

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on January 19, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley – excused  
Senator Susan Wagle - excused

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Laura Younker, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Eunice Peters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Lana Oleen, Interim President, Midwestern Higher Education Compact

Others attending:

See attached list.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Senator Abrams moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 13, and 18, 2011 as written. The motion was seconded by Senator Marshall. Motion carried on a voice vote.

### **Presentation: Midwestern Higher Education Compact**

Lana Oleen, Interim President, Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), appeared before the members of the committee with a presentation. MHEC is a nonprofit regional organization comprised of twelve Midwestern states established by compact statute to assist Midwestern states in advancing higher education through interstate cooperation and resource sharing. The compact fulfills its interstate mission through three core functions of cost savings, student access, and policy research by

- reducing administrative costs;
- encouraging student access, completion, and affordability;
- facilitating public policy analysis and information exchange;
- enhancing regional academic cooperation; and
- encouraging quality educational programs and services in higher education

Included in her presentation was a chart (Attachment 1) showing program commitment costs for each of the twelve states as well as program savings for the twelve months ending June 30, 2010, and cumulative savings for member states through June, 2010.

As required by statute, she next presented a report for the State of Kansas (Attachment 2). Items covered included cost savings for items such as property insurance, computer hardware, and computer software. Other programs include the e-transcript initiative which is available to all secondary and postsecondary schools; a student exchange program offering reduced tuition to attend out-of-state institutions; and research conducted on educational requirements in the workforce, postsecondary enrollment, retention and completion rates, earnings rates by educational levels, and tuition costs.

A short question and answer session followed.

Senator Teichman introduced members of the Edwards County Leadership Program spending the day in the Statehouse.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 02:25 p.m.