REGENTS GIVE APPROVAL

College tuition increases; KU locks in costs

Kansas City Star
and Associated Press

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Under the plan, which takes effect in the fall, tuition at KU will increase nearly 16 percent over current levels, then stay at that rate for four years.

For other state universities, the regents approved a 7.9 percent increase in tuition and fees for in-state students at Kansas State; 6.4 percent at Wichita State; 9.5 percent at Emporia State; 7.1 percent at Pittsburg

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UNIVERSITY TUITION INCREASES

Here's how much in-state students taking at least 15 credit hours at Kansas, Kansas State and Wichita State will pay per semester in tuition and fees under increases approved Thursday by the Board of Regents:

Wichita State
2006-07: $2,258 ■ 2007-08: $2,402 ■ Increase: $144

Kansas State University
2006-07: $2,890 ■ 2007-08: $3,117 ■ Increase: $227

University of Kansas
2006-07: $3,076 ■ 2007-08: $3,300* ■ Increase: $224

*Does not apply to incoming freshmen who graduate in four years.

For other state university tuition increases, see page 3A.
TUITION

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State; and 5.1 percent at Fort Hays State.

Regent Donna Shank of Liberal took exception to the proposed increases at Emporia State and Kansas State, which were the largest.

Shank blasted Kansas State for requesting an 8.7 percent increase for Kansas residents in spite of declining in-state enrollment the past two semesters.

Out-of-state students at Kansas State face a 3 percent increase.

"I don't like raising resident students significantly more than nonresidents, especially after five years of substantial increases," Shank said.

In-state enrollment at K-State declined by 300 students last fall and 500 in the spring.

K-State president Jon Wefald responded that in-state applications were up about 150 so far this year.

Regents chairwoman Christine Downey-Schmidt said Shank's concerns were echoed by the rest of the board.

KU officials are quick to point out that theirs is not a tuition discount plan, but rather a way to plan college costs. The university has also locked in course fees — additional charges for classes offered in some professional schools — and required campus fees, which provide for services such as student health and recreation.

While those costs are not the same year over year, they are already determined for the next four years.

Housing contracts can be locked in for two-year periods.

"There are rarely moments of spontaneous applause at new-student orientation," KU provost Richard Lariviere told the regents. "But when we talk about the tuition compact, that's one of them."

To graduate in four years — which KU leaders hope to encourage — a student would need to take 16 hours each semester, for a total cost per semester of $3,408. Out-of-state students will pay $560 per credit hour, or $8,960 per semester.

Lariviere said that between tuition, fees and housing, in-state students can determine the cost of 80 percent of their education, if they were to graduate in four years. The remaining 20 percent would include travel and entertainment and food and drink not purchased through a campus plan.

Out-of-state students could determine 90 percent of their costs.

"This is the kind of innovation we want all of you to consider, based on the needs of your population," Downey-Schmidt told the assembled university presidents.

"This isn't something we're going to force on all of you, but

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Richard Lariviere, KU provost

you all should consider innovative ways to serve your populations," she said.

According to data from KU's Office of Institutional Research and Planning, only 29 percent of KU undergraduates complete
their degrees in four years. Parents and students assembled for new-student orientation Thursday backed up those statistics. Many said they planned to spend more than four years at KU.

"If they give you four years, that's a good thing, and then we'll pay what we have to for the rest of the time," said Mary Neal of Topeka, whose daughter, Anne, will start at KU in the fall. Anne Neal said that she'd heard of the program, but didn't think it would provide much incentive to finish on time. Her parents are paying for her tuition.

Students who take more than four years to complete their degree, including those in one of four programs that require five years to complete a bachelor's degree, will pay the fixed rate for four years and the standard rate thereafter.
Regents freeze KU tuition rates

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Incoming freshmen at the University of Kansas will pay the same tuition rate for four years under a plan the Kansas Board of Regents approved Thursday.

Under the plan, which takes effect in the fall, tuition rates at the University of Kansas will increase nearly 16 percent over current levels, then stay at that rate for four years.

"Parents so far are liking it because they know what the rate is," said Todd Cohen, a university spokesman.

For other state universities, the regents approved a 7.9 percent increase in tuition and fees for in-state students at Kansas State; 6.4 percent at Wichita State; 9.5 percent at Emporia State; 7.1 percent at Pittsburg State; and 5.1 percent at Fort Hays State.

