

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:45 p.m. on January 16, 2008, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: John Vratil- excused
Barbara Allen- absent
Anthony Hensley- absent
Carolyn McGinn- excused

Committee staff present: Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carol Toland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Matt Todd, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Lana Oleen, Governor's designee for Midwestern Higher Education Compact
Larry A. Isaak, President, Midwestern Higher Education Compact

Overview of Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) in Kansas

Lana Oleen, Governor's designee for MECH, noted that Kansas' MHEC commissioners include Senator Schodorf, who serves as a commissioner on the Executive Committee, and Senator Marci Francisco, who serves as her alternate. On the House side, Representative Barbara Ballard serves as commissioner, and Representative Clay Aurand serves as her alternate. In addition, two commissioners represent the Kansas Board of Regents – Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, and Vice Chairman Donna Shank. Noting that the MECH office is located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, she introduced the MECH President, Larry A. Isaak.

Mr. Isaak discussed the following topics:

- MHEC membership
- The 55-member commission
- MHEC finances
- MHEC's mission
- Cost savings programs
- Midwest student exchange program
- MHEC intraregional electronic transcript initiative
- Policy research
- Annual state visits
- Demographic indicators in MHEC states
- Postsecondary preparation in MHEC states and the national average
- Postsecondary participation, persistence, and completion in MHEC states and the top performing states in the nation
- Benefits of higher education in MHEC states and the national average
- Affordability of higher education in MHEC states and the national average
- Student grants and loans in MHEC states and in the nation. (Attachment 1)

For the Committee's information, Mr. Isaak distributed copies of a booklet entitled, "Annual MHEC Report to the States 2006-07" and a portfolio which included a list of all commissioners in the 11 MHEC states, a copy of K.S.A. 72-60b01 relating to MHEC, and pamphlets on cost savings and student access. Copies can be obtained from MHEC, 1300 South Second Street, Suite 130, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55454.

On behalf of Capt. Adam Johnson, Senator Schodorf moved to introduce a bill concerning the ROTC service scholarship, seconded by Senator Lee. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2008.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Education Committee at 1:45 P.M. on January 16, 2008, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.