

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 P.M. on March 13, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor

Haley DaVee, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Bill Sneed, University of Kansas Hospital Authority

Robin Kempf, Assistant Counsel, Kansas Board of Regents

Representative Melody Miller

Senator Donald Betts

Bill Rich, Associate Dean of Washburn School of Law

Julie Ariagno

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Sloan directed the committee's attention to five sets of minutes from previous meetings and asked them to read the minutes and let the committee secretary know by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15 if there are any changes to be made. Barring any requests for changes, the minutes will be considered adopted.

Chairman Sloan opened the hearing on **SB 375 - Retirement and disability benefits of employees of state board of regents or state educational institutions under the board's management** and welcomed Bill Sneed, University of Kansas Hospital Authority, to the committee as a proponent of **SB 375**. (Attachment 1)

Robin Kempf, Associate General Counsel for Kansas Board of Regents, was welcomed to the committee to testify in support of **SB 375**. (Attachment 2) She noted that the bill would clean up unintended consequences from the 2005 Legislative session's changes to make the Board of Regents' long term disability benefit program consistent with the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Representative Pottorf asked a question.

Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **SB 275** and opened the hearing on **HB 2864 - Chester I. Lewis Scholarship Program** and welcomed Representative Melody Miller to the committee to testify as a proponent. Representative Miller provided the committee with a brief introduction of the bill and why it would be beneficial to the state of Kansas.

Senator Donald Betts was welcomed to the committee to testify in support of **HB 2864**. (Attachment 3) He suggested that the bill would provide incentives for minority individuals to attend Kansas law schools, while also guaranteeing increased diversity of lawyers in Kansas by requiring scholarship recipients to practice law in Kansas for five years.

Julie Ariagno, testifying on behalf of Judge Eric Yost, who was unable to attend, was welcomed to the committee as a proponent of **HB 2864**. (Attachment 4) Chairman Sloan then welcomed William Rich, Professor of Law and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs of Washburn University School of law, to testify as a proponent of **HB 2864**. (Attachment 5)

Chairman Sloan drew the committee's attention to neutral written testimony submitted by the Kansas Board of Regents. (Attachment 6) Representatives Storm, Horst, Hill, and Sloan asked questions and provided comments on the bill.

The hearing on **HB 2864** was closed and Chairman Sloan turned the committee's attention to **SB 375 - Retirement and disability benefits of employees of state board of regents or state educational**

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Higher Education Committee at 3:30 P.M. on March 13, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

institutions under the board's management.

Representative Menghini introduced an amendment that would allow universities to allot the same benefits to classified and unclassified employees as related to leave time. (Attachment 7)

Representative Menghini moved that her amendment to SB 375 be adopted. Representative Horst seconded the motion.

Representatives Pottorf and Krehbiel offered comments.

The motion carried.

Representative Horst moved that SB 375 be passed as amended. Representative Kelsey seconded the motion.

The motion carried. Chairman Sloan asked that Representative Menghini carry the bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2006 at 3:30 in Rm. 231-N.