

Approved: March 8, 1994
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson August Bogina at 11:00 a.m. on March 1, 1994 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Brady, who was excused

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department
Scott Rothe, Legislative Research Department
Diane Duffy, Legislative Research Department
Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Bromich, Administrative Assistant
Ronda Miller, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Gloria Timmer, Director, Division of the Budget
Mayor Harry "Butch" Felker, Topeka
John Montgomery, Chairman, Kansas Board of Regents
Dean Ferrell, Chairman, Washburn Board of Regents
Dr. Hugh L. Thompson, President, Washburn University
Dr. Jon Wefald, President, Kansas State University
Dr. Helen McElree, Retired Professor, Emporia
Dr. Richard Bennett, Dentist from Emporia
Don Halbower, Retired Principal from Great Bend
Nate Halverson, Associated Students of Kansas

Written testimony submitted by:

Representative Denise Everhart, Shawnee County Delegation
Washburn Student Association
Washburn Alumni Association
Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce
Chuck Stuart, Retired Superintendent from Clay Center
Clay Anderson, President, ESU Alumni Association, Newton, Kansas

Others attending: See attached list

SB 779 -- WASHBURN UNIVERSITY, SEPARATE STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION UNDER STATE BOARD OF REGENTS

A memorandum from the Revisors' Office which provided an overview of SB 779 was distributed to members of the Committee (Attachment 1). The Chairman requested that, because of the large number of conferees wishing to address SB 779, questions be held until all proponents had presented their testimony. After the opponents' presentation, members would be given an opportunity to ask questions of them.

Gloria Timmer, Director of the Division of the Budget, appeared on behalf of the Governor's office in support of SB 779. She reviewed Attachment 2, and called attention to the table which provided an overview of the affiliation costs and assumptions on which they were based.

Mayor Felker testified as a proponent for SB 779 on behalf of the City of Topeka, as a member of the Washburn Board of Regents, as an appointing authority for the Board of Regents, as an alumni of Washburn undergraduate school, and as an alumni of the Washburn School of Law. He told the Committee that the City of Topeka is at the maximum mill levy allowable, there has been a drop in property valuation since 1989, and that tuition at Washburn has been adjusted accordingly. The University is undergoing program review and has written a new mission statement. He stated his fear is that the high cost of tuition will cause Washburn to become an elitist institution if it does not become a part of the Regents system. He commented that the vast

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, Room 123-S Statehouse, at 11:00 a.m. on March 1, 1994.

majority of students who attend Washburn are Kansans.

John Montgomery, Chairman of the Kansas Board of Regents, reviewed Attachment 3, indicating the support of the Board for the affiliation of Washburn University into the Regents system.

Mr. Dean Ferrell presented Attachment 4 in support of SB 779 on behalf of the Washburn University Board of Regents.

Dr. Hugh Thompson, President of Washburn University, testified as a proponent for SB 779 on behalf of Washburn University. He reviewed his written testimony found in Attachment 5.

Dr. Jon Wefald, President of Kansas State University, appeared in support of SB 779 on behalf of the Council of Presidents of the six Regents institutions. He noted that Dr. Budig (Chancellor of KU), Dr. Hughes (President of WSU), Dr. Hammond (President of FHSU), and Dr. Glennon (President of ESU) were in attendance. He reviewed Attachment 6, adding that this is the first time that all the presidents and the chancellor of the regents institutions have supported Washburn's affiliation into the system. He stated that this is also the first time that Washburn University and its board have agreed to maintain the mill levy at 18. He reminded members that the state has been putting money into Washburn University for years and, under this proposal, the state's share of Washburn's budget will always be one-third of its operating budget. He pointed out that demographers predict a 15-18% increase in the number of high school graduates from the year 1995 to 2000, and, because the larger institutions are at capacity, the state should prepare for this growth. He added that he believed it was good policy for the Kansas Board of Regents to have governance over Washburn and that the Washburn question should be addressed before trying to solve the community college and technical institutions equation.

Written testimony submitted by the following persons was distributed to the Committee:

Representative Denise Everhart, Shawnee County Delegation, Attachment 7

Pat Birbeck, President, Washburn Student Association, Attachment 8

Joyce Albert, President, Washburn Alumni Association, Attachment 9

John Atchley, Chairman of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce Board, Attachment 10

Senator Kerr observed that SB 779 sets in statute the schools that would be part of Washburn under the Regents system, and inquired why it would not be important for the Board of Regents to have the authority to make program decisions. According to Mr. Ted Ayres, Board of Regents, the intent of the legislation is to assure Washburn University that the institution can come into the system on July 1, 1997 with existing undergraduate programs, but the statute is not intended to limit the Regents' ability to review or change programs after that date.

In answer to Senator Kerr, John Montgomery stated that there is no long range plan for structuring post secondary education in Kansas, but added that he did not believe it was the prerogative of the Board to formulate a plan on their own. Senator Bogina inquired how Washburn University would fit into the Partnership for Excellence plan. Mr. Montgomery stated that if Kansas was able to fund faculty salaries relative to peer institutions, Washburn would like to stay at that level too, but they understood there was no guarantee.

Senator Vancrum expressed concern that Topekan in the future would request to have the 18 mill levy reduced. Mayor Felker told members that the City Council had unanimously adopted a resolution in support of SB 779 after weighing the 18 mill levy against what the University provides for the community in terms of the physical plant, the payroll, and the enrollment. The Chairman called attention to Representative Everhart's written testimony illustrating the Shawnee County Delegation's support of the legislation.

In answer to questions regarding the Regents center, it was stated that the State Board of Regents would approve graduate courses and partnerships that would occur in the future. In answer to Senator Karr's questions regarding the future of Washburn's law school, Dr. Thompson stated that once Washburn University comes under the purview of the Board of Regents, it would be subject to the same criteria as the other institutions. He added that it was his hope that the state would move with some dispatch in the development of a master plan for higher education in Kansas.

Dr. Helen McElree, a retired professor of Biology from Emporia State University, presented testimony in opposition to SB 779 (Attachment 11). The Chairman requested that Dr. McElree provide substantiation of the statement that "the rhetoric and information which are being published and circulated are inconsistent, incomplete, misleading and for the most part, refutable." (Attachment 11-3)

Dr. Richard Bennett, Emporia, appeared before the Committee and reviewed his testimony in opposition to SB

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MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, Room 123-S Statehouse, at 11:00 a.m. on March 1, 1994.

779 (Attachment 12).

Mr. Don Halbower testified in opposition to SB 779 and reviewed Attachment 13. In response to Mr. Halbower's testimony, the Chairman expressed his opinion that the Margin of Excellence is built into the base and is still being funded. He also stated that SB 779 does not tie the improvement of faculty salaries of other institutions to the Washburn affiliation.

Nate Halverson, Chairman of the Associated Students of Kansas, presented testimony opposing of SB 779 (Attachment 14).

Written testimony from Chuck Stuart, Clay Center (Attachment 15) and from Clay Anderson, President of the Emporia State University Alumni Association (Attachment 16) was distributed to members.

The Chairman announced that Committee discussion of and action on SB 779 would be held on March 2, 1994. He adjourned the meeting at 12:53 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 1994.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: SENATE WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: March 1, 1994

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS	COMPANY/ORGANIZATION
George W. Ingert		Gov Office
Richard L. Bennett	Emporia, Ks	citizen
Melen McElree	Emporia, Ks	citizen
Wm. Holloway	Grant Bend	"
Charles L. Stuart	Clay Center	"
Julie A. Long	Topeka	AP
John Montgomery	Junction City	Bd of Regents
Stephen Jordan	Topeka, Ks	KBOB
Sueann Peterson	Manhattan	Kansas State University
Gene Budig	Lawrence	KO
Ed Hammond	Hayes	Ks
Ray Haskin	Topeka	Staff - Ks Board of Regents
Ted Ayres	Topeka	Staff - Ks Bd of Regents
Bill Hollenbeck	Pittsburg	PSU
Dan Hubert	Emporia, Ks	ESW Student
Vicki Halverson	Hayes	FHSC
Wm. Montee	Emporia	ESU
Katie Hiden	Topeka	KDHR
Dan Hermes	"	DOB
Francine Hines	Topeka	Washburn Un. Regent
Blanche Parks	Topeka	Shoshone Univ. Regent
Charlie Timken	Topeka	Citizen
Danell Timken	Topeka	Citizen
MERLE BLAIR	TOPEKA	GREATER TOPEKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
John B. Atchley	Topeka	" " "
Christy Long	Topeka	Topeka Chamber of Comm.
Russ Frey	Manhattan	KVMA
Jim Kamp	Topeka	City of Topeka
Bill Feller	Manhattan	Meach Mercury
Matthew Goddard	Topeka	Washburn Student Association
Pat Birkbeck	Topeka	Washburn Student Association
Rick Friedstrom	Topeka	WU Alum. Assoc.
Ernest Haskin	Topeka	City of Topeka
HARRY FEUCER	TOPEKA	CITY OF TOPEKA

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: SENATE WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: 11 Aug. 94

[illegible]

Memorandum

TO: Senator Bogina, Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Jim Wilson, Senior Assistant Revisor

DATE: February 15, 1994

SUBJECT: Bill to establish Washburn University of Topeka as a separate state educational institution under the State Board of Regents (3 RS 1888)

The bill draft is similar to past bills that would establish Washburn University of Topeka as a separate state educational institution under the State Board of Regents, (most recently 1993 SB 80, which was referred to Senate Committee on Education and remains there). The bill contains no references to the "Partnership for Excellence" and is not subject, by its terms, to adoption of the "Partnership." The "Partnership for Excellence" is essentially a matter of appropriating moneys from the state general fund and placing appropriate expenditure limitations on special revenue funds, in conjunction with State Board of Regents' action increasing tuition and fee rates for state educational institutions.

