

Review of Perceived Needs

Dr. Golbeck reported to the group that to begin identifying the highest priorities for advanced academic programming in southwest Kansas, Board staff prepared a cover letter and survey to go to specific Chamber of Commerce offices and KBOR institutions. Five responses were received, two from chambers of commerce and three from KBOR institutions.

The questions included "list the opportunities that you are aware of for the residents of your county to enroll in advanced education programs (programs requiring junior or senior status or higher), what additional **advanced** opportunities are needed in your county, list the needed educational programs and rate the need for each program, and if you assigned 10 points to any program, briefly describe the negative consequences of the unavailability of the program." (The results of the survey are attached to the official minutes).

Regent Shank asked how available are the programs that are in the area? Dr. Golbeck answered that they are available by distance education. Dr. Golbeck indicated that some of the programs listed as needed but not available were elementary/secondary education, entrepreneurship or small business management and social work.

Dr. Coffman asked why the response rate was not higher. Former Regent Hampton pointed out that it was a forty to forty-five percent response.

Dr. Gould indicated that surveys often provide distortions. The need is expressed but when provided with the opportunity to enroll in the program, enrollment is low and often stops. Former Regent Hampton asked what was the need in the area of social work. Regent Shank replied that in her community there often are advertisements for social workers. Dr. Gould advised the group that Fort Hays State University has completed several surveys that indicated need for a program and that on three occasions two to three courses are taken in the first semester and then there is no more interest.

Dr. Golbeck pointed the group to the note provided on page 2 of the Results from Survey: Educational Opportunities in Southwest Kansas. [**NOTE:** *Several respondents indicated they were aware of a particular opportunity available in their area, yet listed that same program as an area of additional need. Assuming the respondents carefully read the survey, understanding this seeming contradiction could be key to understanding the long-standing concerns about upper level higher education opportunities in Southwest Kansas.*] Regent Kerr read the "Respondents' Comments" on page 3 of the survey for the benefit of the audience.

Review of Existing Offerings

Dr. Golbeck reviewed a preliminary draft of the ACCESS report pointing out the programs that are available across the state.

Summary of Proposals

The Southwest Kansas Access Group reviewed (a) the May 7, 2001 Memo that summarized the work of the Kansas Board of Regents' Committee to Discuss the Affiliation Proposal for Pratt Community College and Fort Hays State University, (b) the May 16-17, 2001 minutes of this report made to the Board, (c) the August 6, 2001 memo from Dr. Golbeck to Kansas Board of Regents and Pratt

Community College Board of Trustees, and (d) the March 2002 Commission for Higher Education Coordination issue paper "Kansas State University/Barton County Community College Affiliation.

At which point, Dr. Golbeck asked Dr. Coffman to comment on the KSU/Barton County Community College Affiliation. Dr. Coffman indicated that KSU has an office on campus with signage. They are working with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce to develop an economic partnership. They are providing all statewide programs and have a representative on campus to advise and facilitate students with their education. After this endeavor works well, they will pursue new program opportunities. He reported that there will be some instances where students will have to meet face-to-face for a concentrated meeting perhaps once a year.

Summary of Proposals Received to Date

The summary was reviewed and discussion followed. Dodge City Community College's "Educational Challenges in the Southwest Quadrant of Kansas" proposes to use the St. Mary's campus for a Western Kansas Regents Center to serve to citizens of the area. Fort Hays State University, "Taking the Initiative: A Virtual Knowledge Networking Organization/Senior College for Southwest Kansas" intends to provide face-to-face instruction to supplement the distance education programs available now to help address the needs in the region. Regent Kerr asked about the Fort Hays State University/Pratt Community College proposal. Currently no action is being taken. Emporia State University's "The Kansas Initiative" intends to provide a combination of face-to-face education and/or distance education in the region. Regent Kerr reviewed the Barton County Community College September 4, 2002 letter. Regent Kerr recommended that the group invite Dr. Law to articulate further what he has in mind. Copies of the Dodge City Community College PowerPoint Presentation "Western Kansas Regents Center Senior College, Opportunity Thinking for Southwest Kansas" were provided.

The closure of St. Mary's College in June of 1992 was discussed. The question was raised are there any other higher education services in the area. Newman is currently using the St. Mary's campus for a limited number of courses at a high cost.

Dr. Golbeck presented population projections from 2000 - 2030 of the counties generally considered in the southwest area, paying particular attention to the trends both positive and negative, as well as, the median age of the population.

Work Plan and Timeline

Dr. Coffman encouraged the group to consider the core purposes and objectives.

Regent Kerr advised the group to study the background materials provided thus far. Further discussion will occur in future meetings.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 16, 2002. The time to be arranged. Length of time will be an hour and a half to two hours. The agenda will include Dodge City Community College proposal, Fort Hays State University proposal, Emporia State University proposal, and invite Dr. Law to expand on his concept. Regent Kerr asked Board staff to e-mail all KBOR institutions an invitation to submit proposals. Pay particular attention to the content of each proposal and/or directives, intent of the programs, the costs involved, target population. Philosophically, where do the Regents want to go especially in regard to the campus experience?

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There is an increased need to serve the 25 to 50 year old non-traditional students as well as to serve the needs of the traditional 20 year old students who are not increasing in numbers. Is there enough specified need to make a case for the costs? Some of the needs are being met but we are unaware of what is currently available or perhaps communities do not know what is currently available. What are the actual needs and the actual support? The concept of accessibility to one consumer is not necessarily the same to another consumer. The Regents need to consider a policy regarding distance, blended, and face-to-face education. Regent Ferguson emphasized the need to look further to the future because the needs factor is a moving target.

Regent Kerr asked for suggestions on how to research the region for needs. Several suggestions were made including survey the high schools, pool the professional people who need education, distribute surveys in the communities, collaborate with the state Department of Education to contribute resources, send survey to the Southwest Plains Service Center to distribute to the superintendents.

Regent Kerr asked Dr. Gould about Fort Hays' assessment of the needs in the region and how many individuals actually took advantage of the opportunities offered. Dr. Gould indicated that in the last ten years they have done three surveys with little participation. Newman and Friends have pulled out of Southwest Kansas in the area of professional education programs. There are some programs at the Southwest Plains Service Center. There are various ways of needs being met. Perhaps corporations could be surveyed concerning the training they need for their employees. Dr. Golbeck advised the group that the Board of Regents does not have the funds to do an extensive survey.

The Southwest Kansas Access Group plans to complete their work by June, 2003. President Burke advised that there are all kinds of data studies available. Dr. Gould indicated that Fort Hays Docking Institute will have some data.

The meeting adjourned.