

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 P.M. on February 1, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Annie Kuether- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor

Haley DaVee, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Sue Maes, Kansas State University

Virginia Moxley, Kansas State University

Dick Hayter, Kansas State University

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Sloan welcomed Sue Maes, Kansas State University, to present information on Higher Education Academic Collaboration.

Maes told the committee about the success Kansas State University has had with its academic collaboration plan. She pointed out that it is not news that our universities have tight resources, that work force demands are changing, that we are becoming a multicultural state, and that our universities are not agile enough to always just reform around these new areas (i.e. security threats). Because of these changes, collaborating with other universities is a good solution. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Sloan welcomed Virginia Moxley, Intermediate Dean of Human Ecology at Kansas State University. Moxley illustrated how online learning between collaborating universities has opened the doors for a number of opportunities. Specifically, it has allowed universities to become more efficient by allowing them to start new masters programs for far less than they could have otherwise. She pointed out that the start up money for these programs has come from federal grants.

Chairman Sloan welcomed Dick Hayter, Associate Dean of Engineering at Kansas State University. Hayter discussed how collaboration will eventually allow programs with fewer students—specifically, nuclear engineering—to gain more knowledge. He suggested that this program would provide courses to schools without nuclear engineering departments and would allow for courses to be taught that in the past could not because of limited enrollment. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Sloan opened the floor to discussion and questions. Representatives Sloan, Sharp, Johnson, and Hill raised questions and provided compliments to Kansas State University for their program.

Chairman Sloan pointed out that the Senate Ways and Means Committee is having a hearing on the crumbling classroom initiatives on February 14 and encouraged interested members to attend.

Chairman Sloan turned the committee's attention to **HB 2593- State board of regents; procurement of health insurance for students at state educational institutions.**

Representative Horst presented an amendment that would eliminate the discrepancy between when the new duties would be transferred to the Kansas Board of Regents and coverage for students. She argued that it is needed to ensure that students will still have coverage until the changes are made. (Attachment 3)

Representative Horst moved to adopt the balloon as printed. Representative Kelsey seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Higher Education Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 1, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Representative Kelsey moved that **HB 2593** be passed as amended. Representative Carlin seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Chairman Sloan asked that Representative Carlin carry the bill.

Chairman Sloan adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. in Rm. 231-N.