The first 13 new sections of the bill provide virtually all of the policies contained in the bill. Several minor policies and conforming statutory amendments are contained in the remaining sections. Major provisions, aside from the normal transition provisions which implement the incorporation of Washburn University into the Regents' system, are as follows:

- 1) Washburn University would be established as a separate state educational institution under the State Board of Regents on July 1, 1997 (FY1998).

[See New Sec. 2]

SWAM
March 1, 1994
Attachment 1

- 2) A regents center located on the campus of Washburn University and administered by the State Board of Regents is established on July 1, 1997, through which, along with the Washburn School of Law, graduate courses and programs that are made available in Shawnee county by a state educational institution will be offered. [See New Sec. 3]
- 3) On July 1, 1997, or soon thereafter not less than \$7,000,000 will be deposited to the credit of the Washburn University Support Fund in the state treasury from the assets of Washburn University of Topeka. [See New Sec. 7]
- 4) Commencing with tax year 1997 the governing body of Topeka will levy up to 3 mills for the retirement of Washburn bonds. [See New Sec. 10]
- 5) Commencing with tax year 1997 the governing body of Topeka will levy 15 mills for the purpose of operating Washburn University, including the fringe benefits of the employees. [See New Sec. 11]
- 6) Any increases in the rates of Kansas undergraduate tuition for Washburn University for 1995-96 and 1996-97 academic years, and thereafter, are limited to the percentage increase in the consumer price index, until the State Board of Regents determines that comparable rates have been adopted for other state educational institutions. [See New Sec. 12]
- 7) Special provision is made to prevent negative enrollment adjustments by the State Board of Regents to budget requests for Emporia State University for fiscal years 1998 through 2003. [See New Sec. 13]

STATE OF KANSAS



DIVISION OF THE BUDGET

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State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504
(913) 296-2436
FAX (913) 296-0231

Joan Finney
Governor

Gloria M. Timmer
Director

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Gloria Timmer, Director, Division of the Budget

DATE: March 1, 1994

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 779

Thank you for the opportunity to review with you the key provisions of Senate Bill 779 which would establish Washburn University of Topeka as a separate state educational institution under the control and supervision of the State Board of Regents. This bill was introduced at the request of Governor Finney and implements the Washburn piece of a proposal made by the Board of Regents of Washburn and the State Board of Regents to the Governor last fall.

As you are all aware, the proposal included support for the Partnership of Excellence for the regents institutions which provides significant increases for teaching faculty, in part funded by tuition increases, and a phased-in approach to the state assumption of the funding for Washburn University with Washburn entering the state system July 1, 1997. The Governor's budget recommendations for the Regents institutions included the State General Fund commitment and the use of the proposed tuition increases to support the Regents part of the proposal.

Key sections of the bill are as follows:

Section 3 establishes a Regents graduate center on Washburn's campus to offer graduate programs. The Board of Regents would determine which graduate programs would be offered at the center and which universities would offer the programs.

Section 5 implements the transfer of Washburn from a municipal university to a state university in FY 1998.

SWAM
March 1, 1994
Attachment 2

Section 7 transfers Washburn reserve funds to the state to be used to offset the State General Fund support for Washburn in FY 1998 through FY 2001. The minimum transfer is \$7.0 million.

Section 10 authorizes a 3.0 mill levy on Topeka property for debt service and capital improvements.

Section 11 authorizes an operating mill levy of 15 mills on Topeka property.

Section 12 limits the rate of tuition increases that the Board of Regents can request in its recommendations for Washburn to the CPI rate.

Section 13 prevents the Board of Regents from recommending a negative enrollment adjustment for Emporia State University from FY 1998 to FY 2002.

Other sections of the bill are mainly technical and implement the major statutory changes necessary.

Attached to my testimony is a table showing the financing of Washburn from FY 1994 to FY 2002. The table shows that the increase in state support in those years is \$4.3 million.

I would be happy to answer any questions.

gtwash.mem

Vashburn University Affiliation Costs

	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Mill Levy									
General Fund Levy	\$4,378,225	\$4,487,681	\$4,599,873	\$4,714,869	\$4,832,736	\$4,953,554	\$5,077,393	\$5,204,328	\$11,430,934
Employee Benefit Levy	4,978,857	5,103,328	5,230,912	5,361,684	5,523,126	5,661,205	5,802,735	5,947,803	0
LAVTRF	378,143	378,143	378,143	378,143	0	0	0	0	0
Tuition and Fees	13,580,253	13,987,661	14,407,290	14,839,509	15,284,694	15,743,235	16,215,532	16,701,998	17,203,058
Local Out District Tuition	543,789	543,789	543,789	543,789	0	0	0	0	0
Investment Earnings	470,000	470,000	470,000	470,000	0	0	0	0	0
Endowments	704,000	704,000	704,000	704,000	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Washburn's General Fund	0	0	0	0	1,750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000	0
State General Fund Support	6,349,568	6,806,633	7,284,071	7,782,715	8,621,968	9,164,969	9,731,857	10,323,601	12,691,208
Total General Use Budget	\$31,382,835	\$32,481,235	\$33,618,078	\$34,794,709	\$36,012,524	\$37,272,963	\$38,577,517	\$39,927,730	\$41,325,200
Percent Increase from previous year		3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Increase in State General Fund support from previous year		\$457,065 7.2%	\$477,438 7.0%	\$498,644 6.8%	\$839,253 10.8%	\$543,001 6.3%	\$566,888 6.2%	\$591,744 6.1%	\$2,367,607 22.9%
Estimated State General Fund support if Washburn becomes a Regents institution	\$6,349,568	\$6,806,633	\$7,284,071	\$7,782,715	\$8,621,968	\$9,164,969	\$9,731,857	\$10,323,601	\$12,691,208
Estimated State General Fund support if Washburn remains a municipal institution	\$6,349,568	\$6,571,803	\$6,801,816	\$7,039,880	\$7,286,275	\$7,541,295	\$7,805,240	\$8,078,424	\$8,361,169
Difference		\$234,830	\$482,255	\$742,835	\$1,335,693	\$1,623,674	\$1,926,617	\$2,245,177	\$4,330,039

Assumptions: The University's total budget will increase by 3.5 percent per year, Topeka's assessed valuation will increase by 2.5 percent per year, tuition expenditures will increase by 3.0 percent per year, and State General Fund support for Washburn will increase by 3.5 percent per year if Washburn remains a municipal university.

Source: Kansas Board of Regents

REMARKS TO SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

**JOHN G. MONTGOMERY, CHAIRMAN
KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS**

March 1, 1994

***SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 779
AFFILIATION OF WASHBURN UNIVERSITY INTO THE KANSAS REGENTS SYSTEM***

I AM APPEARING TODAY ON BEHALF OF THE KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS, IN SUPPORT OF WASHBURN AFFILIATION TO THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

- I want to cover two major points with the Committee today:

- I. The Process Used By the Board in Endorsing Washburn Affiliation.
- II. Reasons Why Washburn Affiliation Is Good For Higher Education and For Kansas.

I. PROCESS

A. BACKGROUND.

1. Washburn has received state funding since 1961.
- I mention this to underscore that use of state moneys for Washburn is not new.
2. Since the 1963 affiliation of Wichita State University, Washburn's future has been a discussion topic on the higher education agenda.
- A discussion that has been enhanced by most municipal universities being absorbed into their respective state systems during that period.
 - Washburn is the last municipal university in the U.S.
 - The future of Washburn has been studied repeatedly, by Board of Regents, Legislative Committees, and Washburn itself.
 - A large warehouse would be required if all studies of Washburn affiliation were stored at the same location.

*SWAM
March 1, 1994
Attachment 3*

A. BACKGROUND (Cont.)

3. Through passage of H.B. 2333, the 1991 Legislature made the Kansas Board of Regents statutorily responsible for administering state aid to Washburn.
 - Subsequent to that statutory change, the subject of Washburn's future has been a continuing topic on the agenda for higher education in Kansas.
 - Washburn advanced its plan for affiliation, which featured phase-out of all property tax financing for operating the institution over a five year period.
 - The Legislative Educational Planning Committee had discussions concerning Washburn, requesting recommendations from:
 - The Kansas Board of Regents and
 - The Washburn Board of Regents.
4. The Kansas Board of Regents is periodically given grants to administer, in which Legislative expectations are only that the Board distribute the funds in a manner that is technically and legally proper.
 - However, the Board of Regents assumed (I am sure correctly) that Legislative expectations through passage of H.B. 2333 in 1991 were much higher than simple administration of a grant.
 - I believe both Boards have risen to the occasion.
5. The Kansas Board of Regents has spent considerable time in review of Washburn, since the 1991 Legislation.
 - The Board has learned several facts concerning Washburn including:
 - Despite its high tuition, Washburn enrollment has remained relatively stable (approximately 6,600 headcount and approximately 4,600 FTE).
 - Over 95 percent of its students are Kansas residents
 - If those students were enrolled at existing Regents institutions, state costs would be much higher.
 - Approximately 80 percent of its offerings are in programs leading to a four year degree, mostly liberal arts and sciences.
 - 7 percent of its offerings resemble those of a community college.
 - 10 percent of its offerings are in its law school.
 - 3 percent of its offerings are in other graduate programs.

