

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 1:42 p.m. on March 18, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley (excused)

Committee staff present:

Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research  
Debra Hollon, Legislative Research  
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Judy Steinlicht, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Bill Hall, Chairman, Citizens for Higher Education  
William Taylor, Member, Citizens for Higher Education

Others attending:

See Attached List

### **Overview on Funding Needs for Kansas Colleges and Universities**

Bill Hall, Chairman, Citizens for Higher Education (CHE) introduced Bill Taylor and Bill Musgrave. Citizens for Higher Education is a group of citizens around the state of Kansas that are concerned about the funding of higher education. The group was formed about a year ago and spent the last year doing research using a firm, MGT, out of Austin, Texas, that does research in the higher education field and they also worked with the state budget office to help them understand the funding of higher education within the state of Kansas.

Bill Hall stated they believe there is a enormous link between economic development in the state and our institutions of higher education. Economic prosperity has evolved from bigger and better farms in the 19th century to bigger and better factories in the 20th century and to bigger and better ideas in the 21st century. The employment trends have shifted from farms and manufacturing to knowledge based employment. In 1981, a college graduate with a bachelor's degree earned \$6,897 more than a high school graduate. In 2001, a college graduate with a bachelor's degree earned \$23,828 more than a high school graduate.

Bill Taylor showed another study commissioned by CHE that was completed by a group of economists called Northstar Economics of Wisconsin. The study determined the economic impact of higher education in Kansas was \$5.2 billion; that students and visitors spend nearly \$2 billion in Kansas annually, over and above tuition, fees and university supplied room and board; that jobs and sales generate over \$281 million in state income and sales tax revenue annually; that higher education is responsible for almost 116,000 jobs; and are responsible for contribution to the economic well-being of every State Senatorial District, including more than \$100 million in 16 of the 40 districts.

Bill Hall showed that Kansas funding has not kept pace with higher education inflation and enrollment growth for more than a decade; that per student state funding ranks next to last in the Big 12 states; that Kansas tuition and fees rank near the bottom in the Big 12 states; and that Kansas faculty salaries are below Big 12 state averages. CHE estimates it will take \$150 million in additional state funding to get back to 1990 levels and to equal the Big 12 state per student spending average. Also an estimated \$53 million increase in tuitions is needed to achieve parity with other Big 12 states.

The message they want to leave is that Kansas has a rich and wonderful tradition in public education. To maintain, colleges need state support. They believe the Legislature must act to assure the highest possible quality education for these and future generations of students. (Attachment 1)

In committee discussion, Mr. Hall & Mr. Taylor, were thanked for the report and for getting the business sectors involved.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE at 1:42 p.m. on March 18, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

**SB465–School District finance**

A motion made by Senator Downey to amend the language in SB465 correcting the computation of the base state aid and weighting formula. Seconded by Senator Lee. Motion carried. Copy of the corrections are attached. (Attachment 2)

Adjourned 2:22 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2004.