

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:35 p.m. on February 21, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Greta Goodwin

Committee staff present: Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Consideration of previously heard bills:

SB 315 – Colleges and universities; textbooks and course materials

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office, summarized the provisions in the bill. She also pointed out that the word “state” on page 1, line 21, should be “postsecondary.”

Senator Steineger moved to technically amend SB 315 on page 1, line 21, by striking “state” before “educational institution” and inserting “postsecondary,” seconded by Senator Teichman. The motion carried.

It was the consensus of the Committee to request more information from the Board of Regents on **SB 315** and also to request an interim study, which would include a report on the progress of the University of Kansas task force on textbook planning, cost, and availability.

SB 212 – Kansas Youth Civic Service Scholarship Program

Senator Schodorf reminded the Committee that Senator Steineger requested the introduction of **SB 212** and that it concerned free tuition for civic service. She noted that the bill had a \$280,000 fiscal note.

Senator Steineger explained that the bill was intended to reward young Kansans, aged 17-25, for giving back to their country. The bill would give young Kansans free tuition at a Regents university or community college if they give two years of service to either the U.S. military, the Peace Corps, or AmeriCorps. In his opinion, young people would like the adventure of serving in one of these organizations, and they would return more mature and better able to appreciate the university experience. He commented that the bill does not put a cap on the number of tuitions that could be handed out, but he would leave that decision to the rules and regulations process or the administration.

Senator Schodorf commented that, while the bill was well intended and certainly worthwhile, the question was whether or not encouraging civic service was a function of the state. In response, Senator Steinger noted that in the past this type of scholarship has mainly been oriented towards people in medical or educational fields.

Senator Schodorf closed the discussion, commenting that she did not see a lot of interest in the bill, but she thought it was a good concept which members would continue to think about.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

The next meeting time is to be announced.