

MINUTES

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

September 17, 2003
Memorial Union, Washburn University
1700 SW College, Topeka

Members Present

Senator Dwayne Umbarger, Chair
Senator Bob Lyon
Senator Lana Oleen
Senator Mark Taddiken
Senator John Vratil
Representative Barbara Ballard
Representative Carol Edward Beggs
Representative Bill Mason
Representative Eber Phelps
Representative Larry Powell
Representative Bill Reardon

Members Absent

Representative Kathe Decker, Vice-Chair
Senator Christine Downey

Staff Present

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Conferees

Dr. Jerry Farley, President, Washburn University
Deborah Stern, RN, JD, Vice-President of Clinical and Quality Services, Kansas
Hospital Association
Dr. Dick Wade, Dean of Enrollment Management, Barton County Community College
Dr. William Dunlap, Dean, School of Applied Studies, Washburn University
Dr. Bob Masters, Director of Curricular Affairs, State Board of Regents
Dr. James Coffman, Provost, Kansas State University
Dr. Richard K. Burke, President, Dodge City Community College

Dr. Kathrynne Mueller, Director of Academic Initiatives, State Board of Regents
Diane Lindeman, Director of Student Financial Aid, State Board of Regents

Living Learning Center Tour

The Committee met on the campus of Washburn University and began its meeting with a tour of the new Living Learning Center. The Center houses 400 students and has computer access in student rooms.

Remarks by Dr. Farley

Dr. Jerry Farley, President of Washburn University, told the Committee that the University has a record fall enrollment of more than 7,000 students. (The number includes 125 new law school students admitted each fall, with a total law school enrollment of between 440 and 460.) He said a deliberate effort has been made to change the image of Washburn from a commuter university with a large proportion of non-traditional students who live and work in the Topeka area to a university that offers a residential college experience for students away from home. He said the goal is to house between 6 to 9 percent of students on campus—not the 40 percent that is typical of a residential institution. The addition of residential students has necessitated building dormitories and has resulted in a change in the campus environment.

Dr. Farley explained that one innovation is the requirement that all students select from one of four options in order to enrich their college experience. The four focus areas are research, international studies, service and volunteer activities, and leadership.

Dr. Farley discussed the general condition of Washburn University and said the changes brought about by the 1999 Higher Education Coordination Act have been good. He said he thinks Washburn benefits from having its own governing board separate from the State Board of Regents and said converting from local resources derived mainly from property taxes to sales taxes was beneficial, although the economic downturn has affected the institution in the areas of diminished sales tax revenues and state support. He estimated that full funding of the state aid formula probably would require another \$2.0 million and that sales tax revenues are estimated to be down by another \$1.0 million in both FY 2003 and FY 2004. Washburn also lost \$500,000 due to the allotments imposed by the Governor in FY 2003.

Dr. Farley said the University's enrollment has exceeded expectations and is likely to keep growing, classes are small, the University has become more visible and accessible, it has 14 degree programs offered in conjunction with community colleges, it offers between 180 and 190 programs on the Internet (mainly community college degree completion programs), and has a growing reputation for offering a high-quality education. According to 2003 college rankings by *U.S. News and World Report*, Washburn University is rated third in the Midwest and is tied for 12th in the nation among public master's level universities.

In response to a question about Phoenix University and the type of courses it offers, Dr. Farley said Internet education works and there is a market niche for the kind of courses Phoenix University offers. However, not all students learn from Internet courses nor can all disciplines successfully be taught over the Internet.

Responding to a question about the fact that Washburn is the lone municipal university in the country, Dr. Farley explained that municipal universities once were quite common, but most have closed or been absorbed into state systems. He said the issue of Washburn coming into the state

system generally has not been raised in recent years because of the state's poor economy. He noted that Topeka taxpayers and students, who pay high student tuition that is more characteristic of private colleges, would benefit if Washburn were a state university and that the Washburn University Board of Regents would seriously consider any proposal to come into the system. In the meantime, Dr. Farley said it is "heavenly" not being part of a large bureaucracy and that the University is content to continue to operate as it is now. (Material presented by Dr. Farley is Attachment 1.)

