

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 1:30 p.m. on March 17, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Joe McLeland- excused  
Representative Valdenia Winn- 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:

Susan Helbert, Assistant Director, Teacher Education and Licensure, Kansas Department of Education  
Dr. Judith Hayes, Director, Transition to Teaching, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Wichita State University  
Sister Frances Juliano, University of Saint Mary  
Mark Desetti, Director of Legislative Advocacy, Kansas National Education Association  
Dr. Gary Alexander, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents (written only)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Susan Helbert, Assistant Director, Teacher Education and Licensure, Kansas Department of Education, brought the committee up to date on the restricted teaching license alternative program intended to respond to school districts' needs in hiring qualified, licensed teachers. She explained that this program provides an opportunity for those individuals who have a bachelor's or master's degree in a content area they want to teach an opportunity to have immediate access to start teaching under a restricted license while completing professional education pedagogy course work to become licensed. The restricted licensure program began at Wichita State University in 1992 with one applicant; this year there are 404 teachers in the program statewide. To date a total of 570 restricted teaching licenses have been issued. (Attachment 1)

Dr. Judith Hayes, Director, Transition to Teaching, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Wichita State University, discussed WSU's restricted teaching license alternative program. She stated that all alternative licensure candidates meet the same academic rigor as in the traditional undergraduate teacher preparation program. WSU's leadership, supported through grant monies, is enabling collaboration and support for quality alternative licensure programs across the state. She reported on Project KNOTtT (Kansas, Nevada, Ohio, Texas - Transition to Teaching), a national initiative beginning in each of the KNOT states. She said that WSU is working with other outstanding alternative licensure programs across the nation on a national task force to develop a set of quality indicators that can be used to assess any alternative program. She reported that they are tracking results of the alternative licensure program, but don't have enough data at this time. Copies of *Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification* from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, were distributed. (Attachment 2)

Sister Frances Juliano, University of Saint Mary, offered comments on their restricted teaching license alternative program.

Mark Desetti, Director of Legislative Advocacy, Kansas National Education Association, said that KNEA very much supports the alternative licensure program. Quality teacher preparation and licensing are not about the route chosen, but about the training and experiences those programs provide. KNEA believes all prospective teachers should be trained through quality preparation programs and licensed through systems based on high and consistent professional standards. Collaborative efforts between school districts and institutions of higher learning are essential. He felt alternative teacher preparation programs should be treated like an IEP, which may not be the same for every prospective teacher. Copies of *Great Teachers for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools: A realistic plan to address the recruitment and retention of teachers* were distributed and may be obtained from the Kansas National Education Association. (Attachment 3)

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Higher Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on March 17, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

Dr. Gary Alexander, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents, submitted written comments regarding actions taken to promote collaboration between the Kansas Board of Regents and Kansas State Department of Education staff in the area of teacher education, including alternative certification programs. He provided examples of the alternative certification programs currently offered by the state's six public universities. The Board and KSDE are committed to a strategic collaboration that will enhance each agency's ability to meet the state's need for effective teacher education. (Attachment 4)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m. This was the last scheduled meeting of the House Higher Education Committee for the 2009 Legislative Session.