Proposal would make college expenses predictable

BY CHRIS GREEN
HARRS NEWS SERVICE

TOPEKA — An effort to make college costs more predictable sounds intriguing to recent Ottawa High School graduate Sara Humm.

Set to begin her freshman year at the University of Kansas in August, Humm’s class could be the first at the school to receive what’s being called a “four-year tuition compact.”

Last month, KU officials announced a plan to hike tuition charges by about 16 percent for all incoming freshmen. But they would also freeze those charges at the same rate for four years.

The state Board of Regents is scheduled to vote on the proposal Thursday as it sets tuition and course fee rates for 2007-08 at all state universities.

Proposed hikes for Kansas residents were released last month and ranged from a 5.1 percent jump in tuition and fees at Fort Hays State to 9.5 percent at Emporia State.

The guaranteed tuition rate proposal has received positive reviews so far, KU spokeswoman Lynn Bretz said. At several recent orientations, parents reportedly burst into applause when told there might be no tuition increases for four years, she said.

“We’re taking that as pretty good feedback,” Bretz said.

Initially pushed by students leaders, under the tuition compact, resident incoming freshmen would pay a single tuition rate of $245 per credit hour for four years. Out-of-state students would pay $560 per credit hour.

The compact rate is the average of what students would pay over four years if the university increased tuition 6 percent annually.

However Humm, 18, said she doesn’t know how much the new plan would benefit her as she tries to figure out how to pay off her college bills.

If college costs rise faster than expected, the guaranteed rate could be a good deal. But the bargain might not be so good for students who transfer from KU prior to graduating or if yearly rates don’t rise as steeply as the guaranteed rate projects.

“You know, they could be making money,” said Humm, who has served on Ottawa’s City Commission since April.

On average, though, the university has seen tuition jump by an average of 9 percent a year over the past 30 years, Bretz said.

KU officials have also set out a four-year schedule for fees and plan to allow students to fix their on-campus housing costs for two years as a way of curbing year-to-year cost fluctuations.

“Our whole program is about bringing predictability back into college expenses,” Bretz said. “That’s what is so hard for families — not knowing what college costs are going to be over four years.”
New nominees for hospital board

TOPEKA — Senate leaders from both parties have urged Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and University of Kansas Hospital officials to pick new nominees to serve on the hospital's governing board.

Control and makeup of the University of Kansas Hospital Authority has come under scrutiny amid a battle between leaders of the hospital and the University of Kansas.

Thirteen of the 19 board members are selected by the governor and subject to Senate confirmation. When a vacancy occurs, a nominating committee of the board gives the governor a slate of two or three candidates from which to choose. Six members serve on the board by virtue of their positions.
Science holds promise

The pieces are falling into place for the multimillion-dollar research/education bioscience campus in northwest Olathe. In recent days the city "sold" 92 acres of prime suburban land - for $10 - as its contribution to the project.

Kansas State University, through the KSU Foundation, will soon launch a $200 million fundraising campaign to finance its long-awaited entry into the Kansas City metropolitan region. Officials say agreements are expected to be completed soon for the multi-governmental initiative.

K-State will share the site, on College Boulevard just east of K-7, with the Kansas Bioscience Authority. K-State's operation, which will include a $75 million building for science classes and experimentation, will occupy 38 acres, said Tom Thornton, authority president and CEO.

The authority, created by the state Legislature in 2004, will take the rest of the property for a research laboratory and business complex.

The authority's operation will include start-up bioscience companies and existing firms attracted to the area for research and manufacture of products. The venture will be managed jointly by Kansas State and the authority, Thornton explained.

"Every successful bioscience center has been driven by being close to a large academic research institution (like K-State)," Thornton said of the arrangement, adding that the close proximity to many private animal health companies in the Kansas-Missouri area - some with international reach - will create synergy for that important scientific industry.

The authority head said the Olathe project meshes well with the research triangle concept that is being established. If Johnson County voters approve a sales tax for the triangle, Thornton continued in an interview, part of the revenue is committed to building a research-related building on the K-State/Kansas Biosciences Authority campus and KU campuses.

This is a bold, major stride in the field of science, in education and in economic development for our county, the state of Kansas and the Kansas City area. Officials note that some $150 million, perhaps more, will be invested by public and private interests. An estimated 3,000 jobs will be created, with an average income of $57,000 a year.

The Kansas State research facility will incorporate new concepts into its studies, said Cheryl May, K-State assistant vice president for university relations, in an interview.

"(The researchers) will work together in (multi-discipline) teams in areas such as food safety, biofuels and animal health," May said.

