

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 1:30 p.m. on February 10, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:
Representative Ann Mah- excused

Committee staff present:
Renaë Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jennifer Horchem, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:
See attached list.

Discussion and action on HB 2004 - Regents institutions; participation in mandatory retirement plans, conditions

Chairman Huntington opened discussion on **HB 2004**. Renaë Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained that this bill would remove the option of a participant in the retirement plan of the Kansas Board of Regents who takes a leave of absence and accepts a position in the executive branch of government from continuing to participate in the Kansas Board of Regents' retirement plan. This change is necessary to ensure compliance with new federal regulations and to protect the plan's tax exempt status. There would be no immediate fiscal effect.

Representative Rhoades moved to recommend **HB 2004** favorably for passage. Seconded by Representative Palmer, the motion carried.

Discussion and action on HB 2007 - State educational institutions; waiver fees and tuition at undergraduate and graduate levels

Chairman Huntington opened discussion on **HB 2007**. Renaë Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained that this legislation would allow state universities, as authorized by the Kansas Board of Regents, to provide scholarships, fellowships, and tuition and fee waivers to undergraduate and graduate students. The bill would have no fiscal effect on the Board or state universities.

Kathy Damron, University of Kansas, and Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, submitted information concerning **HB 2007**. (Attachments 1 and 2, respectively)

Representative Rhoades, seconded by Representative Horst, moved to recommend **HB 2007** favorably for passage.

Representative McLeland offered a substitute motion to amend **HB 2007** to limit the tuition and fee waiver only to children of alumni that live out of state. The motion was seconded by Representative Horst. Discussion ensued. The substitute motion failed.

Back on the original motion to recommend **HB 2007** favorably for passage, motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee is scheduled for February 11, 2009.