

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 1:30 p.m. on January 22, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jennifer Horchem, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Rena Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Joseph Glassman, Chairman, Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Mah requested introduction of three committee bills: 1) Increase limit a KPERS retiree may earn from \$20,000 to \$25,000 when returning to work for the same employer; 2) Move firefighters at Forbes at the 190th from KPERS to the KP&F Retirement System; and 3) Tax credit for postsecondary education. Representative Rhoades moved to introduce these three requests as committee bills. There being no objection, the motion carried.

Joseph Glassman, Chairman, Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority, reported on progress toward the improvement of the postsecondary technical education system in Kansas. The Authority was created by the Legislature in 2007 and is charged with coordinating state-wide planning for postsecondary technical education, approve and review new and existing technical programs, recommend a new approach to funding technical education, develop accountability indicators, and coordinate the development of a seamless system between secondary and postsecondary education levels. The legislation also required the state's technical schools to merge or affiliate with a postsecondary education institution or become an accredited technical college with an independent governing board. It was learned that five institutions will merge or affiliate with other colleges and that the Salina Area Technical School has submitted a plan to become a stand-alone technical college with an independent governing board. He reported that in their first year of operation, the Authority had hired a Vice President for Workforce Development (Blake Flanders was introduced), established an operation committee structure to address issues related to program alignment, finance, and marketing.

He stated that improving the postsecondary technical education system will require legislative reform. The Authority members have approved the first phase of changes in statutes related to technical education which is now ready for legislative consideration. HB 2003 is a starting point and will lay the groundwork for potential new legislation and policy revisions to improve the postsecondary technical education system in the future. (Attachment 1)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee is scheduled for January 26, 2009.