A. BACKGROUND (Cont.)

- Washburn is predominantly a commuter campus.
 - It has an older student body (avg. age 28).
 - It has fewer than 200 dormitory spaces.
- 6. Simply stated, much of Washburn resembles a predominantly undergraduate, liberal arts four year university.
 - It has several characteristics of institutions presently in the Regents system
 - But due to an older student body, a commuter orientation and its associate degree offerings, Washburn has many differences.
- 7. Washburn receives considerable state funding, \$6.3 million in FY 1994.
 - Nonetheless, the state's authority over this funding is relatively limited.
 - Kansas Board of Regents has authority only to review Washburn's budget and make recommendations to the Legislature concerning the request for state funds.
 - Board of Regents has authority to approve certain new degrees, for which State funds are requested.
 - If Washburn can demonstrate that no state funds are used, then we have no control over the development of new programs.
 - We also have no ability to extend our efforts in program review and low degree productivity to Washburn.

B. THE WASHBURN SUBCOMMITTEE.

1. The Board's continuing interest in Washburn, encouraged by Legislative Educational Planning Committee,
 - Resulted in appointment of a Subcommittee in October 1992.
 - Kansas Board of Regents members were Regent John Montgomery, Regent Don Slawson, President Jon Wefald.
 - Subcommittee directed to meet with appropriate representatives of Washburn and explore all options related to Washburn affiliation.
2. The Washburn Subcommittee met repeatedly throughout spring and fall of 1993.

B. THE WASHBURN SUBCOMMITTEE (Cont.)

3. Multiple options examined, some totally discarded as being unsatisfactory.

C. THE COMPROMISE PLAN.

1. Agreement on a plan which considers the longer term needs of Washburn, the existing Regents institutions, and the Regents system.
 - We believe it avoids some of the reasons why past plans have failed.
 - It focuses upon all of four year public higher education, and not simply components of it.
 - Does not focus upon shorter term political issues.
2. It allows Washburn to:
 - Enter the system retaining its existing undergraduate programs, effective July 1, 1997.
 - Retain its law school.
 - Request authority to continue offering any of its current graduate programs.
 - Through the Regents Center.
 - Subject to Kansas Board of Regents approval.
 - Retain its associate programs, in recognition of its community college role in the metropolitan Topeka area.
 - In exchange it requires continuing local support, an 18 mill levy
 - 15 mills for operations
 - 3 mills for capital improvements.
3. Other features of the plan (review only if previous speakers have not).
 - Kansas Board of Regents to have same governing authority over Washburn as other Regents institutions, effective July 1, 1997.
 - State assumes responsibility in FY 1998 for unrestricted endowment financing in general use budget, allowing that funding to be used in the university's restricted use budget.
 - Treatment of endowment funding would be identical to the other Regents institutions.
 - Washburn tuition increases at no more than the rate of expected CPI inflation between FY 1995 and FY 2005.

C. THE COMPROMISE PLAN (Cont.)

- Not less than \$7 million in Washburn fund balances utilized to finance Washburn expenditures (and lessen State expenditures) between FY 1998 and FY 2001.
- 4. It is designed to protect one nearby institution, Emporia State University, from the potential impact of enrollment loss.
 - No negative enrollment adjustments between FY 1998 - FY 2002.

D. THE REVIEW WITH GOVERNOR FINNEY.

1. Upon completion of its work, the Subcommittee met with the Governor.
2. She had indicated support for bringing Washburn into the state system.
 - When funds were available.
3. She was very interested in the plan.
4. Resulted in her recommendation to support the affiliation plan
 - And the Partnership For Excellence.

II. REASONS WHY WASHBURN AFFILIATION IS GOOD.

- FOR KANSAS
- FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

A. ADVANTAGES FOR KANSAS.

1. Integration of all publicly supported four year institutions under a single Board.
2. Direct jurisdiction and management by the Board of Regents over an institution presently receiving significant state dollars.
3. Coordination of graduate offerings in the Shawnee County area.
 - Utilizing the Regents Center concept, with offerings controlled by the Board of Regents.
4. Permits the Regents to assure a sharp and focused mission for Washburn,
 - Unique from the other Regents institutions.
 - Will complement and enhance the total Regents system.

A. ADVANTAGES FOR KANSAS (Cont.)

5. The citizens of Topeka will contribute at least \$11 million each year toward the support of Washburn.
6. Small annual increases in state financing requirements, with the largest increase delayed until FY 2002.
7. Discussion of whether Kansas has too many institutions not particularly relevant in this instance.
 - Washburn is already here and it already supported with public money.
 - Coincidentally, Kansas is within the range of the national average in public institutions per 100,000 population, ranking 19th.
 - Kansas has no publicly supported 4 year institutions having enrollment less than 4,500.
 - Three neighboring states have at least one institution, with an enrollment of less than 2,500.

B. ADVANTAGES FOR THE REGENTS INSTITUTIONS.

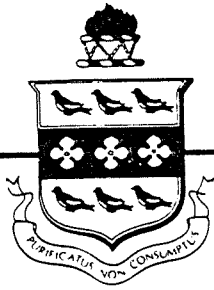
1. A plan for local financing of Washburn's capital improvements.
 - Places no additional burden on the already over committed State Educational Building Fund.
2. Obtain legislative support to address a significant deficit in faculty salaries, which has long been cited as one of the most critical deficits of the Regents system.
3. Increased opportunities for graduate offerings in the Shawnee County area.

C. ADVANTAGES FOR WASHBURN AND TOPEKA.

1. A stable funding base for the future.
2. Resolution of the future of the institution.
3. An intent that requirements for local support of Washburn be limited to 18 mills, an amount likely to increase in the absence of affiliation.
4. Allows Washburn students to experience a long term moderation in future tuition increases.

III. CONCLUSIONS.

1. VIRTUALLY ALL SUCCESS IS A MATTER OF TIMING.
-Good planning necessitates knowledge of the future.
2. WASHBURN AFFILIATION HAS BEEN DISCUSSED FOR OVER 30 YEARS.
3. WE BELIEVE IT IS TIME FOR BOTH WASHBURN AND THE KANSAS REGENTS TO PLAN WITH A CLEAR VISION FOR THE FUTURE.
- Demographics for the future suggest that the higher education system will be challenged by student growth, due to a 22 percent increase in high school graduates.
4. IT IS ALSO A STEPPING STONE FOR CLARIFYING THE GOVERNANCE OF KANSAS PUBLICLY OPERATED POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS.
5. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THE TIMING IS RIGHT FOR WASHBURN TO BECOME A REGENTS INSTITUTION.
6. LETS MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER IN FINALLY RESOLVING THIS LONGSTANDING ISSUE ON THE HIGHER EDUCATION AGENDA.
- The plan before you will achieve that end



WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA

Board of Regents
Topeka, Kansas 66621
Phone 913-~~295-6634~~ 231-1010

Testimony presented to the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 1, 1994

by
Mr. Dean Ferrell
Chair, Washburn University Board of Regents

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

It is a pleasure to appear before the Committee today as Chairman of the Washburn University Board of Regents to express our support for Senate Bill 779.

This legislation represents the culmination of the University's efforts to achieve state affiliation. These efforts have been on-going since 1986 and have resulted in a variety of proposals being brought before the Kansas Legislature. None of these past proposals have been successful. We hope that the provisions of SB 779 will be sufficient to meet concerns raised in the past and will receive favorable consideration by this committee and the Kansas Legislature.

No current member of the Washburn Board of Regents was on the Board when Washburn initiated its quest for state affiliation eight years ago. Yet, even with the turnover on the Board, we have been consistent in unanimously supporting Washburn's entry into the state university system. This unanimous support for state affiliation through time is not based on an imminent financial crisis facing the University, but in recognition that Washburn already serves the role of a state university -- it is simply governed and financed differently than the other state universities.

Our goal has been to provide the state with the final element of the state system of higher education, a university with high quality faculty, sound academic programs, and a well-maintained physical plant. In other words, a university which is an asset to the state and of which the state can be justifiably proud. We think that the provisions contained in SB 779 provide the mechanism for integrating Washburn into the state university system in a manner which is fair and reasonable to all concerned.

The contributions which Washburn makes to the state are many. Annually, we draw students from 95 of the state's 105 counties. We have alumni in every county in the state -- both graduates of the undergraduate college and the law school. We provide education to many Kansas residents who are not able to attain higher education from one of the state's other state universities. Our mission is complementary to those at the other state universities as we are the only urban university in northeast Kansas. While we are in close geographic proximity to the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Emporia State University, Washburn has a different mission from those institutions and serves a different clientele which is not served by those institutions. With stable enrollments of 6,500 students, even with a tuition which is approaching \$90 per credit hour, it is clear that Washburn provides higher education to a significant number of individuals in the state who are not and cannot be served by the other state universities.

