

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman John Vratil at 1:45 p.m. on January 24, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Senators Apple, McGinn, and Steineger

Committee staff present: Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dr. Andy Tompkins, Chairperson, At-Risk Education Council
Larry Isaak, President, Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)

While awaiting the arrival of the Chairman, Vice Chairman John Vratil called the Committee's attention to the minutes of the January 16 committee meeting.

Senator Teichman moved to approve the minutes of the January 16 meeting, seconded by Senator Lee. The motion carried.

Dr. Andy Tompkins, Chairperson of the At-Risk Education Council, discussed the At-Risk Council's December 2006 report to the 2010 Commission. (Attachment 1) At the outset, he commented, "After hearing the testimony, we essentially affirmed what you have done with some suggested improvements." He went on to summarize the current formula for at-risk students and highlighted the At-Risk Council's conclusions and recommendations included in the report to the 2010 Commission.

Larry Isaak, President of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), presented a report entitled, "MHEC in Kansas". (Attachment 2) He explained that, each year, he visits the eleven states that are members of MHEC to report on the state's participation in the compact. He noted that each state passed a statute to become a member of MHEC and that the overall mission of MHEC is to enhance cooperation and collaboration in education. He called attention to two spreadsheets on cost savings programs for the states that participate in the compact. (Attachment 3) In addition, he distributed copies of a MHEC publication prepared in January 2007 entitled, "MHEC in Kansas 2005-2006 – Responding to Constituents' Needs in a Changing Climate". He went on to discuss his report on MHEC in Kansas, which included information on the MHEC Commission in Kansas and the duties of the MHEC officers, cost savings programs, student access, MHEC workshops, MHEC forums, and the MHEC on-line resource library. He called attention to the tables in the Kansas MEHC report which compared Kansas to other MHEC states and the national average with regard to demographic indicators, leading financial indicators, postsecondary preparation, benefits of higher education, affordability of higher education, and higher education funding. In conclusion, he discussed significant Kansas education facts, and he pointed out that the major issue for Kansas for continued economic success is to increase the proportion of its population with college degrees.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2007.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Education Committee at 1:45 P.M. on January 24, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.