Kansas Nursing Workforce Partnership

Deborah Stern, RN, JD, told the Committee that she chairs the Kansas Nursing Workforce Partnership, whose membership is comprised of representatives of state agencies and professional education and health-related associations (Attachments 2 through 4). The Partnership was created in response to an interim topic on the nursing shortage in Kansas, which was before the Legislative Budget Committee in 2002. The Committee Chair, Senator Steve Morris, observed that there was not a statewide group of nursing professionals who were addressing the shortage. He asked individuals who met with the Committee to report back on their efforts to address the shortage and the Partnership was formed in response to his request. Ms. Stern said that the Partnership first met at the beginning of 2003 and has met quarterly since.

She said reasons why there is a nursing shortage include the following:

- The demand for nurses is growing faster than for most other occupations, with a projection that jobs for registered professional nurses nationwide will grow by 23 percent by 2008.
- There are fewer nurses available to replace those who retire or leave for other opportunities.
- National figures indicate that enrollment in entry-level baccalaureate nursing programs is falling. (Enrollment in Kansas baccalaureate nursing programs generally has fallen over the last decade. However, admissions to Kansas baccalaureate nursing programs increased from 501 in the fall of 2002 to 597 in the fall of 2003. Admissions to Kansas associate degree professional nursing programs and programs for practical nurses declined from fall 2002 to fall 2003.)
- Nurses tend to enter the workforce at an older age. (Nationwide, the average age of a new registered professional nurse graduate is 31.)
- Nationally, the registered professional nurse workforce is older than other occupational workforces. (The average age of employed registered professional nurses is 43.3 years and more than 60 percent are 40 or older. By 2010, it is projected that more than 40 percent of the registered professional nurse workforce will be 50 or older.)
- About half of the registered professional nurse workforce will reach retirement age in the next 15 years.
- Women have more career choices now and are not restricted to the traditional "women's jobs" of teaching, clerical work, and nursing.

To address the nursing shortage, the Partnership has made the following recommendations:

- The current \$15,000 cap imposed by the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System on state employees who retire and want to return to their previous employer should be lifted. Legislation that would have addressed this issue did not pass during the 2003 Session, but Ms. Stern said the issue again will be raised during the 2004 Session.
- Funding for the Kansas Nursing Service Scholarship program should be increased, or at least be maintained. The program requires a nursing student to obtain a sponsor (a nurse employer) and requires one year of service for each year of scholarship. According to the State Board of Regents, \$422,250 was spent to serve 134 students in school year 2002-03. Ms. Stern told the Committee that 247 applications were received and 89 applicants were placed on a waiting list.
- Kansas schools of nursing should be fully funded because, without nursing programs and adequate salaries for nursing faculty, Kansas cannot educate the nurses it needs.

In discussion with the Committee following her presentation, Ms. Stern said some nursing programs in Kansas are not full because of a shortage of faculty or clinical facilities. In response to a question, she explained that the practical nursing program, which prepares students to take the examination to become a licensed practical nurse (LPN), is a one-year program generally offered by area vocational schools, technical colleges, and community colleges. The program that prepares students to become a registered professional nurse (RN) is offered by community colleges and four-year colleges and universities. Regardless of whether a student is a graduate of a two-year associate degree program or a four-year baccalaureate degree program, the licensing examination is the same. The difference between the two levels of preparation lies in the fact that a baccalaureate-degree nurse has clinical experience in a greater variety of settings, has more academic course work, and generally is better prepared to assume administrative or leadership roles.

Ms. Stern told the Committee that the profession needs to recruit more men and Hispanics and must make greater efforts to reach displaced workers.

