

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 P.M. on March 9, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Jordan  
Donald Norwood, PhD  
Professor Jerry Maglaine - Johnson County College  
Bill Taylor - Citizens for Higher Education  
Bill Hael - Citizens for Higher Education

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Sloan opened the hearing on **SB 139, Authorizing state board of regents to establish the Kansas academy of mathematics and science (KAMS).**

Senator Jordan provided introductory comments regarding **SB 139**. Senator Jordan stated that **SB 139** would encourage and allow our brightest science and math students to accelerate their education and fulfill their dreams. This program would allow them to move into a college setting after their high school sophomore year by receiving college-level instruction.

Chairman Sloan opened the floor to questions.

Chairman Sloan asked Senator Jordan to elaborate on the funds and future of the Emporia State University program for female high school students currently funded using NSF money's.

Professor Maglaine responded to questions from Representatives' Pottorff, Otto, and Horst regarding summer academies and the process used for selecting students for the academy.

Chairman Sloan welcomed Don Norwood, PhD and Jerry Maglaine, Professor at Johnson County Community College who provided testimony to the Committee as proponents of KAMS (Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science). Mr. Maglaine stated KAMS would form the foundation for future math and science scholars and would be a source of talent for science and biotechnology initiatives in the State of Kansas. Mr. Maglaine stated that with the completion of KAMS a student should receive an Associate of Science degree similar to going through the first two years of community college which would then position them for entering universities at the Junior class level of college work. Mr. Maglaine stated that **SB 139** contains the suggested procedure for selecting students for KAMS, which as he understood it, is open for further discussion and analysis. (Attachment 1)

The Chairman opened the floor to questions.

Representatives' Pottorff, Huff, Storm and Sharp raised questions about programs implemented in other states and questioned how students would be affected in other classes.

Representative Kuether commended the program, but stated her concerns about budget issues regarding education this session.

Representative Horst stated to Professor Maglaine that with the advanced technology available today, would on-line seminars be considered instead, thus keeping students in their home school districts.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Higher Education Committee at 3:30 P.M. on March 9, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Representative Carlin noted her concern regarding funding issues. Representative Carlin stated that she understood funding would come through private business and private enterprise. Professor Maglano stated that outside funding would be coming into play, with businesses wanting to fund scholarships.

With no further questions, Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **SB 139**.

Chairman Sloan noted information provided by Mary Galligan, regarding the Redevelopment on **HB 2489** in response to Representative Krehbiel's previous request. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Sloan welcomed Bill Taylor and Bill Hael who presented testimony on behalf of the **Citizens for Higher Education**. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Hael presented a power point presentation citing their group's concern regarding the erosion of public funding in higher education, which will lead to the deterioration in quality of our higher education institutions, ultimately damaging Kansas' economy. (Attachment 3)

Mr. Hael stated that higher education and economic growth are linked to a knowledge based economy. Today we need to think of education not as K-12 but as pre-K through 16. It is absolutely imperative that you have a college education, either through the community college system or through the university system, in order to compete today and into the future.

Mr. Hael stated that we believe very strongly that this is not just a problem of public funding, it is also a problem of raising our tuition at the same time. We need to move in tandem. We should not be switching the burden to the parents or children by moving what has been a public responsibility over to a private responsibility where kids are coming out of universities with significant debt. The goal of Citizens for Higher Education is to identify and mobilize business leaders and to build public awareness in support of higher funding levels for public education.

Chairman Sloan invited the Committee to make suggestions on how the Citizens for Higher Education could more effectively reach whatever target audiences they need to reach to accomplish their goals.

Representative Pottorff questioned Mr. Hael regarding money resources for The Citizens for Higher Education organization. Mr. Hael stated that money is coming all from private sources. Mr. Hael listed Hallmark Cards, City Council of Greater KC, and two private individuals as significant donors.

There were no further questions and Chairman Sloan adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. in Rm. 231-N.