



## KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES & REGULATIONS January 5, 2011

#### Regarding K.A.R. 88-28-1

#### Jacqueline Johnson Director of Private Postsecondary Education

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee, I am Jacqueline Johnson, Director of Private Postsecondary Education at the Kansas Board of Regents. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of the Board regarding a proposed change to K.A.R. 88-28-1 that will revise the definition section of a regulation that applies only to private or out-of-state postsecondary educational institutions falling under the Board's authority. The change to the regulation will allow baccalaureate degrees from such schools to have a minimum of 120 semester credit hours, rather than the current 124 semester credit hours required for graduation. The proposed change is as follows:

#### Definitions

(c) "Bachelor's degree" and "baccalaureate" means a degree that meets the following conditions:

(1) Requires the equivalent of at least four academic years of college-level coursework in the liberal arts, sciences, or professional fields meeting the following conditions:

(A) Requires at least ~~124~~ 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent;

The Board recently changed the same requirement for the six state universities, where 120 (not 124) semester credit hours are now required for graduation. This change will likely reduce the time to degree completion (as noted in a 2010 Legislative Post Audit report), reduce excessive credit hours (also noted in the 2010 Legislative Post Audit report), and ease the transfer of credits to other programs and/or schools. The change will also encourage Kansans to enroll within the state and not enroll in out-of-state schools where the programs requirements are typically 120 semester hours – especially in nearby states like Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, and Arkansas. I might note that 39 of the 50 states currently require a minimum of 120 semester hours. This change in no way decreases the quality of a program; note that the top-rated Ivy League schools in this nation require 120 semester credit hours.

I am happy to address any questions you may have.