Dr. Dick Wade, Barton County Community College, presented information about the high cost of nursing programs to community colleges ([Attachment 5](#)). He explained that vocational courses generally are more expensive to offer than academic courses, and that nursing programs are among the most expensive because of the need for clinical facilities, equipment and supplies, and the low student-teacher ratio.

According to the results of a survey conducted in the spring of 2003, 14 of the 19 community college programs have a practical nursing program or a two-year registered professional nursing program. Taking into account only direct costs and revenues, Dr. Wade said that each of the institutions lost money on its nursing program, with the deficits ranging from \$64,162 to \$771,380. (The statewide average is \$282,376.) In all, community college nursing programs had direct costs of \$7,287,714 (mainly for faculty and staff) and direct revenues of only \$3,953,270, resulting in a loss of more than \$3.3 million. Dr. Wade said that each nursing student represents an "annual drain" to the institution of \$2,971. In response to a question, Dr. Wade said that student tuition is the same for nursing students as for other students.

In discussion with Committee members following his presentation, Dr. Wade said the nursing program at Barton County Community College is one of the most successful and most expensive

programs the institution offers and that students from Barton County have one of the highest passing rates on the nurse licensing examination in the state. He said entrance criteria to the program have been lowered somewhat in order to fill all available slots so that full use can be made of faculty and facilities. He said institutions that have nursing programs usually are in communication and it sometimes happens that, if one program is full, students may be routed to a program offered by another institution.

Senator Oleen made the point that she believes references to “waiting lists” should reflect the number of students who actually intend to enroll or wish to enroll in a program and not a list of persons who merely have expressed interest in a program or who have made application at several schools.

In response to a question about whether professional health-care associations are helping to relieve the nursing shortage by providing funding for nursing students or programs, Ms. Stern replied that the Kansas Hospital Association provides nursing scholarships. She also told Committee members that the average entry level salary for a registered professional nurse in Kansas is about \$35,000.

Early Childhood Education Standards

The staff presented a memorandum entitled *Early Childhood Standards*, which was in response to recent national studies showing that Kansas is one of the few states in the nation that has not developed such standards ([Attachment 6](#)). The staff explained that the State Department of Education is in the process of developing standards and that the Committee will have the opportunity to discuss the matter and review a draft of the standards when it meets with the State Board of Education in November.

Joint Program with Kaw Area Technical School

Dr. William Dunlap, Dean of the School of Applied Studies, told the Committee about the program the University developed with Kaw Area Technical School almost ten years ago, which at the time was unique in the state. Under the arrangement, students may take technical courses leading to an associate degree at the technical school and complete their general education courses at Washburn. Presently, there are 183 students enrolled in the two-year program. According to Dr. Dunlap, not only is the articulation between technical and general education course work that leads to the associate degree seamless, but 67 students have continued their studies to obtain a baccalaureate degree and a few have enrolled in graduate programs or the law school.

Joint programs are offered in the following areas: design technology, food service, industrial technology, office administration, purchasing, early childhood education, and legal studies.

Western Kansas Degree Completion Program

Dr. Robert Masters, State Board of Regents, gave the Committee background information on the initiative to provide place-bound students in Western Kansas access to upper division and graduate courses ([Attachment 7](#)). He explained that the need for upper division and graduate education for persons who live in Western Kansas has been repeatedly documented, but the cost of providing programs in a sparsely populated area has limited the educational opportunities that are available. In an effort to supplement the number of face-to-face and distance learning courses that are offered, the State Board of Regents formed the Southwest Kansas Access Group in June 2002

and charged it with identifying ways to increase access to upper division and graduate programs in Southwest Kansas. The group identified a high need for programs at the baccalaureate and masters levels in education, business, and nursing.

