

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 P.M. on February 6, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Eber Phelps- 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:

Representative Dennis McKinney

Representative Richard Kelsey

Dr. Herb Frasier, President, Barclay College

Zane Raber, Barclay College Student

Sarah Raber, Barclay College Student

Jessica Windorski, Barclay College Student

Jake Stahlman, Barclay College Student

Sean Gatewood

Mary Prewitt, General Counsel, Kansas Board of Regents

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Sloan reminded the committee that the Senate Ways and Means Committee is going to hold an informational discussion on February 14th at 10:30 a.m. on the crumbling classroom issue.

Chairman Sloan opened the hearing on **HB 2695 - Kansas comprehensive grant program; students attending institutions accredited by the American Association of Bible Colleges, eligibility of.**

Chairman Sloan welcomed Representative Dennis McKinney to the committee as a proponent to **HB 2695**. The bill would allow colleges accredited by the American Association of Bible Colleges to be eligible for tuition assistance under the Kansas comprehensive grant program. He noted that high academic standards are maintained and that the budget impact on the comprehensive grant program is extremely reasonable. (Attachment 1)

Representative Kelsey appeared before the committee as a proponent for **HB 2695**. Representative Kelsey, a member of the board of trustees at Barclay College, suggested that because the Association for Biblical Higher Education is recognized by the federal department of education, they should also be recognized as an eligible accrediting body for the purposes of the state comprehensive grant program. (Attachment 2)

Dr. Herb Frasier, President of Barclay College, was welcomed to the committee as a proponent for **HB 2695**. He provided information on the history of the college as well as some of their achievements. Frasier illustrated how the comprehensive grant has been an important part of helping their students finance their education. (Attachment 3)

Chairman Sloan welcomed Zane and Sarah Raber, Jessica Windorski, and Jake Stahlman, students from Barclay College to the committee. (Attachment 4) They each provided information on their background and what they are studying. In addition, they thanked the committee for providing them with the Kansas Comprehensive Grant.

Chairman Sloan called the committee's attention to written testimony submitted by Doug Penner, Kansas Independent College Association (Attachment 5) and the Kansas Board of Regents. (Attachment 6)

Chairman Sloan opened the floor for questions. Representatives Sloan, Storm, Horst, Carlin, and Sharp asked

CONTINUATION SHEET

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questions regarding accreditation and financing higher education. Because of the fact that the Legislature has for the last couple of the years, through provisos, provided access to this financial aid and because of the issues that were raised by the Independent College Association and the Kansas Board of Regents, the committee leadership decided to appoint a subcommittee to examine this. They appointed Representative Horst as the chairman, and Representatives Kelsey and Winn to serve on the subcommittee.

Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **HB 2695** and opened the hearing on **HB 2694 - Residency determinations at regents universities.**

Sean Gatewood was welcomed to the committee to testify as a proponent to **HB 2694**. He spoke on the difficulty his wife had in appealing her residency determination and argued that a better tool is needed to solve residency disputes. (Attachment 7)

Chairman Sloan welcomed Mary Prewitt, General Counsel for the Kansas Board of Regents, to testify as an opponent to **HB 2694**. She argued that creating a panel to deal with residency determinations would only add expense, delay, and another layer of bureaucracy to the system. (Attachment 8)

Representative Vaughn Flora spoke as a proponent on **HB 2694** and noted that something should be done to make the process more accessible and fair for the students.

The floor was opened for questions. Representative Krehbiel asked for any statistics that show that the system currently in place does not act as a "rubber stamp" for the registrar's office. Prewitt provided the following statistics from one state university: 18,969 residency determinations, 1,374 were sent on behalf of the university to the registrar's office for review, 649 were sent by students to the registrar's office for review; 74 students appealed the registrars decision to the appeals committee; 65 of these were denied; 7 of these appealed to the district court; and in 5 cases the district court upheld the decision of the registrar's office. Additional questions were asked by Representatives Huff, Kuether, Horst, and Pottorf.

Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **HB 2694** and adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2006 at 3:30 in Rm. 231-N.