

MINUTES OF THE JOINT HOUSE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT/SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nick Jordan at 3:30 PM on January 16, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

Members of both committees were present except:

Senator Jay Emler - excused
Senator Roger Reitz - excused.

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jennifer Thierer, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Matt Todd, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Ann Deitcher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Sandra Lawrence, Chairperson, KBA
Tom Thornton, President/CEO, KBA
Dr. Ron Trewyn, Kansas State University
Tony Barnes, Onclumme
Craig Knutzen, ThermoFisher Scientific

Senator Jordan introduced Sandra Lawrence who offered a brief overview of the Bioscience Authority. (Attachment 1).

Ms Lawrence spoke of the first-ever Kansas Bioscience Day at the Capitol saying that their goal was to bring to life the success and progress achieved by our state in the bioscience sector over the past year.

Next on the agenda was Tom Thornton who said he wanted to publicly applaud Ms Lawrence for her leadership as chairwoman of the KBA board of directors. (Attachment 2).

He then said that the KBA had today officially named their first two Kansas Bioscience Eminent Scholars; Dr. Blake Peterson at the University of Kansas and Dr. Juergen Richt at Kansas State University.

He spoke of the KBA's operational and programmatic development, as well as issues of board governance. Saying that the KBA has moved forward with concrete programs reflecting the direction outlined in the Kansas Economic Growth Act, he felt it had made it easy for researchers and entrepreneurs to access the support they need to thrive.

He said that as a result of all these efforts, there is now a solid organizational infrastructure that allows an unstinting focus on what the Legislature created for us to do: advance Kansas' leadership in bioscience research and business so as to create jobs, attract capital and equity investment and support scientific breakthroughs to improve the lives of the people of our state.

Questions and answers followed.

Dr. Trewyn addressed the Committee regarding K-State's interactions with the KBA as a, what he called, 'a real-world grantee - assuming a university can actually qualify as a 'real-world'.'

He then provided background information and a description of the KBA's investment. (Attachment 3).

Questions and answers followed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Joint House Economic Development/Senate Commerce Committee at 3:30 PM on January 16, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

Next to offer testimony to the Committee was Tony Barnes. ([Attachment 4](#)).

Mr. Barnes explained that Oncimmune was a small start up with a parent office in Nottingham, United Kingdom. The company was started in 2003 with a goal of using the immune response to early cancer as a signal of high-risk cancer patients.

He said that as a company they believe that they have shown the earliest rugged blood-based signal for most solid tumor cancers. They have also shown the ability to see breast cancers as early as four years prior to mammography and similar results have been shown for lung cancer.

Mr. Barnes concluded by thanking KBA for its support and to the members of the Legislature for creating the KBA as a partner for bioscience growth.

Craig Knutzen next appeared before the Committee to explain the history of Thermo Fisher Scientific which was formed in 2006. ([Attachment 5](#)).

Globally, Thermo Fisher Scientific employs 30,000 people and serves over 350,000 customers within pharmaceutical and biotech companies, also hospitals, and clinical diagnostic labs, universities, research institutions and government agencies, as well as environmental and industrial process control settings. Their current facility, located on Santa Fe Train Drive in Lenexa is 35 years old. There is a need for a significant investment so that they may continue to meet their anticipated growth and the challenges that come with it.

In a cooperative effort between Thermo Fisher Scientific, the KBA and the Kansas Department of Commerce, a capacity expansion plan has been detailed for their Lenexa operations and facilities. As a result of their support, renovation and upgrading of an adjacent, newly acquired facility will allow for an option to expand their campus and increase their production capacity and staff.

Questions and answers followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.