Under the University of Kansas plan, in-state freshmen enrolled in 16 credit hours, which is considered full-time, will pay a total of $3,785.75 per semester for tuition and campus fees. Out-of-state students will pay $9,337.75 per semester.

The total doesn't include course fees, which aren't charged of students in all majors or for the full four years.

The tuition freeze is intended to encourage students to graduate on time. The school said all but four undergraduate programs can be completed in four years if students average 16 credit hours a semester.

School officials have estimated it would cost students who take more than four years to complete a bachelor's degree an extra $1,000 per semester.

To protect against inflation, school officials have said they will ask for a new tuition rate for each incoming freshman class.

The plan also gives first-time freshmen the option of paying a fixed rate for student housing for two years.

And the plan sets course fees four years in advance for all students subject to them. The university also is working to establish a four-year schedule of campus fees. The required fees, which are set at $377.75 for the fall semester, support the student health center, the fitness and recreation center and other services.
TOPEKA (HNS) — 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

State: Tuition proposal could put minds at ease

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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."

Doing what it takes

In recent years, the most reliable thing about universities' four-year tuition charges has been that they would go up significantly.

Tuition and fees for in-state residents attending KU and Kansas State University have more than doubled since 2002. Other state universities have seen annual increases averaging of 8-12 percent.

However, state officials said Kansas rates remain a deal compared to what students in surrounding states pay to attend similar institu-
Colleges everywhere appear to be expensive, she said.

"I definitely considered how I am going to pay for this," Humm said. "In going to KU, I know I'm going to a good school. Hopefully I'll have a good job after I graduate to pay for the student loans and the other bills."

Barbara Humm said she thinks that KU's four-year guaranteed tuition plan could help out in paying for her daughter's college education.
College Bound Notebooks... ...what's right for you?

Tips from Computer Service of Jetmore

Notebooks - not the spiral kind, the laptop computers - are now virtually required by universities and colleges across the country, and high school graduates now routinely ask for computer notebooks as part of their 'college kits.' Portable, small, and handy, the laptop has become the educational tool of choice. It's a sizeable outlay of money, and some thought and research needs to go into the selection. With the recent (Feb. 2007) release of the latest Windows operating system, VISTA, computing life has gotten more complex. VISTA has several major compatibility issues, and a little initial investigation can go a long way to avoid surprises.

Each college or university sets standard requirements for student computers. For security and uniformity, schools have to ensure that all computers on their networks are loaded with the same security software (anti-virus and anti-spyware) and application programs (word processing, spreadsheet, slide-show, etc.). Before you buy a computer, please make sure that the notebook you are considering is compatible with the school's IT system. Call the school's computer technical support department. Find out what operating system (Windows XP Home, XP Pro, VISTA Home Basic, or VISTA Home Premium) the school recommends, and what applications will be used (Microsoft Office suite, 2003 or 2007). Ask if the applications will be available for download or need to be purchased separately. Also find out if the school will supply the security software (anti-virus, anti-spyware) or what programs they recommend (Norton, McAfee, PC-cillin) for installation. If you don't call, at least check on-line for recent recommendations. All of the technical support departments are familiar with all of these questions - be assured that your call will not be the first nor the last.

A phone call now can save time, money, and frustration. For example, KU's IT Department recommends all users stay with Windows XP at this time, for reasons of program incompatibility, asking users to wait until the first service pack (SP1) is released. K-State's IT department has specifically stated that no computers running Windows VISTA are acceptable to their network; the security software available for download and some of the program applications are ONLY compatible with Windows XP. OSU's IT department has said that they will accept a VISTA-based system on its network with a few changes in protocol settings, but the current version of Microsoft Office Suite being used is 2003, which will not work with VISTA. (OSU is hoping to be able to upgrade Office to version 2007 before the fall session begins; it hasn't happened yet.)

Most computers (not just notebooks) are now being designed and set up by the manufacturer with Windows VISTA. If you look in a store, you will probably only see systems pre-loaded with VISTA. If you are told by a salesman that you can 'retro fit' a VISTA system with Windows XP, be careful. If the computer was specifically intended to run VISTA, the drivers (what make the sound & video of the computer function properly) may or may not work with XP - it isn't as easy as it sounds.

