

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 p.m. on February 2, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Annie Kuether- absent
Representative Roger Reitz- excused
Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Debra Hollon, Legislative Research
Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes
Susan Allen, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Robert Masters, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Sheila Frahm, Kansas Association of Community Colleges
Jacqueline Vietti, President., Butler County Community College
Pat Jonason, Professor, Johnson County Community College
Michele Bach, Professor, Kansas City Kansas Community College

Others attending:

See Attached List.

The Chairman asked the Committee for the introduction of new bills.

Representative Sue Storm moved for the formulation of a bill that would clarify language in existing statutes involving cases where a tuition waiver is granted to the dependents of a public safety workers who die in the line of duty; the new language would allow the surviving spouse to be eligible for the tuition waiver. The motion was seconded by Representative Neighbor. The motion carried.

HB 2511: A bill by Higher Education transfers of community college programs to state educational institutions.

The Chairman opened hearings on **HB 2511**.

Dr. Robert Masters of the Kansas Board of Regents offered testimony on **HB 2511**. Dr. Masters testified that no Kansas statute exists that prevents the transfer of an academic program from a Community College to a State educational institution; and therefore the Kansas Board of Regents does not feel that the legislation is necessary (Attachment 1).

Representatives Horst, Phelps, and Johnson asked Dr. Masters questions regarding the transfer of programs from the Community Colleges to another State educational institution. Dr. Masters replied that in the recent history there had been only one such request, and there was no history of a program not being accepted. Chairman Sloan asked Ms. Frahm to clarify Community College funding. Ms. Shelia Frahm responded that the funding formula does not differentiate between lower and higher cost programs.

Written testimony was presented by Sheila Frahm, Kansas Association of Community Colleges (Attachment 2).

There being no further questions, the Chairman closed the hearings on **HB 2511**.

The Chairman asked for the presentation by the Developmental Education Panel.

Dr. Jacqueline Vietti, President of Butler County Community College, presented testimony on developmental education and its necessity in Community College curriculum, referring specifically to "No One To Waste," a book by Robert H. McCabe. Dr. Vietti also presented data specific to Kansas Community Colleges regarding the recent enrollment in development courses (Attachment 3).