The unified system expedites problem-solving through shared scientific findings.

May said the project agreement involving Kansas State, the city of Olathe and the Kansas Bioscience Authority requires cooperation between the campus and the Olathe School District.

Students who qualify, she said, will work in labs and engage in other educational activities at the center, called the Kansas State-Olathe Innovation Campus.

Gary George, an assistant superintendent of Olathe schools, said the students would be in an advanced studies program that includes bioscience.

"They are very advanced," he explained.

The students must apply and meet certain standards to enter the program.

Professional researchers will act as mentors to the students. The students will shadow scientists in their work and attend seminars on scientific issues.

This is an opportunity that relatively few young people have.

May said the venture has the potential to develop a pool of highly skilled scientists in Johnson County.

It is a way, she observed, to "keep bright kids in town. The brain drain (away from Kansas) is not good."

The Kansas State project was announced about a year ago. It is part of a continuing research enterprise that extends from the Kansas City area to Manhattan, where the main campus of Kansas State is located.

At K-State, the new $54 million Biosecurity Research Institute is said to be the most advanced of its type in the world.

University officials have offered to share space in it with the federal government if temporary facilities are needed for its proposed National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. Kansas officials are attempting to attract the $451 million project to the Sunflower State.

A newly opened research center at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., is another piece of the Kansas campaign to establish the state as a bioscience hub.

The $57.2 million Kansas Life Innovative Center, opened in January, was financed through public and private-sector partnerships. A key factor: Faculty moving into the structure will bring nearly $60 million in outside grants with them. That will cover about one-third of the center's overhead costs.

On Tuesday, the medical center announced an ambitious $800 million, 10-year expansion program that would add 244 faculty members and 802,500 square feet of space for teaching and research. Officials have set a goal of increasing outside grants from about $85 million a year to $170 million a year by the fifth year and $340 million annually by the tenth year.

KU's Edward Campus in
Overland Park is still another part of the research corridor. Much of this research effort, including the K-State/Olathe center, is generated by the 2004 Kansas Economic Growth Act, co-sponsored by Sen. Nick Jordan, R-Shawnee, in the state Legislature. It established the Kansas Bioscience Authority as part of a venture to develop a world-class life and animal sciences industry in our state.

The authority's responsibilities include recruiting scholars and topnotch researchers. It provides for tax revenues created by new bioscience firms to be plowed back into research.

Legislators concluded that "intellectual capital" was necessary to take the Kansas economy to a higher level in the 21st century. No longer, they concluded, could Kansas rely solely on its three longstanding economic mainstays – agriculture, aircraft manufacture and petroleum.

Now the legislation is paying off. Within a few years Johnson County will have the center, buoyed by a leading research institution. At a single site it will offer opportunities for students to learn fundamental science in classrooms, advance to private-sector research and, finally, to develop ways to protect and enhance the quality of life, from providing a secure food supply to alternative fuels.

