

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:35 p.m. on February 28, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
 Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
 Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
 Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mary Prewitt, General Council, KS Board of Regents
 Sheila Frahm, Executive Director, KACCT
 Terry Malone, Trustee, Dodge City Community College

Others attending: See attached sheet

HB2188–Community colleges, scholarships, student fees

Mary Prewitt, General Council, Kansas Board of Regents, gave testimony in support of **HB2188**. (Attachment 1) Currently, community colleges collect student fees under a statutory provision giving trustees general authority to do certain things reasonably necessary or incidental to the operation of the college. This bill will add explicit authority for the community colleges to collect fees.

Sheila Frahm, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, introduced several members of community college leadership in attendance today. Sheila gave testimony in support of **HB2188**. (Attachment 2)

During discussion, it was determined that each community college charges fees, either per student or on a credit hour basis, and designates the use of those fees for a number of purposes, such as cultural and sporting events, technology, student publications, paying off bonds, and a portion is used for scholarships in district, in county resident scholarships and this is authorized by statute. Students do not have to consent to having a part of their fees used for scholarships; some students probably know and some probably do not pay attention to it. Fees collected are used for the personal benefit of students, but not all students choose to take advantage of all of the things offered. There are no statutory limits on fees or tuition. Tuition and fees are set by board of trustees. It is a concern that most students probably do not know that a portion of their fees are used for scholarships.

Terry Malone, Trustee, Dodge City Community College offered his testimony as an opponent to **HB2188**. (Attachment 3) Terry opposes the amendments to the bill on the grounds of basic fairness as he believes that no student should be required to pay another student's tuition. He believes community colleges are wasting large amounts of money on athletic scholarships to out-of-state students and some of this money is coming from other student's tuition. These scholarships take away from the educational budgets.

Senator Teichman made a motion to accept the minutes for February 19, 2001 and February 20, 2001. Seconded by Senator Vratil. Motion passed.

Chairman Umbarger stated that there will possibly be further hearings on **HB2188** at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2001.