The good news is if your school insists on notebooks with XP, new notebooks and desktop computers with Windows XP are still available. Dell, for example, dropped XP in February but has since started offering it again through the “Small Business” store on their website. Gateway is offering Windows XP Pro and Windows Media Center Edition on select notebooks. HP/Compaq is not offering XP systems at this time. The choices are confusing. If you need help, please call Computer Service of Jetmore (357-6472). We will be happy to assist you – consultation is free.
Regents approve KU tuition plan

Rates for KU freshman won’t change for 4 years

By CHRIS GREEN
Harris News Service

TOPEKA — The state Board of Regents signed off Thursday on a plan to make tuition at the University of Kansas more predictable for incoming freshmen.

However, higher education officials said they don’t expect a similar “four-year tuition compact” to spread to the state’s other four-year universities.

Under KU’s system, tuition will go up about 16 percent for this fall’s incoming freshmen class. But that rate will remain frozen for that class’ four years, university officials said.

Each subsequent class of incoming freshmen at KU will receive a new four-year tuition rate, which will help protect the school against inflation.

Christine Downey-Schmidt, the newly elected Board of Regents chairwoman, called the fixed tuition plan “innovative.” But she also acknowledged that a one-size-fits-all approach doesn’t work when it comes to setting higher education fees across the state’s system.

“We will not be requiring this on all of you,” Downey-Schmidt, a former Democratic state senator from Inman, told university officials.

The compact is part of KU’s effort to make it easier for students and parents to plan for college expenses. University officials also set out a four-year schedule for fees and will allow students to fix their on-campus housing costs for two years.

Fort Hays State University President Edward Hammond said he doesn’t see his institution joining KU in offering a tuition guarantee.

It’s not necessary, Hammond said, because Fort Hays State has been able to keep tuition increases down by growing the school’s enrollment, largely through growth in international programs.

“We’ve just pledged to keep it as low as possible,” said Hammond, whose school will charge 6.1 percent more next year.

Chelsey Gillogly, Fort Hays State student body president, said she didn’t see a need for the change, either.

“Overall, I think our students are pretty happy,” Gillogly said.

Since 2002, tuition and fees have increased significantly for in-state students, more than doubling at KU and Kansas State University. But this year’s increases tended to be lower than in the past five years and board officials cite survey results showing the state’s four-year, public universities remain a bargain.

The board unanimously approved KU’s tuition compact and a 7.3 percent increase for nonfreshmen, resident KU undergraduates. It also passed hikes of 6.1 percent at Fort Hays State, 6.4 percent Wichita State and 7.1 percent at Pittsburg State for in-state undergraduates without dissent.

However, Regent Donna Shank of Liberal voted against the two steepest increases, a 9.7 percent jump at Emporia State and a 7.9 percent increase at K-State.

It’ll cost you more

The following show the increases for an undergraduate taking 15 credit hours at one of the state’s four-year universities:

- University of Kansas: incoming freshmen, $7,144, up $992 or 16.1 percent from 2007 rate; all other undergraduates, $6,598, up $446 or 7.2 percent
- Kansas State: $6,234, up $454 or 7.9 percent
- KSU-Salina: $6,222, up $488 or 8.5 percent
- Wichita State: $4,804, up $288 or 6.4 percent
- Emporia State: $3,926, up $340 or 9.5 percent
- Pittsburg State: $4,060, up $270 or 7.1 percent
- Fort Hays State: $3,354, up $163.50 or 5.1 percent
Regents approve KU tuition deal

Higher education charges going up:

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“We will not be requiring this on all of you,” Downey-Schmidt, a former Democratic state senator from Inman, told university officials. “It isn’t a fit at this point.”

The compact is part of KU’s effort to make it easier for students and parents to plan for college expenses. University officials also set out a four-year schedule for fees and will allow students to fix their on-campus housing costs for two years.

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Since 2002, tuition and fees have increased significantly for in-state students, more than doubling at KU and Kansas State University. But this year’s increases tended to be lower than in the past five years and board officials cite survey results showing the state’s four-year, public universities remain a bargain.

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However, Regent Donna Shank of Liberal voted against the two steepest increases, a 9.7 percent jump at Emporia State and a 7.9 increase at K-State. She was the lone board member to vote against any proposals brought to the board by university officials.

Higher education officials said the funds generated by increased charges were needed to cover such things as increases in faculty salaries and energy costs, as well as technology upgrades.
Baxter grad wins Science and Innovation Award

A University of Kansas doctoral student in pharmaceutical chemistry from Baxter Springs was one of thirteen students in the nation to win a Schering-Plough Science and Innovation Award offered by Schering-Plough.

