

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Schwartz at 9:00 A.M. on April 2, 2007, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Virginia Beamer - excused
Representative Mitch Holmes - excused
Representative Harold Lane - excused
Representative Tom Sawyer - excused
Representative Kevin Yoder - excused
Representative Jason Watkins - excused
Representative Kay Wolf - excused

Committee staff present:

J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
Becky Krahl, Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Legislative Research Department
Aaron Klaassen, Legislative Research Department
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Chief of Staff
Shirley Jepson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Edward H. Hammond, President, Fort Hays State University
Dr. Mark Bannister, Director of the Information, Networking and Telecommunications Department, Fort Hays State University
Colonel Scott Dold, Executive Support Staff Officer, Kansas Air National Guard
Kathleen Olsen, Government Relations, Kansas Bankers Association
Trudy Aron, American Institute of Architects
Dr. Reginald Robinson, President, Board of Regents

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Presentation by Dr. Edward H. Hammond
- Attachment 2 Testimony in support of **HB 2593** by Trudy Aron
- Attachment 3 Written testimony in opposition to **HB 2593** from Kansas Contractors Association

Chair Schwartz moved to introduce legislation concerning workforce development. The motion was seconded by Representative Tafanelli. Motion carried.

Chair Schwartz recognized Dr. Edward H. Hammond, President, Fort Hays State University, who presented information on a proposal for a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education at Fort Hays State University (FHSU) (Attachment 1). Dr. Hammond noted that the National Security Agency (NSA) is currently in the process of establishing centers in all 50 states. Kansas is one of 15 states across the nation who do not presently have a NSA center. There is a growing need to secure the digital networks and data storage systems of businesses, governmental units, medical, law enforcement agencies, public safety agencies, military sector and the biosciences across the country. Fort Hays State University has approval from the Board of Regents to move forward to establish the NSA center to provide information, training, certification and degrees, both undergraduate and graduate. FHSU's request for \$532,536 in State General Funds is included in the Governor's budget recommendation for the FHSU FY 2008 budget. The Education Budget Committee has requested that this funding be reviewed during Omnibus.

Dr. Hammond introduced Dr. Mark Bannister, Director of the Information, Networking and Telecommunications Department at FHSU, who stated that to date \$800,000 in federal monies has been received by FHSU for the implementation of the Information Assurance program. Dr. Bannister noted that FHSU is the only Cisco Academy Training Center (CATC) in a seven-state region and has an industry partnership with a number of businesses involved in the information technology

CONTINUATION SHEET

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field.

Chair Schwartz recognized Colonel Scott Dold, Executive Support Staff Officer, Kansas Air National Guard, who stated that the program addressed by FHSU fits well into the security program of the National Guard. The education to be provided by the University will be invaluable for the recruitment of future employees.

Responding to a question from the Committee, Dr. Hammond stated that federal funding is provided for equipment and research. State funding is needed to fund staffing for the program.

The Chair recognized Kathleen Oleen, Kansas Bankers Association, who reported that the Association is supportive of the FHSU program, noting that every bank in Kansas is required to have an information technology officer. The Bankers Association has an annual conference each year to provide information on the latest technology to bankers across Kansas.

Continued Hearing on HB 2593 - Postsecondary institutions; infrastructure improvement projects; financing.

Vice-Chair Tafanelli recognized Trudy Aron, Executive Director, American Institute of Architects (AIA), who presented testimony in support of **HB 2593**. Ms. Aron stated that although they support the legislation in general, AIA has concerns as noted in her testimony ([Attachment 2](#)). AIA requests that attention be given to Section 10 (pages 5-6) believing that this will add time and cost to a project and request that the language in Section 11 be stricken from the bill.

Vice-Chair Tafanelli recognized Dr. Reginald Robinson, President, Board of Regents, who continued his testimony from March 28, 2007, in opposition to **HB 2593**. With regard to questions from the Committee by Dr. Robinson responses included:

- Supports the payment of crumbling classroom bonds.
- Opposes the use of tuition funds for deferred maintenance funding.
- Opposes the movement of funding support from the state level to local counties by imposing additional sales tax.
- The legislation allows for community colleges to participate in the revolving loan program.
- Latest proposal removes all athletic facilities, resident halls from the maintenance schedule.
- Regent university presidents were asked to priority projects and focus on academic buildings.
- 20 percent of student tuition is used to fund need-based financial aid tuition.
- Concern that increasing out-of-state tuition will affect the ability to attract out-of-state students.
- Academic buildings on the priority list of deferred maintenance items could include offices.
- Determined that the system could appropriately spend \$100 million on an annual basis.
- Original request of \$600 million for deferred maintenance projects was an estimate.
- Supports House position of providing \$76.6 million for deferred maintenance projects and additional funding for technology upgrades.

Written testimony in opposition to **HB 2593** was received from the Kansas Contractors Association ([Attachment 3](#)).

The hearing will be continued at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Sharon Schwartz, Chair