

Approved: 2/2/94  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

All members were present except: Senator Sherman Jones (Excused)

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:  
Dr. Karen Krepps, Leawood  
Tom Hammond, Wichita

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Kerr announced that the Committee would interview Dr. Karen Krepps and Tom Hammond, recent appointees to the Board of Regents.

Dr. Karen Krepps, Leawood, described her background in telecommunications, business and education. She received her B.A., M.Ed. and Ph.D. from Wayne State University in Michigan. She taught in grades 4 through high school and became interested in the administrative aspect of education. After working for AT&T, she had a series of jobs with Michigan Bell. After joining Sprint, she moved to Kansas and is now the Vice President for Human Resources and is responsible for training and education support for 52,000 employees and a \$150 million capital budget. She has lived in Kansas a total of about seven or eight years. Dr. Krepps said she has served on various educational boards and is currently on the board of The Learning Exchange. She said that the world of work is changing dramatically and the educational system is not keeping up with the change.

Dr. Krepps answered questions of Committee members. She advised that her organization at Sprint has been restructured in order to allow her to make the time commitment to serve on the Board of Regents. She said that she views the staff of the Board of Regents as working for the board and that the board is responsible for decision-making. With regard to educational instructional changes, Dr. Krepps stated that she does not yet know what the structure should be but feels that there needs to be an overall, "tied together" system with a mission and goal. In hiring new employees who are university graduates, she has found the greatest deficiencies to be the inability to work in teams and the lack of good written communications skills. For the Sprint employees, she is delivering courses in writing skills, project management, speaking skills and general interpersonal skills; and she added that the most important ability for employees is in the area of analysis and problem solving. She explained that Sprint trains in very similar areas for nongraduate employees, but at a lesser level. The greatest deficiencies she sees in working with The Learning Exchange relate to the social ills of large metropolitan areas and the skills of administrators and teachers. Senator Downey asked what percentage of the total budget is used for retraining, and Dr. Krepps said she would obtain that information and provide it. She told the Committee that she is a supporter of qualified admissions for two reasons: the issue of readiness and the dilution of the focus of university education if students are not serious about education, however, she stressed that secondary schools must be effective in their preparation of students.

Tom Hammond described himself as a Kansas native who graduated from the University of Kansas and Washburn Law School. He is an attorney in Wichita whose practice is primarily in the area of labor law, personal injury litigation and worker's compensation. His interest in higher education stems from the desire to ensure that his children have the same opportunities and future he had and also from observing the problems caused when people lose their jobs due to downsizing or reorganization and have no skills or abilities to transfer into other jobs. Mr. Hammond said his law partners will assume some of his responsibilities in order

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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

to permit him the time needed to serve on the Board of Regents.

Mr. Hammond was asked about Washburn University joining the Regents system. He said he feels it is in the best interests of everyone for Washburn to be a Regents institutions but he is not certain whether the current proposal is the plan that should be used. He stated that he is leaning towards supporting qualified admissions. Mr. Hammond said he is against denying access to people but he has no problem with making sure that people that attend college are qualified. He noted that he is not sure that remedial courses can be completely eliminated at the universities but he feels they can be substantially reduced. Mr. Hammond said it is his expectation that the staff of the Board of Regents would supply information and potential recommendations to the board members, then interested groups would give their information to the board and the board would base its decisions on what is best for the state of Kansas as a whole. He agreed that the Regents institutions should lend their resources to finding possible solutions for social problems that face society.

The Committee was provided with a letter in support of the confirmation of Tom Hammond (Attachment No. 1).

Senator Corbin made a motion that the minutes of the January 31, 1994 meeting be approved. Senator Oleen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 1994.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:15 PLACE: 123-S DATE: 2/1/94

GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Julie Wright		Wichita Eagle
Anna Meister		Senate Conf. Oversight Comm.
Susan Chase	Topeka	KUFA
Bill Mills	LAWRENCE	INTERN - KERR
Jennifer LaMell	KU	Intern - Senator Jones
Joan Shoemaker	KU	Univ. of Kansas
Ligh Smith	KU	Intern - Salisbury
George Wengert		Gov. office
TED D. AYLES	TOPEKA	REGENTS STAFF
Tim Carpenter	Lawrence	Lawrence Journal-World
Douglas Johnston	Wichita/Hays	Planned Parenthood KS
DON LINDSEY	OSAWATOMIE	UTM
Don Quayle	Vice President	US Govt.

JAN 26

January 24, 1994

*For Committee*

Honorable Dave Kerr  
Kansas Senate  
State Capitol  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504

Dear Sen. Kerr:

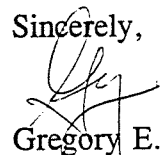
About a week ago, Governor Finney nominated Tom Hammond of Wichita to the Kansas Board of Regents. I have known Tom since our college days at K.U. (over 20 years ago). In my opinion, he is an excellent choice for the important role of a regent member and I encourage your support of his nomination.

Tom Hammond is a very intelligent, dedicated, and highly successful individual who has the talent and energies to help our regent system meet the challenges of the future. He will bring to the board a unique combination of holding an undergraduate degree from K.U., a law degree from Washburn, and a special relationship with Wichita State since he has lived and worked in Wichita for many years.

In his work with some of Wichita's largest employee unions, he has developed a loyal following of many hard working families who desire the best for their college age children. I believe once you get to know Tom, you will find him to be well suited for the regent challenge.

Although Tom and I are members of opposite political parties, I know his decisions will be made in the best interests of all Kansans without regard for political preference or school loyalties. Thank you for your consideration of supporting Tom's nomination. Please call on me if I can help Tom's nomination in any way.

Sincerely,



Gregory E. Ek  
2708 Cranberry  
Wichita, Kansas 67226

Sen. Ed.  
2/1/94  
Attachment 1