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Anna Horbaker: HCC-Reno Co. Scholarship; Colton Howard: HCC- Presidential Scholarship, Reno Co. Scholarship, Jazz Band and Concert/Pep Band Scholarship, John Philip Sousa and Louis Armstrong Awards BankHaven Scholarship, Booster Club Scholarship; Carrie Hukills: HCC- Presidential Scholarship, Reno Co. Scholarship, Athletic Scholarship, Dorothy Greve Memorial Scholarship, Booster Club Scholarship; Hayley Hunsberger: Pratt CC-Athletic Scholarship First National Bank of Southern Kansas Scholarship, James Bryant Memorial Scholarship, Booster Club Scholarship, City of Haven Scholarship; Shane Jeffery: HCC; Rose Kelsey: American Legion Award; Jennifer Mace: HCC-President Scholarship, Reno County Scholarship, Journalism Scholarship; Elaine Mayo: HCC; Anita Miller: KU-OAS Scholarship, Freshman Honors Scholarship, Margaret Smith Decker Memorial Scholarship; Chelsey Miller: HCC-President Scholarship, KAYS Scholarship, James Bryant Memorial Scholarship, Haven Chamber of Commerce Scholarship; Patrick Miller: Rosedale Bible College-James Bryant Memorial Scholarship; Tyler Miller: HCC; Lyndsey Mott: KU-James Bryant Memorial Scholarship, American Legion Award; Joshua Nisly: KSU-Putnam Scholarship, Engineering Scholarship, Booster Club Scholarship; Travis Petersheim: Hesston College-President Scholarship, South Hutchinson Mennonite Scholarship, Booster Club Scholarship; Audrey Powell: HCC-Reno Co. Scholarship, Endowment Scholarship; Michael Reichenberger: KSU-Foundation Scholarship, Engineering Scholarship, Booster Club Scholarship, Voice of Democracy Scholarship, LaCadena Club Scholarship, James Bryant Memorial Scholarship, First National Bank of Southern Kansas Scholarship; Colleen Romano: HCC; Lindsey Russell: Kansas Wesleyan University-President Scholarship, Forensics Scholarship; Lauren Sailsbury: HCC-BankHaven Scholarship, Doris Hedge Memorial Scholarship; Marcella Santon: University of Sao Paulo, Ribeiro Preto, Brazil-Pre-Med major; Monica Schmidt: Bethel College-President's Scholarship, Performance Award, Legacy Scholarship, Zerger Science Scholarship, Booster Club Scholarship, 1st National Bank of Southern Kansas Scholarship; Travis Stoll: Devry University-Dean's Scholarship; Tracee Stucky: Bethel College-Dean's Scholarship, 1st Mennonite Church Scholarship; Amy Volweider: Bethel College-Art Scholarship, Drama Scholarship, Airiel Turner Memorial Scholarship; Brittany Welch: WSU-Freshman Academic Scholarship, Business Dept. Scholarship, City of Haven Scholarship; Kayla Westfahl: HCC-President Scholarship, Reno Co. Scholarship; Cassie Whisenhunt: Cowley CC; Kayla Wiggins: HCC; Miriam Yoder: HCC-President Scholarship; Cassie Zimmerman: HCC-Reno Co. Scholarship.

Sign up to help with Fall Festival, October 13. Call 620-664-3304 for more information.
Briceland earns Kansas U. Department of Art scholarships

During an annual spring exhibition and competition, the University of Kansas Department of Art recognized 53 students with approximately $225,300 in scholarships and awards.

Among those recognized was Maize High School graduate Jordan Briceland, son of Thomas Briceland. He received the Ada Bechtel Heuser Scholarship and the Pat J. Ellis Art Scholarship.

A faculty committee judged the nominated students’ art projects displayed on the third and fourth floors of KU’s Art and Design Building from April 29 to May 3. Of the honored students, 41 received about $190,950 in scholarships of varying amounts, and 25 students received about $34,350 in awards in varying amounts.
KU students spend semester researching exodus of African-Americans to Kansas

At the time of the exodus, Kansas was known for being progressive and tolerant, but the students found articles that seemed to suggest otherwise.

LAWRENCE — History is not always pretty. That's what a group of University of Kansas students learned after a semester of researching the exodus of African-Americans to Kansas in 1879.

David Peavler, a doctoral student in history at KU, taught the class, "History of the Peoples of Kansas." For the research project, the 54 students in the class each picked a Kansas newspaper from that time period and wrote papers on what the newspapers reported about the exodus.

At the time of the exodus, Kansas was known for being progressive and tolerant, but the students found articles that seemed to suggest otherwise.

Danielle Bergeron, Pittsburg, Calif., a senior studying to become a teacher, said she was surprised by what she read in the Miami (County) Republican.

"Everyone hears the story of 'Bleeding Kansas,' but they don't hear how Kansans did not want free men settling in their state. The Miami Republican stated there was an 'isothermal line,' and 'Kansas was too cold for (African-Americans).'

Peavler said he assigned the labor-intensive project because there is little in current history books about the exodus, in which 10,000 to 20,000 African-Americans left the south after the Civil War to settle in Kansas. And what is available doesn't necessarily tell the whole truth.

"Textbooks tell a simple story, a happy story," Peavler said. "This was not always a happy story. In Atchison, they were lining up with rifles. They didn't want the African-Americans to come to Kansas."

The students spent hours reading the old newspapers on microfilm. Peavler said the Kansas State Historical Society and the Interlibrary Loan program were instrumental in the research project.

"Technology has made research more accessible, but that doesn't mean it replaces what can be found in a library," said Bergeron. "Manually looking through the microfilm made me feel like an actual historian."

Another notable thing the students discovered, said Peavler, was that the newspapers used the exodus to expound their beliefs. Opinions were hurled back and forth between rivals like a political football.

"I learned that the political views of the paper had a lot to do with the content," said Whitney Novak, a journalism student from Shawnee who researched the Daily Capital of Topeka. "I found an article that was somewhat of a disclaimer, saying that the Daily Capital was a Republican publication and would take on Republican views. They often had little wars with neighboring papers that had different views."

