

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 1:30 p.m. on January 14, 2009, in Room 786 in the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research

Rena Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes

Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

Others attending:

See attached list.

There were no requests for introduction of committee bills.

Staff provided a brief history and overview of higher education in Kansas. It was explained that the nine-member Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board for the state's six public universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state's 32 public higher education institutions (six state universities, a municipal university, nineteen community colleges, and six technical colleges). In addition, the board administers the state's student financial aid, adult education, GED, and career and technical education programs. The board also authorizes private proprietary schools and out-of state institutions to operate in Kansas, and administers the Kan-ed network, a statewide network that provides broadband Internet access and distance learning capabilities for schools, hospitals, and libraries. (Attachments 1 and 2)

Committee members asked if there was an organizational chart of higher education institutions; requested briefings or information on higher education Post Audit Reports and action taken in response to the reports; whether technical schools are meeting associate degree requirements; the Legislature's authority in possible consolidation of community colleges; and a review of the Governor's budget cuts to higher education institutions.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee is scheduled for January 20, 2009.