

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:40 p.m. on January 29, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley (excused)

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statues
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Reggie Robinson, President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Umbarger opened the meeting with the introduction of personal friends, John & Nancy Presko from Kentucky, their son John and two grandchildren from Tecumseh..

Overview of Higher Education

Reggie Robinson, President & CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents presented the Committee with an overview of higher education in the state of Kansas. The Board of Regents believes that the most important public service that the taxpayers support is education. Without higher education, there would be no professionals or highly skilled workers. The Higher Education Coordination Act (known as **SB345**) was passed by the 1999 Kansas Legislature. This gave the Board of Regents opportunities to work with the Governor and Legislature to improve the quality of higher education. President Robinson summarized the accomplishments and challenges the Board has faced, the biggest challenge being inadequate staffing and funding. He believes that higher education must be recognized and a commitment to significant funding must be restored. (Attachment 1)

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.