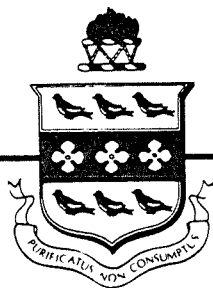
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Dean Ferrell to Senate Committee on Ways & Means
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We think the provisions of SB 779 meet one of the major objections to Washburn's integration into the state university system through the retention of our existing local mill levy. The retention of local financial support for the University recognizes our history as a municipal university while also acknowledging the responsibility of the state to provide future financial support for its citizens attending Washburn.

The entry of Washburn into the Kansas Regents system will be the final culmination of the municipal university movement in the United States. At one time there were over 40 municipal universities in America. Each and every one has entered its respective state system, the last being the University of Louisville in the early 1970's. Washburn has been extremely successful in its 50-year history as a municipal university but it is now time to take the final step and integrate Washburn into the state's Regents system of higher education.

On behalf of the Washburn University Board of Regents, I strongly urge your support for Senate Bill 779 and the final step in Washburn University's evolution.



WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

Office of the President
Topeka, Kansas 66621
Phone 913-231-1010, Ext. 1556

**Testimony presented to the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 1, 1994**

**by
Hugh L. Thompson
President, Washburn University**

Senator Bogina and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

It is a pleasure to appear before you today to discuss state affiliation for Washburn University and to ask for your support of Senate Bill 779.

As we consider Washburn's relationship to the state, we must recognize that state systems of higher education are based upon the premise of promoting inter-related goals. These goals are: 1) to provide geographic and financial accessibility for citizens of the state to public institutions of higher education and 2) to allow the citizens of the state a choice among the types of institutions and academic programs they wish to attend.

The promotion of geographic accessibility is realized through the number and location of state universities. When many institutions were being established in this region, geographic accessibility was a concern because of the distribution of state residents across a wide geographic area. The urbanization of Kansas and many states in the midwest began to occur in the 1930's and in the years following the second World War.

Until the early 1960's, Kansas had five state universities located in Lawrence, Manhattan, Hays, Pittsburg and Emporia. In the 1960's, the state accepted the fact that in order to provide geographic accessibility for its citizens in the Wichita metropolitan area, it was necessary to bring Wichita University into the state system. By the late 1960's, the current system of community colleges was in place - again to promote geographic accessibility.

As the attendance patterns of individuals pursuing higher education changed, we have increased dramatically the proportion of our population enrolled in colleges and universities. Many of these students are working full time, are place bound, and are enrolled on a part-time basis in order to upgrade their occupational and professional skills. It is projected that within a generation, eight of ten people in this country will live in metropolitan areas. More and more students will attend urban universities or community colleges. The success of our cities in Kansas may well determine the future vitality of the state.

The urban universities and community colleges are one of the few open doors to opportunity that cities possess, especially with our economy shifting from an industrial base to one being built on information technology. To be successful, this restructuring will require a committed partnership of education, government, and business. Additionally, it will be necessary for the programs and institutions of higher learning to be available to geographic areas in which critical masses of people reside.

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Attachment 5*

The need for Washburn and the demand for its services are evident. We are the fourth largest university in Kansas in spite of a higher tuition than other public institutions in the state. Our enrollment remains strong and has stabilized even though our tuition has discouraged many part-time students from attending. In a recent examination of its purpose, Washburn University reaffirmed its commitment to fulfilling its urban mission and to enmesh itself fully in the communities it serves.

Shawnee County has the fourth largest population of any county in the state. As part of the northeast Kansas metropolitan area, composed of Johnson, Wyandotte, Douglas, Leavenworth, Jefferson, and Shawnee Counties, it is part of the largest metropolitan area of the state. In the 1990 census, these six counties had a population totaling more than 840,000 and represented 34% of the state's population.

Higher education services to these residents are provided through Johnson County Community College, Kansas City Kansas Community College, the University of Kansas, and Washburn. This results in one public supported institution of higher education for every 210,000 Kansas residents in this area.

In the Wichita metropolitan area, Sedgwick, Butler, Harvey, Reno, and Sumner Counties had a total population of 573,500. This represents 23% of the state's population, and these citizens are served by Wichita State University, Butler County Community College, and Hutchinson Community College. In the south central metropolitan area, we have one public institution of higher education for every 191,000 Kansas residents.

In the balance of the state, there were slightly over 1,000,000 residents in 94 counties. In these 94 counties, there are 15 publicly supported community colleges, Kansas State, Emporia State, Pittsburg State, and Fort Hays State Universities and the Salina campus of Kansas State. This breaks down to one publicly supported institution of higher education for every 53,000 residents.

According to the 1990 census, Kansas ranked 32nd of the 50 states in terms of population. If one examines the number of public universities per capita, including Washburn, Kansas ranks 31st of the 50 states in the number of public universities.

There are over 520 public universities in the United States; 205 (almost 40%) are smaller than the smallest public university in Kansas. In our immediate geographic region, Colorado has seven state universities smaller than the smallest in Kansas; Nebraska, three; Missouri, three; Arkansas, five; and Oklahoma, six.

With respect to our neighbors in the region and the other states in the country, Kansas is really not over-built in terms of its public (state) university system. If one of the primary goals of public higher education is to provide geographic accessibility for the residents of the state, there appears to be justification for Washburn's existence and for its integration into the state system, especially since we already receive state funds.

Concomitant with the need to provide geographic accessibility is the state's goal to promote financial accessibility to its university campuses. As a state supported institution, Washburn has the highest resident tuition in the surrounding seven states and is the highest in Kansas. It should be noted that for Washburn students enrolling in seven to eleven hours, our charges are less than KU, K-State, and Emporia because of the difference in charging on a per credit hour basis versus a flat rate. However, at opposite ends of the spectrum, the students taking more than 12 hours and the students taking less than six are, by the nature of our municipal university status, charged higher rates.

While on a relative basis such tuition differentials between Washburn and the state universities may not be viewed as overly significant, consider what they mean to the individual student attending Washburn, specifically the non-traditional student. Many of these students have family commitments, are working full time, and are probably making less than \$20,000 a year. At a time when real personal income has begun to decline with respect to inflation, these individuals are faced with a substantial financial burden in terms of trying to maintain their households while at the same time pursuing higher education.

With an \$87 credit hour fee, a large number of students are excluded from attending the institution solely because of the educational costs the student has to pay. Washburn derives 40 percent of its budget from student tuition, 28 percent from the city, and 19 percent from the state. The regional universities derive 22 percent of their budgets from student tuition and 63 percent from the state.

At the heart of this issue is what state policy is being served by creating these financial barriers to attendance on the part of selected citizens within Kansas. We feel that if our tuition were comparable to the other state universities, greater numbers of part-time students would attend Washburn because it would become more economically accessible. By serving greater numbers of students being served, we would have a better educated work force. As a result, the state would be investing in human capital necessary for economic maintenance and development.

The third goal of public systems of higher education is to allow citizens to choose the type of public university and academic programs from which they will benefit. Place bound, non-traditional students must attend the institution which is close to home or work. It is important for institutions in metropolitan areas to provide a sufficient range of academic programs and services so that individuals may be in a position to choose. Washburn clearly meets this need, particularly for the residents of Topeka and surrounding communities.

Some have indicated that Washburn's geographic proximity to the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Emporia State University should preclude its becoming a Regents institution. As you are aware, the Kansas Board of Regents has reviewed the missions of its institutions. Washburn has a mission distinct from these other institutions and is the only university with an urban mission located in this part of the state. To ask the other universities to serve Washburn's mission is to ask them to be "all things to all people" and negate the benefits of the mission review conducted by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Washburn concentrates primarily on undergraduate instruction, legal education, and a few selected masters degree programs. These programs are built on unique community strengths and needs. Washburn has and, hopefully, will continue to provide a higher education choice for Kansas residents which is geographically and financially accessible. Any time a resident of the state forgoes the benefits of higher education due to a lack of geographic accessibility, inability to finance higher education, or because appropriate academic choices are not provided, the state of Kansas loses an opportunity for future economic growth and development.

To fail to realize that our systems of public higher education must grow, change, and respond to individual needs is to fail to recognize that the future of the state rests in our citizens and the educational opportunities which we provide them. Whether post-secondary education is at the vocational-technical level, the community college level, or the university level, it is clear that the economic well-being of our state depends upon affordable and accessible education of all types.

Hugh Thompson to Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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You must ask yourselves whether the current relationship of Washburn to the state of Kansas promotes the state's goals of financial and geographic accessibility and institutional choice or whether we are artificially creating barriers which inhibit the ability of some of our citizens to attain their educational goals.

As we enter the next century, demands for higher education will be greater than ever. By the year 2000 our Kansas universities will be enrolling more than 1,000 new students annually. We should act now to integrate Washburn into the state system and to improve faculty salaries at our Regents institutions so that we can plan to meet the challenges of educating this new influx of traditional age students. The salaries at our state universities must be competitive in order for us to retain and attract the very best faculty necessary for quality education ... the future of Kansas depends on a solid educational foundation at all levels.

We think the plan embodied in SB 779 provides for a rational and systematic integration of Washburn into the state system which best serves the citizens of northeast Kansas and the state as a whole. Washburn is a state university, fulfilling a state university mission, and should be fully integrated into the state university system.