Subsequently, a proposal to provide programs was submitted jointly by three state universities (Emporia, Fort Hays, and Kansas State) and Dodge City Community College. The proposal became known as the Regents' University-Community College Partnership and includes all of the community colleges in the region—Barton, Pratt, Garden City, Liberal, and Colby Community Colleges, in addition to Dodge City—and serves all of Western Kansas. The proposal was approved by the State Board of Regents in June 2003. The proposal outlines the process to be followed in approving courses and programs to be offered (approval by the President and Chief Executive Officer of the State Board of Regents is required) and also provides that a university can be reimbursed up to \$100,000 a year if it loses money because a new program loses enrollment. This “guarantee” benefits both the university and students in the program, who are assured that the program will be continued and that they will be able to complete it. Dr. Masters told the Committee that \$200,000 was appropriated to the State Board in FY 2004 to be used to reimburse institutions and he requested authority for unspent funds to be reappropriated to FY 2005.

Dr. Jim Coffman, Kansas State University, explained that the new initiative features face-to-face instruction and expands activities that already are occurring ([Attachment 8](#)). He said that more than 1,200 students in Southwest Kansas currently are enrolled in distance-learning courses that are offered by one or more of the three universities in the partnership. He told the Committee that participating universities have staff members who are located on community college campuses who deal with matters relating to students and programs. He said current activities include an effort to expand and redesign several programs and to address admissions, business office, and financial aid issues. In addition, partnership members are working on ways to market information about the programs being offered. Future topics to be addressed include a common pricing model, collaborative degrees, a common student data base, and advising services for students who are taking courses from two or more institutions.

Dr. Robert Burke, Dodge City Community College, told Committee members that, except for the \$200,000 appropriation to the State Board for the low-enrollment guarantee, the initiative has been accomplished at no additional cost to the state. He stressed the need in Southwest Kansas for upper division and graduate programs and explained that most of the residents who live there have jobs and families that they cannot leave to attend school elsewhere. One consequence is that there are not enough university programs to produce professionals, such as teachers and nurses. Dr. Burke said that previous efforts to provide programs in the past have failed because of the limited population base, but there now is a rapidly growing minority population of Hispanics that needs access to educational opportunities.

Reciprocal Agreements for Professional Programs

Dr. Kathryn Mueller, State Board of Regents, presented information on reciprocal agreements the State Board has negotiated under which out-of-state tuition is waived for Kansas students enrolled in certain professional programs at Missouri institutions and for Missouri residents enrolled in certain programs in Kansas. Specifically, 80 Kansas residents may enroll in the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Dentistry, 20 Kansas residents may enroll in the University of Missouri St. Louis School of Optometry, and 491 Missouri residents may enroll in architecture programs at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. Dr. Mueller explained that the dollar amount of tuition being waived is roughly equivalent for each state due to out-of-state tuition being higher for Kansas residents attending school in Missouri than for Missouri residents attending school in Kansas, even though more Missouri residents are attending Kansas institutions.

Dr. Mueller addressed issues specifically related to the dental agreement by explaining that officials in Kansas became aware of the fact that, contrary to the agreement, Missouri was granting waivers to students of dental hygiene to attend the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Dentistry, even though Kansas has both dental assistant and dental hygiene programs. In addition, Kansas officials learned that not all of the 80 waivers was being awarded. The reciprocal agreement was renegotiated to specify that all of the slots have to be filled by dental students. Kansas also has received assurance that all 80 waivers will be awarded.

Student Assistance Programs Administered by the State Board of Regents

Diane Lindeman, State Board of Regents, reviewed the student financial assistance programs administered by the State Board of Regents (Attachment 10). Regarding two of the newer student assistance programs, the Foster Care Tuition Waiver and the Workforce Development Loan Program, Ms. Lindeman said the former program was implemented in FY 2003, but the Workforce Development Loan Program has not been implemented because final approval of federal funding sources has not been received from federal officials.

Meeting Dates

The Committee selected November 12 as the date for its joint meeting with the State Board of Education and November 19 for its joint meeting with the State Board of Regents.

The meeting was adjourned.

Reception with the Washburn University Board of Regents

Following adjournment of the meeting, Committee members met informally with members of the Washburn University Board of Regents.

Prepared by Carolyn Rampey

Approved by Committee on:

October 9, 2003