Peavler said that finding was disheartening.

"The people themselves were being completely forgotten," he said.

Although the research project was sometimes frustrating for the students, Peavler said the end product was enthusiastically supported by the class.

"The students liked that they were working on something that mattered," he said. "It will last. It wasn't just a grade."

Callie Penzler, a senior from Lawrence majoring in elementary education, said she was glad she enrolled in the class.

"I learned a lot about my hometown and state," said Penzler. "Not the glorified, sugar-coated version of Kansas history I was taught throughout my years in the public school system, but the straightforward truth."

The 54 research papers will be printed and bound together for distribution at local libraries and the state historical society. Peavler said he hopes someone will use the research
to write a detailed, honest book about that time in Kansas history.

Peavler also said he'd like to repeat the project in future classes using other topics, such as women's suffrage.

Students who were enrolled in Peavler's class are listed by hometown at www.news.ku.edu/2007/june/14/exodus.shtml.
With the conclusion of the 2006-2007 academic year, the University of Kansas School of Allied Health recognizes students for their exceptional accomplishments with scholarships and awards. Among those students is David Brandenburg, who received the Louise de Schweinitz Darrow Award. This award is given in recognition of demonstrated excellence in scholastic achievement, leadership potential and social consciousness, as evidenced by achievements while in the KU School of Allied Health.

David is the son of Jim and Linda Brandenburg of Riley.
Army leaders turn to anthropologists for help

FORT LEAVENWORTH (AP) — With American troops mired in Iraq and Afghanistan, leaders at the Army post where the military's new counterinsurgency doctrine was written are turning to cultural anthropologists for help.

The relationship rekindles one that existed between the military and academics throughout much of the nation's modern military history, but fizzled after the Vietnam War:

"You have to look at things through the lens of the people on the ground to effectively know where you are going," said Robert Kurz, an Eurasia analyst with Fort Leavenworth's Foreign Military Studies Office.

Fort Leavenworth conducted a round-table discussion Thursday among anthropologists and military veterans who have experience in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was part of an effort to create doctrine on how to conduct military operations with some degree of cultural competence.

One of the tenets of the military's counterinsurgency doctrine, produced last year at Fort Leavenworth, is that success hinges on the government achieving the consent of the people. By gaining an understanding of the culture, the people's basic needs and beliefs, the military can effectively neutralize insurgents who seek to render the government illegitimate, that doctrine says.

Kurz said the goal of working with anthropologists and other social scientists is to develop a climate in which cultural awareness is taught at all levels of training.

"This is one of those things that will make it down to the guy in basic training, those in officer training," Kurz said.

Two anthropologists from the University of Kansas, Felix Moos and Bart Dean, acknowledged they are in the minority among their peers because they are working with the military. But Dean said anthropologists through World War II had a seat at the table when leaders planned military operations.

"I'd love to have that opportunity. It's in everybody's interest," Dean said.

He noted that he was attacked and tortured in Peru while studying the culture and Maoist rebels.

"I know the feeling," he said.

During the daylong exchange, officers noted that often the tactics being used by insurgents were similar to Mafia families, using extortion against civilians to keep from being identified and stopping the spread of violence. Not until the coalition and Iraqi forces can show that they can provide reliable security will the civilians stand up to insurgents and support the government, officers said.

Lt. Charles Bartles, an Army Reservist who conducted civil affairs in Iraq, said a challenge is getting Iraqis to understand that working with the military and police to root out insurgents was in the community's best interest, not just that of their immediate family.

Bartles' paper for the project examines efforts to reduce the threat of roadside bombs along the routes near the Anaconda forward operating base, dubbed "Operation Turkey Stomp." Soldiers met with each shopkeeper to explain that if a bomb went off in front of their store, the stores would be closed until they found out who planted the bomb or sold the components.

Each shopkeeper and store was photographed and published in a directory. Soldiers then gathered intelligence about each store, such as what goods were sold and how quickly. Bartles said noticing how dusty items were or weren't — such as batteries — provided useful information.

"It explains that you need to have a long-term presence for this stuff to be effective," Dean said, adding that such tactics are more effective in rural settings than in Baghdad.

Moos said one barrier to success is changing units in a location every 12 to 15 months, breaking critical bonds soldiers formed with locals.

"The whole concept of rotation is counterproductive to this type of warfare," said Moos, who has taught at the university and Fort Leavenworth for more than 40 years.

His desire to work with the military stems from a sense of civic duty and belief he can affect a positive outcome, he said.

