

Approved: 2/1/94
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 1:15 p.m. on January 31, 1994 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
LaVonne Mumert, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Phyllis Nolan, Louisburg
Dr. Catherine Conger, Iola

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Corbin made a motion that the minutes of the January 26 and 27, 1994 meetings be approved. Senator Emert seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Chairman Kerr announced that the Committee would interview Phyllis Nolan and Dr. Catherine Conger, recent appointees to the Board of Regents.

Phyllis Nolan described her background and qualifications. She was born in Nebraska and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska and her MBA from Rockhurst College. Ms. Nolan said that she has a long standing interest and involvement in education, she has a business aptitude and practical business experience, she has been involved in forming and coalescing teams around strategic missions and she has a desire to share her good fortune by giving back in service to the public.

Ms. Nolan taught high school math for three years and then joined Hallmark Corporation, where she has been employed for 28 years. She has served both Rockhurst College and Emporia State University as a council member. Ms. Nolan advised that she directs a staff of 60 people, deals with large operating budgets and is experienced in bringing together diverse groups to deliver a common mission. She noted that she has been involved in re-engineering and redirecting business processes at Hallmark and has been active in a number of community and civic organizations.

Ms. Nolan responded to questions from Committee members and said she is committed to giving the time necessary to serve as a member of the Board of Regents. She said that, while she wants to study the issue of qualified admissions further, her first information indicates that there is a very high attrition rate at the freshman level. With regard to Washburn University joining the Regents system, her first impression is that it makes sense that there be some state oversight since the state contributes about 25 percent of the school's budget. She said she is interested in making faculty salaries competitive with the private sector but she does not yet have a good sense of faculty workdays, contributions and efforts. Ms. Nolan sees the executive director of the Board of Regents as advisory to the board and feels it is incumbent on a board of this level to act in a strong capacity and be very involved in the issues. With reference to efforts to organize university teaching faculty, she would prefer that grievances be dealt with in a straightforward way to keep the system as simple as possible. Ms. Nolan said that once the future mission has been identified and agreed upon, reallocation is a must. She complimented the Board of Regents' staff in their efforts to familiarize and orient new members. She said it is her understanding that a Kansas Bureau of Investigation background check was conducted.

Dr. Catherine Conger said that she is a native Kansan and began her postsecondary education at William Jewell College. She has attended two out-of-state schools, received degrees from Pittsburg State University,

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 123-S Statehouse, at 1:15 p.m. on January 31, 1994.

Emporia State University and Kansas State University and has taken classes at each Regents institution except Fort Hays State University. Dr. Conger has been a school counselor and school psychologist and is presently a building administrator at a K-6 program and lectures part-time at Pittsburg State University. She has been active in a number of educational and counseling organizations.

In responding to questions from Committee members, Dr. Conger said there has been progress in resolving problems in transferring credits from one institution to another but coordination needs to be refined and attention given to developing equivalent criteria. She believes that efforts are being made to improve teacher training and noted that it is important that graduates of schools of education have a good understanding of Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA), telecommunications and technology. She added that better communication between the schools of education and practitioners would be helpful. Dr. Conger discussed the importance of "good advising" for both high school students and postsecondary students. She said it is her understanding that a Kansas Bureau of Investigation background check was not conducted but a police record check was done. Dr. Conger said she has discussed the time commitment for this position with the administration in her school district, and they are willing to make the necessary accommodations. She stressed that remediation should be available somewhere if remedial courses are eliminated at the Regents schools and/or qualified admissions requirements are adopted. Dr. Conger also complimented the staff of the Board of Regents in their assistance to the new members.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 1994.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:35 PLACE: 123-S DATE: 1/31/94

GUEST LIST

NAME	ADDRESS	ORGANIZATION
Libby Quaid		AP
Z. Golder		Capital Journal
Stephen Jordan		K-2 Bd of Regents
John Montgomery		Ks Bd of Regents
Theresa Nolan		Ks Bd of Regents
Catherine Conger		Ks Bd of Regents
TED AYRES	Topeka	REGENTS STAFF
Thomas Mersten		Senate Oversight Conf
George Winger		Gov. Office
Simon Chas	Topeka	KNEA
Leslie Anderson	Topeka	USA of KS
Britt Nichols	110 South Cherry Olathe	Citizen
Hal Newson	Topeka	NFIB/Kansas
Ruth A. Schrum	Manhattan	Kansas
Neil E. Schrum	Manhattan	Kansas