

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The second meeting of the day was called to order by Chairperson Dwayne Umbarger at 3:00 p.m. on March 25, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Paul West, Legislative Research
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Kim Wilcox, President and CEO, KS Board of Regents
Dr. Jackie Vietti, President, Butler County Community College
Senator Dave Jackson
Tim Emert, Attorney and former Senator
Charles T. Engel, Chairman, Washburn Univ. Board of Regents
Jerry B. Farley, President, Washburn University

Others attending:

SB647–Kansas higher education coordination act amendments

Kim Wilcox, President, Kansas Board of Regents, spoke in favor of **SB647**. New relationships between the governing boards, institutions and legislature have developed since the implementation of the Higher Education Coordination Act of 1999. The board feels it is now time to recraft the system, with emphasis on performance, accountability, refining and redefining roles and responsibilities. ([Attachment 1](#))

Dr. Jackie Vietti, President of Butler County Community College spoke in favor of **SB647**. Dr. Vietti believes **SB647** provides adjustments to **SB345** that will enable the Kansas Board of Regents to exercise the authority necessary for a coordinated system of higher education. ([Attachment 2](#))

Senator Dave Jackson gave testimony in opposition to **SB647** as introduced. ([Attachment 3](#)) Senator Jackson provided a signed statement from the entire Shawnee County Legislative Delegation expressing their unanimous opposition to the proposals currently contain in **SB647**. ([Attachments 4](#))

Former Senator Tim Emert shared his views on **SB647**. Years were spent in crafting **SB345** and he is concerned that the delicate balances written into the Kansas Higher Education Coordination Act be protected and maintained. The act was meant to coordinate, not control. Senator Emert's concerns are listed in his attachment. The bill proposes significant changes and he urges that the bill receive more study. ([Attachment 5](#))

Representative Annie Keuther represents the area of Washburn University and stated that she has many of the same concerns as Senator Emert and will not go into detail as the Committee has the delegation letter and she will be followed by representatives of Washburn University who will state those concerns. She believes there are a lot of issues to be dealt with in the bill. ([no attachment](#))

Charles T. Engel, Vice Chairman, Washburn University Board of Regents, addressed the Committee on background of **SB345** and the numerous areas of agreement between the Washburn Board of Regents and the Kansas Board of Regents regarding the successful implementation of the provision of **SB345**. Mr. Engel stated Washburn University's position on **SB345** and explained specific concerns regarding the proposals contained in **SB647**. ([Attachment 6](#))

Jerry B. Farley, President, Washburn University, stated that rather than oppose **SB647**, they are proposing amendments which, in their judgment, accomplish the stated goals of the Kansas Board of Regents, while at the same time preserving the spirit and intent of coordination and cooperation as originally embodied in **SB345**. The amendments are explained in the attachment. ([Attachment 7](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION at on March 25, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Chairman Umbarger stated it has been recommended that **SB647** be sent to an interim committee and that will be taken into consideration.

The Committee will meet at 1:00 tomorrow, March 26.

Adjourned 5:14 p.m.