

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 1:30 p.m. on March 5, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Joe McLeland- excused

Committee staff present:

Renaë 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:

Duane Custer, Director, Salina Area Technical College

Others attending:

See attached list.

**Hearing on SB 131 - Technical colleges; change in name or designation**

Chairman Huntington opened the hearing on **SB 131**. Renaë Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained that this bill creates a new section which would give the governing body of a technical college the power to change the name of the technical college by adoption of a resolution. If the name is changed by resolution, any designation pertaining to the technical college in any contract or other document or by statute as such statute existed prior to July 1, 2009, shall be construed to mean the name as provided in the resolution. There is no fiscal effect on the State Board of Regents. (Attachment 1)

Duane Custer, Director, Salina Area Technical College, on behalf of the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges, testified in support of **SB 131**. He explained that when Kansas established technical schools in the mid-1960's, which were governed by local school districts, the names of the technical schools became part of the approved legislation. Over the years legislation allowed the school districts to change those names, however, the new names had to be legislatively changed individually. He said this legislation by no means has the intent of changing their scope as technical colleges, only the ability for the local governing board to change the name of the institution and to allow the board to determine that designation without having to enter the new name into a legislative bill. (Attachment 2)

As there were no other conferees, the hearing on **SB 131** was closed.

**Discussion on HB 2252 - Postsecondary technical education, funding**

Chairman Huntington opened discussion on **HB 2252**, requesting committee comments.

It was suggested that the committee advise the three schools--Pratt Community College, Cowley County Community College, and Dodge City Community College--to go to the House Appropriations Committee for one-year money. The House Education Budget Committee should be advised of the situation. It was felt the committee should revisit the issue next year to review the progress the Board of Regents has made to implement their new data driven approach to funding technical education. It was proposed that the Chair approach the LCC about referring this issue to the Legislative Education Planning Committee for interim work on language in the bill and well as follow up on the Board of Regents' progress on their new funding approach for technical education.

Chairman Huntington will visit with the Speaker as well as the sponsors of **HB 2252** and report back to the committee next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee is scheduled for March 10, 2009.