Statement by:
Dr. Jon Wefald, President
Kansas State University
Presented to:
The Honorable Gus Bogina
Senate Ways and Means Committee
March 1, 1994

SWAM
March 1, 1994
Attachment 6

Senator Bogina and members of the Committee:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before the Senate Ways and Means on SB779.

I am here today representing the Council of Presidents of the six Regents institutions. Each of these individuals is committed fully to the Partnership for Excellence and the inclusion of Washburn as a full member of the Kansas Board of Regents.

Over the years there have been a multitude of plans put forth to bring Washburn University into the Regents system. Today, in 1994 the most reasonable of plans is before you in SB779. This plan which has been outlined here today is an approach which offers the ultimate compromise from both the Regents perspective and Washburn.

This plan offers the best of all features for the Regents and Washburn University. The faculty at our Regents institutions deserve the salary increase provided for in the Partnership plan. The Washburn proposal brings all four year public higher education institutions under a single board.

The question on Washburn has remained unresolved for thirty years. My final question for Washburn, if not now, when? This is the time.

STATE OF KANSAS

DENISE L. EVERHART
REPRESENTATIVE, FIFTY-THIRD DISTRICT
3741 S.E. 61ST
BERRYTON, KS 66409-9764
(913) 862-4808

LEGISLATIVE ADDRESS

ROOM 281-W
(913) 296-7691
STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1504



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
VICE-CHAIR: RULES
MEMBER: APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY
SENTENCING COMMISSION

TO: SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
SEN. BOGINA, CHAIR
FROM: SHAWNEE COUNTY DELEGATION
REP. DENISE EVERHART, CHAIR
DATE: MARCH 1, 1994
RE: SB 779 - WASHBURN UNIVERSITY STATE AFFILIATION

GOOD MORNING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

BRINGING WASHBURN UNIVERSITY INTO THE REGENTS' SYSTEM IS ONCE AGAIN BEFORE US. THIS PROPOSAL WAS THE RESULT OF A COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF MEMBERS FROM BOTH THE KANSAS AND WASHBURN BOARDS OF REGENTS.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PARTNERSHIP IN EXCELLENCE, HAS THE FULL ENDORSEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF REGENTS'. CLEARLY, THIS IS A MESSAGE THAT THE "TIME IS RIGHT" AND THE SHAWNEE COUNTY DELEGATION SUPPORTS THIS EFFORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGHOUT THE STATE SYSTEM.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT.

REPRESENTATIVE DENISE EVERHART

SWAM
March 1, 1994
Attachment 7

Washburn
Student
Association
Washburn University
1700 College
Topeka, Kansas 66621
(913) 232-4297

Offices Located
in Memorial Union



*"Students
Working For
Students"*

**Testimony presented to the
Senate Ways and Means Committee
March 1, 1994
by Pat Birkbeck
President, Washburn Student Association**

Mister Chairman and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to explain why Senate Bill 779 is so important for Washburn University's students. Washburn is already a "state" school in everything but name and legal status. Our students come from 94 of the state's 105 counties and our alumni reside in all 105 counties.

As president of the Washburn student body, one of the primary student concerns I encounter is that of escalating tuition. In 1980, Kansas resident undergraduate tuition was \$21 per credit hour. For the current school year, that figure is \$87 per credit hour. A Kansas resident enrolled in 15 credit hours pays \$1,321 at Washburn as opposed to \$960 at Kansas University or \$988 at Kansas State University.

Just under half of our students are non-traditional in nature. For a working student, one class, including books, could easily exceed \$300. This places a serious financial burden on them, particularly if they are also trying to support a family. These non-traditional students are often productive members of the Kansas work force. When they are unable to further their education, Kansas commerce suffers.

Senate Bill 779 would slow resident undergraduate tuition increases to no more than the expected rate of CPI inflation, beginning in fiscal year 1996 and continuing until comparable with other Regent's institutions. This will help make Washburn affordable for those who wish to attend.

Washburn's quest for inclusion in the Regents' system offers many advantages to the state of Kansas. By making the University more affordable, more students will be able to take advantage of the school's quality undergraduate programs. At Washburn, we have a faculty to student ratio of 18 to 1. My professors know my classmates and me by our names and are very accessible to inquiring students. A Kansas with better educated citizens is a better state.

Opponents of our inclusion into the state system question whether Kansas needs another school in the northeast part of the state. It is important to remember, however, that Washburn already exists in that part of the state. Its presence has not adversely affected any of the Regents' institutions. Washburn's status, be it municipal or state, will not change the fact that it serves a purpose and is fully utilized by all Kansans.

The Washburn student senate has endorsed the principles outlined in Senate Bill 779. We view it as a historic opportunity for not only Washburn, but also the state of Kansas. I strongly encourage you to support Senate Bill 779.

*SWAM
March 1, 1994
Attachment B*

Washburn
Student
Association
Washburn University
1700 College
Topeka, Kansas 66621
(913) 232-4297

Offices Located
in Memorial Union



"Students
Working For
Students"

SR 93-94 #9

TITLE: Washburn Inclusion in Regents System
ORIGINATOR: Birkbeck/Nelson Administration
SPONSOR: Birkbeck/Nelson Administration
STATUS: Allocations--favorable

WHEREAS: Rising tuition is of paramount concern to the students of Washburn University, and

WHEREAS: The General Fund mill levy has hit the legal ceiling, leaving tuition as the only means of University funding available to meet the rising costs of higher education, and

WHEREAS: Washburn serves students from across the state of Kansas and the University's alumni reside in every Kansas county, and

WHEREAS: Washburn University is an urban university focusing on undergraduate education that is complementary to the other state universities, and

WHEREAS: Washburn University is the fourth largest university in Kansas and provides educational opportunities for over 6500 students each semester, and

WHEREAS: Governance of publicly supported four-year institutions is at present fragmented, and

WHEREAS: Salaries at Regents institutions are significantly less than those at their peer institutions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION ONE: That the Washburn Student Association supports Washburn University's inclusion in the Kansas Regents System as outlined in the plan endorsed by Governor Finney, the Kansas Board of Regents, and the Washburn Board of Regents on December 16, 1993.

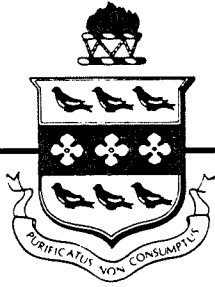
SECTION TWO: That the Washburn Student Association supports funding for the State Regents Partnership for Excellence program.

SECTION THREE: That the Washburn Student Association commends the Governor, the Kansas Board of Regents, and the Washburn Board of Regents for recognizing that a comprehensive strategy is needed to ensure adequate funding for all of the state's public universities.

SECTION FOUR: This legislation shall become effective upon passage.

Pat Birkbeck
Pat Birkbeck
WSA President

Erika Nelson
Erika Nelson
WSA Vice President



WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

Washburn Alumni Association
Topeka, Kansas 66621
Phone 913-231-1010, Ext. 1641

Testimony Senate Ways and Means Committee - SB 779 March 1, 1994

My name is Joyce Alberg and I am currently President of the Washburn Alumni Association. I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 779 on behalf of the Washburn Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Joan Finney has selected higher education as a top priority for her final year as Governor of Kansas. As Governor she realizes how critical quality education is for future generations of Kansas leaders. She has proposed a Partnership for Excellence Plan which includes funding for higher faculty salaries at Regents schools and a plan to bring Washburn University into the state system. The Washburn Alumni Association wants to go on record supporting the Partnership for Excellence.

Variations of the Governor's proposal for Washburn have been before the legislature many times since 1961, when Washburn and Wichita, both municipal universities, began to receive state financial assistance. Wichita, following an organized campaign, entered the state system in 1964.

In the more than 30 years that have passed since 1961, all other state systems have absorbed their municipal universities, and now Washburn has the distinction of being the only remaining municipal university in the country. Other states have acknowledged that property taxes aren't an appropriate way to fund universities which draw students from a wide geographical area.

Opponents of state affiliation for Washburn have spent a lot of time discussing why Washburn shouldn't be included in the Regents system, but there are many compelling reasons why Washburn should be a state university.

- * Washburn is already a state university and has been receiving state funds since 1961. Making it a part of the Regents system will improve coordination of higher education in Kansas.

- * More than 95 per cent of the students attending Washburn are from Kansas while some other state institutions draw from 20 to 30 per cent of their students from out-of-state.

- * Washburn is the fifth largest university in Kansas with a fall 1993 enrollment of 6,574. These students came from 94 of the state's 105 counties.

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* Washburn's mission is to provide quality undergraduate education with only four percent of total credit hours coming from graduate programs. More than 80% of the general faculty hold doctoral degrees or the highest degree available in their discipline. The student/teacher ratio is 18 to 1.

* Washburn is the only four-year institution in eastern Kansas with a well-defined urban mission. The typical student at Washburn is very different from those found at the state's residential universities. More than 80% of Washburn's students work full or part-time while attending college. The average student is 28 years old and minorities represent 14 per cent of the student population.

* The State of Kansas has traditionally embraced the concept of providing geographically and economically accessible higher education opportunities for its residents.

* Increases projected in the number of high school graduates in Kansas will mean more students entering public universities with as many as 4,000 new students added by 2002. The bulk of these will come from eastern Kansas. The addition of Washburn will allow the state to save construction costs and make better use of its education resources.

