

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on March 3, 2009, in Room 545-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Chris Steineger- excused

Committee staff present:

Kristen Kellems, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jerry Boettcher, Board of Regents

Marlesa Roney, Vice Provost for Student Success, University of Kansas

Jennifer Sanner, Senior Vice President for Communications, KU Alumni Association

J. Kent Eckles, Vice President of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber of Commerce (written only)

Lydia Peele, Student Body President, Kansas State University

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on HB 2007 - State educational institutions; waiver fees and tuition at undergraduate and graduate levels

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, presented a summary of the proposed legislation. **HB 2007** was introduced by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee at the request of the State Board of Regents. The bill amends K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 76-719c which concerns the fixing of fees and tuition and the awarding of financial assistance at state universities. Proposed amendments to subsection (a) would allow the Board to authorize state universities to award fellowships and scholarships to both undergraduate and graduate students. Under the existing provision, only graduate students may receive fellowships or scholarships. In addition, the proposed amendments to subsection (a) would allow the Board to authorize state universities to grant waivers for tuition and fees, as well as fellowships and scholarships to both undergraduate and graduate students. Subsection (a) would apply to residents and nonresidents.

Subsection (b) allows state universities to grant waivers for tuition and fees to any nonresident graduate student who is awarded a national fellowship. This benefit would be in addition to any other granted under subsection (a) or under any other provision of law. The bill makes no change to this provision.

According to the fiscal note, the bill would have no fiscal effect on the Board or state universities. As stated in the fiscal note, to the extent additional financial aid is awarded, the cost would be absorbed by the state universities.

Jerry Boettcher, Board of Regents, (Attachment 1) presented testimony in support of **HB 2007** citing the effectiveness of tuition discounting of all or part of a student's published tuition in recruiting students thus maximizing revenue. He stated this bill would put our state universities on a level playing field with neighboring states who already have similar tools at their disposal.

Marlesa Roney, Vice Provost for Student Success, University of Kansas, (Attachment 2) and Jennifer Sanner, Senior Vice President for Communications, KU Alumni Association (Attachment 3) each provided testimony in support of the legislation. J. Kent Eckles, Vice President of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber of Commerce, (Attachment 4) and Lydia Peele, Student Body President, Kansas State University, (Attachment 5) provided written testimony in support of **HB 2007**.

The hearing on **HB 2007** was closed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on March 3, 2009, in Room 545-N of the Capitol.

Senator Vratil moved the committee recommend **HB 2007** favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Senator Owens. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.