

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on March 4, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Tim Huelskamp- absent

Committee staff present:

Kristen Kellems, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Regent Gary Sherrer, Chair, State University Admissions Task Force

David Brant, Senior Vice President, Central National Bank, Topeka &, Admissions Task Force

Member

Jonathan Krueger, ESU Student Government Legislative Director &, Admissions Task Force

Member

Jackie Vietti, President, Butler Community College (written only)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on HB 2197 - State educational institutions; admission standards

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, provided a summary of the proposed legislation. She stated **HB 2197** was introduced by the Committee on Higher Education at the request of the State Board of Regents. The bill amends K.S.A. 76-717 which establishes the minimum standards for admission to a state educational institution. Under the bill, a resident who graduated from a non-accredited school would qualify for admission if the applicant has a composite ACT score of not less than 21 points or upon reaching age 21. In addition, a non-resident who graduated from a non-accredited school would qualify for admission if the applicant has a composite ACT score of not less than 21 points.

Under current law, institutions may admit resident transfer students who do not meet the minimum standard of 24 credit hours of transferrable work with a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale. The bill would create a separate category of exception to the minimum admission standard for resident transfer students. The number of students that may be admitted under this provision cannot exceed 10% of the total number of resident transfer admissions. Institutions may admit non-resident transfer students who do not meet the minimum standard of 24 credit hours of transferrable work with a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale. The bill would create a separate category of exception to the minimum admission standard for nonresident transfer students. The number of students that may be admitted under this provision cannot exceed 10% of the total number of nonresident transfer admissions.

The Board is required to adopt rules and regulations prescribing criteria and guidelines to be applied on a system-wide basis to policies adopted by institutions for the purpose of admitting students as exceptions to the minimum standards. Also under current law, the Board is required to submit to the legislature a report containing the number of students admitted as exceptions to the minimum standards. The bill would extend these requirements to each of the categories of allowable exceptions to the minimum standards.

The bill would delete the requirement that the pre-college curriculum include one unit in the field of computer technology. Under subsection (f), the bill would authorize the Board to adopt standards for the admission of students which differ from the standards listed in subsection (a). Any rules and deregulations which provide for standards which exceed those listed in subsection (a), could not be effective prior to academic year 2014-2015.

Regent Gary Sherrer, Chair, State University Admissions Task Force, (Attachment 1) testified as a proponent

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on March 4, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

of **HB 2197**. He stated the largest part of the bill would give the Regents the power to establish admissions standards. He stated this change does not represent a transfer of power; rather it puts the responsibility and accountability for admissions standards with the Regents. The responsibility for admissions standards residing in a Regents-like body is common across the U.S. Kansas is unique in its approach to state university admissions, and is the only state found that places the responsibility for admissions standards with the Legislature. He stated it is not about creating higher standards but about creating better standards.

David Brant, Senior Vice President, Central National Bank, Topeka, and Admissions Task Force Member, ([Attachment 2](#)) also spoke in support of the proposed legislation. Jonathan Krueger, Emporia State University Student Government Legislative Director, and Admissions Task Force Member, ([Attachment 3](#)) spoke in support of **HB 2197**. His testimony included support of the proposal to remove the computer technology requirement in the existing pre-college curriculum as an integrated approach to technology is currently used in almost every high school now. He also stated the current admissions standards for home schooled and non-accredited high school students of having to be admitted through the exception window is unnecessary and creates a negative perception to families and students. Jackie Vietti, President, Butler Community College, ([Attachment 4](#)) provided written testimony of the proposed legislation.

The hearing on **HB 2197** was closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.