Some have argued that cost is the real issue when it comes to the fate of Washburn, but the facts don't support this argument. State general fund support for the Regents universities is more than \$400 million and the current cost of bringing Washburn into the state system is less than one half of one percent of what is currently being spent on the Regents system. In addition, the taxpayers in Shawnee County will continue to support Washburn's operating and capital improvement budgets in the amount of \$10 million per year through an 18 mill local property tax levy.

The real issue in the discussion of Washburn is equal treatment for the more than 6,500 students attending Washburn who are paying nearly twice what it costs students at the state universities. These students come to Washburn for a good liberal arts education. More than 80% of our full-time students qualify for financial aid. They are not students who can afford a private college and many can come to Washburn only because of the availability of financial aid. A majority of our students come from eastern Kansas and are looking for a smaller school than the larger residential campuses nearby. Some are attracted by a particular program, perhaps nursing, criminal justice or law. Students are also attracted to Topeka because of the availability of full and part-time jobs and adequate, affordable housing.

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Washburn's biggest challenge this year is to focus the discussion on the real facts about what's happening in higher education in Kansas. The Legislature's challenge is to avoid digressing to past differences and political rhetoric. It is our hope that you will consider the issue of state affiliation for Washburn based on the merits of the proposal before you.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 779.



Testimony presented to the
Senate Ways and Means Committee
March 1, 1994

by

John R. Atchley

President & CEO, American Home Life Insurance Company
and

Chairman of the Board, Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to express the support of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce for SB 779, a bill to establish Washburn University as a separate state university under the control of the State Board of Regents.

The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce has long supported state regent's affiliation for Washburn University. The legislation before this committee provides Washburn the opportunity to remain a free-standing university with the law school intact and at the same time it provides that a strong, well-financed asset be passed to the state. Washburn University contributes to the community and to the state as a whole; students come from all 105 counties in the state. As a public university, Washburn enjoys an excellent relationship with the local business community and provides an educated workforce through its traditional academic programs, its technical courses and its continuing education programs.

As the fourth largest county in the state of Kansas, it is critical that the economic viability and health of the business community remain strong. An important component of our economic well being is a strong public university offering high quality programs in conjunction with the needs of the business community. As Washburn works with us to achieve our goals, we believe it is hampered by the unique financing mechanisms associated with being the last municipal university. The passage of SB 779 will insure the businesses and employees in the Topeka/Shawnee County area will continue to have access to quality higher education offerings.

The Topeka Chamber has agreed with the continuation of 18 mills of tax support for the university in addition to the income taxes our citizens and businesses already pay to support higher education in Kansas. The associate degrees offered by Washburn University parallel the offerings of community colleges elsewhere in Kansas where their communities' support includes local effort. We believe the establishment of a Regents Graduate Center at Washburn is a positive move to provide a greater array of quality graduate-level programs while eliminating duplication. This legislation also integrates all publically-supported four-year institutions under a single Board of Regents and addresses funding and governance for all state universities prior to large projected enrollment increases in the late 1990's. We ask that you vote positively for SB 779.

SWAM
March 1, 1994
Attachment 10

March 1, 1994

To: Members of Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Helen McElree, Ph.D. *H. Mc*

I would like to make it clear that my appearance today is as a Kansas citizen and of my own volition. I am here because I am passionately interested in education and can speak knowledgeably of higher education due to having spent over 30 years as professor of Biology at ESU before my retirement two years ago.

I have, on numerous occasions, thought about testifying before legislative committees considering issues in education, but have not done so before now because I could have been interpreted as a person with a vested interest trying to get a better salary or protect my job. Today, however, I can present my thoughts unfettered by any possibility of professional gain.

My specific purpose today is to address the plan to make Washburn the seventh Regents' university. This plan has some profoundly important implications for the Kansas tax payer and higher education. I fully understand that political negotiations have always been and always will be a part of representative government, but today, perhaps as never before, what is missing in politics is true statesmanship. True statesmanship requires that decisions be made ethically,

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Attachment 11

thoughtfully on the basis of accurate and complete data and information, and in the best interests of the people. This lack of statesmanship is the reason so many people are currently disenchanted with government at all levels.

More legislative common sense is in order as well. In reference to the Washburn issue:

1. It is common sense that it will take more tax money to support seven universities as compared to six universities.
2. It is common sense that Kansas, given its tax base, its demographics, and the increasing demands on tax dollars, does not need another university to support, particularly in this region of the state.
3. It is common sense that if Washburn becomes a state university it will plan to expand and grow, thereby adding to the cost for Kansas tax payers and making Washburn even more competitive with its sister institutions.
4. It is common sense that the budget deficiencies at the Regents' universities already in place should be addressed before adding another university.

One of the most disturbing aspects of the plan to admit Washburn into the state system is that, as yet, no logical and convincing academic arguments have been made in its favor. One argument which I have heard repeatedly from Washburn advocates is that it is inevitable that Washburn will become a state

university. Therefore opponents should accept the fact and make the best of it. It is not inevitable. It remains a legislative option. Furthermore, the rhetoric and information which are being published and circulated are inconsistent, incomplete, misleading and for the most part, refutable. There is no valid information or data which indicate that Kansas needs another state university, particularly one that brings nothing unique to the system. All but one of Washburn's undergraduate degrees, the B.S. in Criminal Justice, is offered in a Regents' university within an hours' drive of Topeka. If Washburn becomes a state university, it would be unwanted and unneeded duplication of academic programs at a time when the Regents' universities have just completed an agonizing and self-mutilating process of terminating programs to eliminate the waste of duplication.

Projections on the basis of demographic data relative to the number of future college-age students fail to support the need for another university. The six Regents' universities are currently operating under capacity and two, Wichita State and Kansas State, have recently lost enrollment. In fact, the state universities have been forced for a number of years to engage in fierce competition for students and at the expense of time, energy and budget which could have been better spent on academics.

There is administrative support for the Washburn plan. I seriously doubt that there would have been any administrative

enthusiasm for making Washburn a sister institution if it had not been linked to the Partnership for Excellence. University administrators are currently faced with the loss of the best of their faculty and the erosion of program quality if immediate increases in funding are not forthcoming. They have settled, in political fashion, for the lesser of two evils.

It is also true that the administrators of the larger universities anticipate less direct and immediate damage from Washburn's competition as compared to the smaller universities. There is even a tacit recognition of this in the plan as evidenced by the fact ESU will be excused, for a few years, of fiscal penalties if it suffers an enrollment decline. I wonder if the Regents' university administrators have taken into full account the risks involved in supporting Washburn in order to get a quick budgetary fix. I refer to the fact that this Kansas Legislature cannot obligate funds beyond the fiscal year 1995. Beyond 1995, the state universities could be left without the promised Partnership of Excellence money but with another university to share limited tax dollars with, and to compete with for students and programs.

Relative to this, faculty senates at five of the six Regents' universities passed resolutions opposing Washburn becoming a state university shortly before the governor's proposal was made public.

I feel certain that you have not heard anything very new in my remarks, nor have I been comprehensive relative to all

the issues. My intent has been to remind you of how carefully this question of Washburn should be approached and how completely you should be informed before you make a decision. I believe that the first and most binding obligation of the state is to adequately meet the needs of the six state universities already in place. As you know, each state university is underfunded as compared to its peer institutions. In the face of this it is indefensible to add a seventh university. Tax dollars should first be used to bring the Regents' institutions into budget alignment with their counterparts in other states, and built into this should be the unwavering dedication of the state to support the enhancement of quality in higher education.

We must stop the brain drain from Kansas in the form of talented faculty members and gifted students. A recent study found that the majority of National Merit Scholar semi-finalists chose to continue their education and careers outside the state. This outstate migration by talented students is due, in large measure, to better scholarship awards than Kansas offers and the perception of better educational opportunities elsewhere. Kansas universities need more scholarship money and more money for honors programs. There is also an urgent need to support faculty members dedicated to teaching and scholarship with better salaries and upgraded equipment and resources.

Before any major changes are made in the state's system of higher education, a comprehensive master plan should be developed which would allow the state to be proactive rather than reactive. Both the Kansas tax payers and students would be better served if roles of the community colleges, the technical schools and the universities were more carefully defined and their programs better coordinated. Before such a plan is developed, it is premature to bring Washburn into the system. Until such a plan is developed, there is no valid basis for making a final decision about Washburn.

Without question, Kansas can be proud of its state universities, but Kansas should set a course for higher education that would justifiably be recognized as one of the best in the nation.

By the Collegian Editorial Board

to retirees

the money whenever the state has a Legislators used money that did not

Internal Revenue Service wouldn't just because you said you didn't enough money to pay your taxes. You told paying taxes is the law — and isn't fit your budget, then tough. it is exactly the message that needs to o our legislators — you have a debt, you must find a way to pay it. measure that would start returning ion of the illegal taxes is a start.

s just a kiss

-for- want our children growing up thinking and life is a cheesy soap opera in which the most important thing is unne, who is dating whom. They'll get enough of that in junior high.

on is Then let's brand as dangerous ess a any show in which all of life's on is problems are miraculously solved in the last few minutes. We don't want our kids just waiting for the cavalry to solve any problem they might have.

Let's yank MTV completely off the air. Virtually every show on MTV features something that could influence children to burn trailers, smoke crack, engage in premarital sex and listen to glam-rock.

