

Legislative Update Week of February 17, 2014

Last week in the Kansas Legislature, the House debated and gave preliminary approval to House Bill 2544. The bill will allow Kansas to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) administered by the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC). The final vote on the bill will be Monday, February 17. Another piece of legislation for higher education being voted on in the House of Representatives is the authority to purchase property insurance through the Midwest Higher Education Commission. This will allow the state universities to more efficiently insure multimillion dollars of property when the bill passes the Legislature.

This past week the Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education and the House Education Budget Committee began budget hearings for Kansas State University and the other state universities. Kansas State President Kirk Schulz testified before both committees on Monday, February 10, 2014. Dr Schulz emphasized the University's support for the Governor's recommendations for the restoration of the salary cap dollars and the target enhancement for the College of Architecture Planning and Design. Dr Schulz's testimony can be found here: [House](#) [Senate](#)

The House Education Committee deliberated and made recommendations on the Governor's budget for higher education. The Committee approved the following recommendations for Kansas State:

- Restore partial funding in Fiscal Year 2014 for the salary cap on the university imposed by the 2013 Kansas Legislature. This is \$949,829 million for Kansas State University and \$1.5 million for Agricultural Research Service and Cooperative Extension.
- Restore all funding in Fiscal Year 2015 for the salary cap on the university imposed by the 2013 Kansas Legislature. This is \$1,196,484 million for Kansas State University and \$1,419,764 million for Agricultural Research Service and Cooperative Extension.
- Provide \$1.5 million for the College of Architecture, Planning & Design to begin the renovation of Seaton Hall.

This week in the Kansas Legislature will see many hearings on bills before the mid-point deadline February 28, 2014.

Also this week the Senate Ways and Means Education Subcommittee will deliberate on the Governor's budget recommendations for higher education.

Finally this week members of the State and Extension Advisory Council will meet to discuss programming, advocacy, and policy matters for the Cooperative Extension Service. On Tuesday the Council members will receive briefings from State Agriculture leaders and visit with members of the State Legislature.