

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 1:30 p.m. on January 29, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Ann Mah- excused  
Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Douglas Penner, President, Kansas Independent College Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative McLeland distributed copies of a letter from Reginald Robinson, President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, providing a general response about the structure of athletics within universities and colleges and how the structure of athletics and its financing varies among institutions, but indicated that Board staff would ask the universities and colleges to provide a more specific response. (Attachment 1)

Douglas Penner, President, Kansas Independent College Association, provided an overview of the independent colleges and universities in Kansas. The Association is composed of eighteen fully accredited, not-for-profit colleges and universities; sixteen are four-year baccalaureate level institutions and two are two-year associate degree colleges. Enrollment at the independent colleges range in size from fewer than 400 students to over 3,000. The total graduate and undergraduate enrollment, (full-time and part-time) for Fall 2008 was 25,274 students, or about 13.2 percent of all higher education students in the state. He discussed enrollment trends, degrees awarded, affordability and financing.

He stated that the major way in which the State of Kansas supports independent colleges is through the Kansas Comprehensive Grant received by students who attend these colleges. As tuition is a major revenue source for independent colleges, enrollment is a big concern. Two other sources of funding, earnings from endowments and annual contributions, are down in this economic environment; however, he explained that the independent colleges have more budget flexibility than the state institutions to help whether these challenging economic times. (Attachment 2)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee is scheduled for February 2, 2009.