

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alicia Salisbury at 8:00 a.m. on March 7, 2000 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
Bob Nugent, Revisor of Statutes
Betty Bomar

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Donald L. Beggs, President, Wichita State University
Richard A. Bendis, President and CEO, Kansas Technology
Enterprise Corporation

Others attending:

Senator Donovan moved, seconded by Senator Brownlee, that the Minutes of the March 2nd and March 3rd meetings be approved. The voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Appointment of Donald L. Beggs, member Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation, term expiring January 15, 2003.

Donald L. Beggs, President, Wichita State University stated it was an honor to be considered for service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC). Mr. Beggs stated he is a mathematician with 34 years experience in higher education serving as a faculty member, teaching and doing research, and serving as an administrator. He was involved for 12 years in an incubator program at Southern Illinois University (SIU). He believes the KTEC approach to research development is exciting, as it involves all sectors of the academic, scientific and public environment, bringing them together for a common goal, expansion of technology in the state.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Beggs stated he does not believe there is a conflict of interest in serving on the KETC board, and president of a research university. He views himself as a scientist qualified to fill the statutory requirement. (Attachment 1)

The hearing on the appointment of Mr. Beggs was concluded.

HB 2929 - Kansas technology enterprise corporation, senior administrator

Richard A. Bendis, President and CEO of KTEC, testified in support of **HB 2929** stating the bill allows the Governor to appoint "senior administrators" from the states' universities as well as "scientists or engineers". Presently, the Governor appoints six directors from the private sector and "four directors who are engineers or scientists who have extensive experience in managing basic or applied scientific and technological research at Kansas educational institutions." **HB 2929** allows the appointment of university presidents, vice-presidents, and provosts, as well as engineers or scientists, who have extensive scientific and technological research experience. By allowing senior administrators to speak for the universities, rather than a single department head, the decision making process will be greatly streamlined and accelerated. (Attachment 2)

Mr. Bendis stated KTEC has strengthened its evaluation capabilities by forming committees that conduct extensive reviews of the technical and commercial merits of a proposal, and supplementing the committees with non-board technical experts. Because of the rigorous review process the replacement of university scientists or engineers with senior administrators on the KTEC Board will not diminish the

CONTINUATION SHEET

quality of the board's decisions.

The hearing was concluded.

Senator Barone moved, seconded by Senator Donovan that HB 2929 be amended on Line 36 following the word "administrators" by inserting "at Kansas educational institutions" and on Line 38 striking "at Kansas educational institutions". The voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Senator Feleciano moved, seconded by Senator Barone that HB 2929 be recommended favorably for passage as amended. The recorded vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Senator Gooch moved, seconded by Senator Donovan, that Donald L. Beggs be recommended for appointment as a member of the KTEC board, term expiring January 15, 2003. The recorded vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2000.