"We need to see both sides of the coin. I'm doing it for the simple supposition that the country is at war. Every citizen of the republic has a stake in it," Moos said. "If the country is not mobilized in thinking about the challenge that we have to face, I don't know that we are doing anybody any favors.

"If you don't know where you are fighting, how can you possibly come out winning?"
Fiddling while America burns

By DONALD WORSTER
Prairie Writers Circle

The United States is the richest, most powerful nation in history — this you have heard many times before. What you have not heard so often is that America has also been, for nearly 200 years, the safest, most secure nation ever. Far from being aware of that fact and enjoying it, we have become a nation filled with fear and anxiety. But we fear the wrong invader:

Not since the British burned our capital in 1814 has a foreign army succeeded in invading our continental domain. Pearl Harbor lay thousands of miles from our mainland homes. And the World Trade Center bombing was no real invasion or victory of a foreign power, but one act by a handful of fanatics, all killed. Their brothers are hiding in caves along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, no more able to invade America, if we keep our eyes open, than camels could take over our national parks.

Yet a far more serious threat has appeared that our leaders are ignoring. It is global climate change. And it has the potential to bring the United States down economically, socially and agriculturally, making us a much poorer and weaker nation.

In February the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its latest major report of scientific data. Based on the greenhouse gases already affecting the atmosphere, and on expected increases in those gases under various economic scenarios, the IPCC projects — too cautiously, many say — that the Earth’s overall surface temperature will rise 3 to 7 degrees by the end of this century, and the sea may rise almost 2 feet.

In an April IPCC report, world policy-makers were told to expect long-term flooding of coastal areas, more intense tropical storms, increased drought in drought-prone areas, and a decline in crop productivity with increased risk of hunger.

Here is where the danger comes to the United States: Not only may we be forced to protect people on the coasts, or move them inland, we will also be in great danger of losing our agricultural heartland — the Corn Belt and the Wheat Belt. Today, half of our wheat crop goes overseas. In a few decades we may not have enough food to support our own population, let alone share with others.

And our Western cities may be paying a lot more for water, if they can find any, than for the last drops of oil.

We are most threatened today, not by terrorists, but by impersonal physical forces. And as the century goes on, that invasion will gather speed and effect with biological threats like invasive plants and malaria.

Such talk, we are told, is scare mongering. We also are told that defensive measures would cost too much.

Yet which place is worse off today? New York, which lost two major buildings and thousands of lives to terrorists? Or New Orleans, which lost many lives as well and may never recover much of its displaced population or destroyed territory after being hit by a hurricane that drew its energy from warming gulf waters?

And how can we not afford to invest in conservation and alternative energy sources to defend our own land against the ravages of global climate change, but afford to fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which cost $120 billion a year? And pay four to five times that, depending on the calculation, for the military as a whole? And spend more than $40 billion more on the Homeland Security Department?

All that money to defend a country that is the most secure and safe in the world from outside human invasion!

Our homeland is facing a change of unprecedented danger, one that we have helped create by wasteful consumption. This is likely to be the greatest threat to security and prosperity in our history.

When will our leaders stop beating the drums about “a war on terrorism” and start facing the real dangers we face? When will they wake up and take action — today, this year? Will they spend more than $40 billion a year to defend a country that is the most secure in the world from outside human invasion?

Economic Ideas, is an environmental historian at the University of Kansas.

Donald Worster, author of books including "Nature’s Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas," is an environmental historian at the University of Kansas.
Koester completes Global Awareness Program at University of Kansas

University of Kansas students from 20 disciplines completed the Global Awareness Program this spring. They were recognized in a ceremony May 10.

The 150 undergraduates received GAP certification on their transcripts to inform future employers that they have completed a course of study at KU that fosters international understanding. More than 80 students completed the program in the fall.

GAP recognizes students for studying abroad, taking courses with an international focus, including foreign languages and being significantly involved in international co-curricular activities. All undergraduates are eligible to participate.

Launched by the Office of International Programs in fall 2004, GAP has recognized more than 400 students in the past three years. More than 1,300 students are now participating.

“GAP’s unique program of pairing academics with experience helped to widen my perspective and increase my understanding of the world around me,” said Michelle Goodrick, graduating senior in psychology. “This insight has served to further fuel my passion for helping humanity as I set off to serve in the Peace Corps. GAP offered an education that went beyond the classroom and insights that would stick with me long after commencement.”

Brianne Lynn Koester, daughter of Richard and Pamela Koester, received a Senior Global Awareness Program certificate. She is double-majoring in History and Latin American Studies.