Let's warn parents about cartoons. Some afternoon cartoons portray humans in romantic relationships with talking members of the animal kingdom (certainly not behavior parents wish to encourage).

We have to have some faith in our children and in our ability to raise them correctly. Showing two women kissing isn't dangerous. It isn't going to turn your daughter into a lesbian.

And, if your daughter happens to be a lesbian already, seeing women kissing on national television may make her a little more comfortable with herself.

Jason Hamilton is a Junior in English.

WHAT YOU THINK

TO THE EDITOR POLICY

to hear what Letters to the Editor:
d your com- c/o Denise Clarkin
plaints. K-State Collegian
sion, a stu- Kedzie Hall 116
phone number Manhattan, Kan.
d. Letters 66506
d for grammar

Finney buys faculty silence

Everyone has a price. Our faculty is no exception.

They have been starved from pay raises for too long. Compared to their peer schools, Kansas' three largest universities pay poor salaries.

Low starting salaries and step pay raises make it difficult to hire and retain good professors.

Amazingly, K-State has managed to get by with underpaid and overextended faculty for a long time now.

When the Partnership for Excellence, a plan to increase tuition to improve faculty salaries, was introduced last fall, Faculty Senate was pleased with it.

The day the Kansas Board of Regents met last December, buoyed by enthusiasm for the partnership plan, Gov. Joan Finney announced her 1994 budget plan, which included the partnership plan and a proposal to make Washburn a state university.

They, according to the governor, were a package deal. If the Kansas Legislature doesn't approve the Washburn proposal, she will veto the pay raises.

With that threat, K-State faculty approval for the Washburn proposal was bought.

What did Finney buy? She bought faculty silence. Because of her unscrupulous linkage of the two proposals, faculty members must stay silent about any of their misgivings concerning Washburn in order to get their needed pay raises. This silence is often called tacit approval.

Nate Halverson, student body president at Fort Hays State University, calls this package deal "a blatant bribe." Amen, Nate.

The governor should be ashamed for putting faculty members in such a bind. Faculty members should be ashamed for not speaking out against both the political tactics being employed by the governor and the plan to bring Washburn into the regents system.

It is asking a lot for professors to forgo their long-overdue pay raises. Ill-gotten pay raises, though, should be recognized as such and dismissed without hesitation.

This is educational blood money. The faculty can receive their pay hike if they agree to betray — or allow others to betray — Kansas' higher educational system.

The faculty know what this plan is really about. Finney, a Washburn alumna, wants to make sure the financially strapped municipal college she attended will be supported in perpetuity by the

Yet, faculty don't protest this outrageous proposal, which will, in the long run, cost the rest of the state more money as did bringing Wichita into the regents' system years ago.

Currently, Washburn receives some state funds, but isn't accountable to the regents.

If Washburn doesn't want more state money, why would it become a regents school and lose its autonomy?

Where will that money eventually have to come from? It will come from taxpayers and tuition at other regents' schools.

The argument that making Washburn a state university would improve higher education in Kansas is ridiculous. If education were a true priority in Topeka, the partnership plan would have been proposed and passed long ago, unfettered, and our professors would be paid as they should be paid.

Even State Budget Director Gloria Timmer admits this proposal is at least somewhat politically driven.

What should be done with Washburn instead? Perhaps Washburn should be closed. Perhaps the law school should be

included in the regents' system with the rest of the university converted to a junior college. Perhaps it should be modified into a joint satellite school like Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis.

I am against the current Washburn proposal for five reasons.

■First, it's open-ended with no clear predictions about long-term costs to the state.

■Secondly, it would put four state schools within a 60-mile radius of each other in the northeast when the southwest has no regional university at all.

■Washburn could continue to offer associate degrees (some 27 percent of its total certificates), but other state universities still could not.

■As I've said before, it makes no sense to bring a troubled school into a system that can't adequately fund the schools it already has.

■Next, there's no guarantee that making Washburn a state school wouldn't eventually lower enrollment and raise tuition at all-state schools and increase everyone's tax burden.

■Finally, the motivations behind bringing Washburn into the regents system have more to do with politics, parochialism and nostalgia than education. This upsets me most of all.

I'm upset even more that Faculty Senate doesn't have the courage to nobly denounce this package proposal as an attempt to buy their collective approval.

I'm upset our faculty members can be bought whenever the state wants to buy them.

Scott Allen Miller is a Junior in radio and

Shannon State Collegian, Feb 21, 1994

TO: The Senate Ways and Means Committee

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today. This right to express my opinion I do not take lightly. As the fella on television says, "I love this country," and I certainly love this state - Kansas.

I am here today not to disparage anyone. I am here to speak reason and responsibility. I respect this legislative body that will make the decisions which not only effect our lives today, but most importantly in the years to come. I will be brief and to the point.

THE ISSUE TODAY IS PURE AND SIMPLE - MONEY.

In the present atmosphere of a slow economy, tight money, and uncertain job security, please listen to me. Bringing Washburn into the State Regents System will have a major, negative impact on our state, its higher education, and the taxpayers of Kansas.

At present we have a regents university system that has developed through the years a level of higher education that is the envy of many. Our undergraduate programs have produced Rhodes Scholars and outstanding men and women, more than able to compete in their lives' endeavors. Our men's and women's athletic programs speak for themselves. Our post-graduate programs in agriculture, medicine, law and teacher education are among the leaders in the nation. We can be extremely proud of these accomplishments. Our challenge though is, in the future, to maintain and enhance this level of excellence. Do we need another state university? Of course we don't.

THE ISSUE IS MONEY.

Unfortunately as in all businesses, money is the fuel that runs the wheels, or is the water that irrigates the plant. Our state funds are similar to the Ogallala aquifer. We had better conserve and use these funds with prudence as they are not a resource with infinite supply.

THE ISSUE IS MONEY.

In the present climate of fiscal uncertainty, when our citizens from all endeavors run their lives and businesses with increasing prudence just to maintain their present standard of living, shouldn't we also operate our regents system in a like manner? Shouldn't we care for what we have and with our limited funds enhance our present system rather than adding another university and expanding into uncharted ground?

Is it wise to break open new ground for irrigation when our water supply won't handle the crops we have? Think about it! We should have restrictions on the money we spend just as we have restrictions on the water we use.

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Ladies and gentlemen, we have to control our flow of money. We can not do this by adding another university to our present regents system. It is just not prudent. There is no competent business in the world that would consider it.

THE ISSUE IS MONEY.

What can Washburn bring to our present system? Nothing other than complete duplication of programs and an additional law school. I've heard it said they will bring a campus and faculty to prepare us for an expected glut of students in the near future. Has this legislature forgotten the 70's when we had a like increase in enrollment? Did they run out and buy us a new university? No! In place of building new facilities, they took our funds and spread them through the state private universities, including Washburn. When the enrollments dropped in the 80's we did not have a glut of state universities or facilities we could not afford. Doesn't that seem a fairer alternative for the entire state than the Washburn plan?

Topeka and Shawnee County have one of the highest mill levies in the state for their taxpayers to shoulder. I don't think the taxpayers of Kansas should be penalized for this and be expected to take over the Washburn load. The state has given Topeka more than enough. We let them house our multibillion dollar business, the capitol and its associated agencies. Satellite entities locate in Topeka for access to the capitol. What wouldn't other cities in Kansas give for this industry?

THE ISSUE IS MONEY.


We must not wake one morning like California and not be able to meet our payroll. I imagine California would like for us to take over one or two of their universities if we are in the "taking-over mood."

THE ISSUE IS MONEY.

If the initiative and referendum bill passed and the Washburn plan could be voted on by the taxpayers across the state it would fail. Consider such impending issues: repayment of retired military personnel taxes, difficulty in funding other state institutions such as our state hospitals and the most recent crisis looming on our state's horizon, the closing of Fort Riley. To quote Sunday's Topeka Capitol editorial on the closing of Fort Riley, "The total impact on Kansas can hardly be calculated--but it certainly would be massive." Can you imagine what effects the loss of an \$800 million a year business would be to our entire state, let alone our educational system? Now folks to me that's more than a little scary. Do any of you still think we need to acquire a new state university? The issue is money.

In closing I only ask this body of legislators to use your minds and hearts and do what you were elected to do, that which is best for the entire state of Kansas. May I reiterate, Kansas, the greatest state in the Union, has already an excellent state system of higher education. Please do not jeopardize this system or our state by adding Washburn University to the regents system. Use our resources wisely, and please don't go to the taxpayers' well once too often.

Thank you.


Richard L. Bennett, D.D.S.
Emporia, KS 66801

March 1. 1994

Good Morning, Senators:

My name is Don Halbower. I'm a retired school administrator from Great Bend.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views regarding S.B. 779, a proposal to bring Washburn University into the Kansas Regents' System.

Anyone familiar with the ever-increasing costs of educating young people can certainly understand why the taxpayers of Topeka are eager to share their fiscal burden with the rest of the taxpayers in Kansas. As an educator, I could support this initiative if the following circumstances existed:

1. IF there were already sufficient funds available to satisfy the current needs of the existing Regents' schools.
2. IF there were no other universities in the immediate proximity.
3. IF there were a need for another university due to overcrowding in the existing institutions.
4. IF the proposed new member school offered programs that were not already available in the other nearby state universities.

