

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 P.M. on January 26, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor
Linda Reed, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Reginald Robinson, President and CEO of Kansas Board of Regents

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Sloan called the meeting to order.

Kip Peterson, Director of Government Relations and Communications provided information to the Committee requested from the January 12, 2005 committee meeting, setting out the structure of the council's Regents Board. (Attachment 1) Mr. Peterson noted that responses to questions presented by Representative Hill regarding Voc Tech funding will be provided at a later date.

Chairman Sloan welcomed Reginald Robinson, President and CEO of Kansas Board of Regents. Mr. Robinson addressed the committee on the Regent's legislative initiatives. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Sloan opened the floor to questions. Representative Horst asked Mr. Robinson to explain the enhancement program for the Regents Distinguished Professors program, and how increases are determined. Representative Huff questioned Mr. Robinson regarding required funding to keep the Regent's doors open. Chairman Sloan asked that Mr. Robinson provide those figures to the committee. Chairman Sloan also asked that Mr. Robinson provide at a later date to the committee, a report on the progress of community colleges in bringing students up to basic educational levels. This issue was also discussed in committee last session.

The Chairman opened the hearing on:

HB 2072: Authorizing tuition and fee waivers for certain military personnel and dependents.

Representative Johnson presented testimony regarding **HB 2072**. Representative Johnson provided to the Committee comparisons of death benefit compensation for families of military persons killed while performing his/her duty to the private and government monies afforded to dependents of the 9/11 event. Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor, stated that this bill was essentially passed last year by this committee and the full house.

Representative Johnson responded to questions asked by Representative Pottorff, Representative Carlin and Representative Craft regarding the carry over of the bill from last year, a breakdown of qualifications to qualify as military missing in action and soldiers killed in the line of duty.

Chairman Sloan appointed a Sub-Committee to address questions arising from the discussion about how the state may help military persons and their dependents in a tangible manner. He appointed Representative Johnson, Representative Krehbiel, and Representative Menghini as members to work with the appropriate persons, including the Revisor, to accomplish this objective.

There were no further questions and Chairman Sloan adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. in RM. 231-N.