added.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Marc Rhoades, Chairman