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BUT, the facts are these:

1. It seems there has never been sufficient state funding available to allow even the existing six Regents' universities to function as they should in order to keep pace with similar institutions in other states.
2. There are three very fine, highly respected, state universities currently operating within an hour's drive of Topeka.
3. None of these existing institutions is operating at full student capacity. In fact, all of them have been aggressively competing with each other for the students from this area as well as throughout the state.
4. With the exception of its criminal justice classes, Washburn offers no programs that are not already available in at least one of the other three adjacent institutions. More importantly, the vast majority of Washburn's programs are currently available at all three. I'm convinced that most Kansas taxpayers would not consider such duplication of programs as wise or necessary use of our limited state funds for higher education.

As a school administrator, serving eight years on the Kansas North Central Association State Committee, I had the opportunity to work closely with representatives from each of the six existing Regents' universities. During this time, I became very aware

that the salaries of our university faculties were falling significantly behind those available in similar institutions elsewhere. So I was totally in favor of the now-unfunded "^{Margin}~~Partnership~~ ^{of} Excellence" initiative. I would certainly support almost any legislative effort to make our faculty salaries more competitive. However, this proposal, tying the improvement of faculty salaries to the inclusion of Washburn into state funding, smacks of political vote-trading rather than statesmanlike decision-making.

I'm also aware that some of the once solid coalition of university presidents, who previously opposed Washburn's inclusion in the system, are now favoring the proposal in order to get the promised additional money for their faculties. I would suggest that these individuals should re-read the sixteenth century legend of Dr. Faust, who traded his eternal soul to the devil for a few years of pleasure.

One might liken this proposal to parents of a family of six children deciding to conceive a seventh child. For the short-term "pleasure" of getting some faculty raises, this bill will put another plate on the family table. But this analogy is not quite accurate. Feeding a family is a transitory circumstance. As the children of a family mature, they become independent and eventually leave the table. In this case, if S.B. 779 is approved, there will be seven plates at the table forever and ever.

As Senators on this very important committee, you are certainly in the best possible position to know just how bleak the financial picture really is for Kansas. Our highways and bridges, public schools, universities, social services, public parks, correctional institutions and state hospitals are all in dire need of additional funding. Beyond all of that, the courts have recently ruled that we must refund more than eighty million dollars to military retirees. The total funds currently needed by our state is indeed staggering.

Surely, this is not the time to expand our state's obligation to support another university. Especially when we simply do not need another university.

Thank you so much for listening to my views on this matter.

TESTIMONY ON WASHBURN UNIVERSITY INTEGRATION

for

THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

PRESENTED

by

NATE HALVERSON

CHAIR, ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF KANSAS

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Chairperson Bogina, members of the committee, I want to initially thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. The issue of Washburn affiliation has continually been of grave concern to the students of Regent Universities.

My name is Nate Halverson and I am currently serving as student body president at Fort Hays State University. I also serve as the Board Chairperson of Associated Students of Kansas (ASK). Associated Students of Kansas collectively represents the 18,000 students enrolled at Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, and Pittsburg State University. I am here today, not only to protect the future of higher education, but also to represent the interest of taxpayers.

ASK is primarily concerned about fully financing an additional state university. The state of Kansas has not been able to adequately fund Regent Universities over the past ten years. The funding has not been available. As a result, each state university has suffered significant budget cuts, program eliminations, and huge tuition increases. Higher education in Kansas is at a critical point and adding another university will further complicate the situation. The Governor's proposal identifies funds for Washburn integration up to FY 2002. Following FY 2002, there is no guarantee that the state of Kansas will be able to finance seven universities. Actually, there is not even a guarantee that the funding will be available next year.

The Board of Regents themselves recognized the need for additional funding. They were aware that the state could not fund faculty salaries to peer levels. As a result, the Partnership for

Excellence was developed. Revenues from rigorous tuition increases have been earmarked for faculty salary enhancement. If the Board of Regents had to create the Partnership for Excellence to bring budgets to peer levels, how can the state begin to consider fully funding another university. Adding Washburn University into the Regents system will only tighten budgets and obligate precious state dollars to an unneeded university.

An additional state university will place an exorbitant amount of pressure on the state of Kansas for the financing of higher education. When the financing is not available, the Board of Regents and the state will turn to students to subsidize university budgets. From FY 1984 to FY 1994, the State General Fund increased by 48%, whereas tuition at Regent universities increased by nearly three times as much at 139%. Furthermore, the students of regional universities pay higher tuition than students at peer institutions pay for comparable education. The current elasticity between enrollment and tuition is little, if any. For example, over 80% of the students at FHSU are receiving some form of financial aid. Washburn University integration will undoubtedly place an undue burden on taxpayers and indirectly the students of regional universities.

Next, it is imperative to look at Washburn's curriculum and what new benefits they could possibly offer to the Regent system. It is obvious that the addition of Washburn University will inevitably lead to program duplication. There are currently three Regent Universities within a 60 mile radius of Topeka. These are all strong academic institutions that each offer their own area of

expertise to the Regents System. Washburn University simply has little to offer the state of Kansas and the Regents system. In fact, all of Washburn's bachelor degrees, with the exception of one, can be sought at any of the aforementioned universities. In short, adding Washburn University to the Regents system would result in financial strain without offering any geographical or curricular benefits. Further, in 1991-92 all Regents Universities went through extensive program review. The aim of this review was to eliminate duplicative programs at existing Regent Universities. If Washburn went through program review as a Regent University, it would be necessary to eliminate a significant number of their programs.

The students of ESU, FHSU, and PSU are united in their opposition of Washburn integration. Please do not sacrifice precious dollars by adding Washburn University. Rather, enhance six university budgets. Now is the time to move our state universities into the 21st century, not backward.

TESTIMONY OF CHARLES STUART
BEFORE THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
ON SENATE BILL 779

March 1, 1994

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Chuck Stuart, of Clay Center, Kansas. I appreciate the opportunity to appear today in opposition to Senate Bill 779 which would place Washburn University in the Kansas Regents system of high education.

Let me say at the outset, that I consider Washburn a good school and the quality of its programs is not my reason for opposing the addition of another Regents Institution.

I am a graduate of Emporia State University with both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree and spent 41 years in public education before my retirement in 1988. Although I am a graduate of Emporia State University, I believe my reasons for opposing the entry of Washburn are shared by many Kansans, regardless of their level of education or university affiliation.

To be concise, I will phrase most of my testimony in a series of questions.

1. DUPLICATION OF COURSE OFFERINGS

Why would the Kansas Regents and Kansas Legislature choose to bring in another university, another state supported law school and all the ensuing duplication, when they have been working so hard to eliminate program duplication?

2. TECHNOLOGICAL UPGRADING AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Why would the Kansas Regents and Kansas Legislature choose to bring in another institution when there is so much needed to improve technology and facility maintenance in existing Kansas Regents Schools?

3. WHAT WILL THE COST REALLY BE?

Is there anyone in the Kansas Legislature so naive as to not foresee the bombardment which will come when one Kansas Regents Institution is forced to pay a property tax levy when it is not required of any other area?

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4. IMMEDIATE VERSUS LONG RANGE

Faculty salaries need support. Does the desire of the Topeka taxpayers and an immediate salary increase for regents staff outweigh the long range consequences of more program duplication, two state supported law schools and a limited fiscal pie cut into seven rather than six pieces?

5. WHERE IS THE PLANNING?

To date I have not heard of any plans made for Washburn University programs which may be currently duplicated in the three Kansas Regents Schools that are within a 60 mile radius.

Most Kansans might look at the proposal in a different light, if, for example, there were a plan in place, providing for Emporia State to take over the education department of Washburn, employ current Washburn staff and be allowed to offer all education courses, including doctoral programs on both campuses.

I URGE YOU TO TAKE THE LONG RANGE VIEW AND VOTE TO NOT ADVANCE SENATE BILL 779.

Thank you for allowing me to present my views today.

Letter To The Editor:

NO TO WASHBURN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Kansas Board of Regents, the Washburn trustees, and the Governor are attempting to bring Washburn University into the Regents system. Their plan is to attach faculty salary increases to the admission of Washburn. This puts the Regents universities between a rock and a hard spot.

As taxpayers, we need to realize that bringing Washburn into the state system would add significant tax dollars for higher education. Further, it appears the long range effect of allowing Washburn into the system has not been studied carefully. It bears repeating, adding one more university to the Regents system would add significantly to the state's financial support of higher education.

Another concern is the duplication of programs. Washburn would not bring any new baccalaureate or graduate programs into the system, and would only duplicate those already in place. In recent years, all Regents universities academic programs were reviewed and many programs eliminated because of duplication. Yet the plan would bring in a university that doesn't offer any undergraduate program that are not already offered by the Regents universities.

Regarding the Partnership for Excellence Program that has been proposed with the Washburn legislation, it is unfortunate for the Regents universities that these have been tied together. Although the universities themselves must support the plan for their respective faculty and student aid potential, it is a fact that no Regent institution stands to benefit by the admittance of Washburn into the Regents system. Remember, the Margin of Excellence Plan was funded only two out of three years.

Recently, the Emporia State University Alumni Association Board of Directors voted unanimously against the plan to bring Washburn into the Regents system. I urge you to find out all the facts and let your legislators know that this is a plan that won't work!



Clay R. Anderson, President
Emporia State University Alumni Association

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