Allyn Michael Kaufmann, who earned a master’s degree in pharmaceutical chemistry at KU this spring, was invited to present his research this month during a two-day symposium in Basking Ridge, N.J.

Researchers from Schering-Plough Research Institute, the company’s research and development arm, attended the symposium.

Kaufmann’s paper was titled “Evaluating NPC1’s Functional Role in Both Sensing and Facilitating the Intracellular Trafficking of Lysosomal Stores of Amine-Containing Molecules.” Lysosomes are part of a cell.

Kaufmann is the son of Mike and Carolyn Kaufmann of Baxter Springs. He graduated from KU in 2003 with a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry after graduating from Baxter Springs High School.

Schering-Plough, based in Kenilworth, N. J., is a global science-based health care company with leading prescription, consumer, and animal health products.

Through internal research and collaborations with partners, Schering-Plough discovers, develops, manufactures, and markets advanced drug therapies to meet important medical needs.

Allyn Michael Kaufmann shows demonstration
Rep. Boyd lists projects promoted in the 2nd District

The following 64 projects have been listed as Fiscal 2008 Appropriations Requests by Rep. Nancy Boyd, U.S. Representative for the Kansas 2nd District.

- The Children's Identification and Location Database (CHILD) Project – Miami County Sheriff's Office – $25,000.
- The Children's Identification and Location Database (CHILD) Project – Atchison County Sheriff's Office – $25,000.
- National Fred Harvey Museum Restoration – National Fred Harvey Museum – $100,000.
- Army Corps of Engineers Manhattan, Kansas Levee Study – City of Manhattan – $200,000.
- Topeka, Kansas Flood Damage Reduction – City of Topeka – $200,000.
- Iola Public Library – City of Iola – $250,000.
- EMEDS Center of Excellence – 190th Air Refueling Wing – $250,000.
- John Redmond Reservoir Feasibility Study (Coffey County) – Kansas Water Office – $250,000.
- Army Corps of Engineers Flood Damage Reduction Project – City of Rossville – $300,000.
- Pre-harvest Food Safety and Security – Kansas State University – $400,000.
- Renovations to Constitution Hall – City of Topeka – $500,000.
- Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center Radios to Support Joint Operations – Joint Force Headquarters, Kansas National Guard – $500,000.
- Infrastructure Development of Ottawa Industrial Park – City of Ottawa – $520,625.
- Broadway Streetscape Phase II City of Pittsburg – $680,000.
- Development of Overland Station and surrounding park lands City of Topeka – $695,000.
- Persistent Outcomes of War – Kansas State University – $90,000.
- Center for Soil Carbon and methane Gases in Agriculture – Kansas State University – $750,000.
- Riverside Park Community Building Renovation – City of Iola – $750,000.
- Mobile Data Terminals with Automated Vehicle Locator Integration System – Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority – $800,000.
- Renovation of Kansas Highway 10 and Bob Billings Parkway Intersection – City of Lawrence – $800,000.
- Clinton Lake – Bloomington Park Road Improvements (near Lawrence) – Kansas City District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – $850,000.
- The American Soldier Project – Kansas State University – $1 million.
- Interstate 70 Viaduct Realignment – City of Topeka – $1 million.
- Leadership for Leaders CGSC/CAL and KSU – Kansas State University – $1 million.
- Kansas Regional Prisons Museum – City of Lansing – $1.18 million.
- Clinton Lake – Dam Toe Road Access and Dam Road Repair (Lawrence area) – Kansas City District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – $1.2 million.
- 20th Street Extension and U.S. Highway 73 Improvements – City of Leavenworth – $1.262 million.
- Kansas Technology Center – Pittsburg State University – $1.292 million.
- Wheat Genetic and Genomic Resources Center – Kansas State University – $1.3 million.
- Iola Wastewater Systems Improvements – City of Iola – $1.5 million.
- Streetscape Improvements to the central business district – City of Fredonia – $1.5 million.
- Ottawa Community Recreation Center – City of Ottawa – $1.5 million.
- National Agricultural Biosecurity Center – Kansas State University – $1.6 million.
- Treece, Kansas Buyout – Kansas Department of Health and Environment – $2 million.
- "Our Military Kids, Inc. Expansion Program" – National Guard
Bureau — $2 million.
* Combined Arms Center/ Ft. Leavenworth Faculty and Officer Development Program – The University of Kansas – $2 million.
* Kansas Virtual Transportation Operations Center – State of Kansas Department of Transportation – $2 million.
* PC-AFIS Fingerprint Identification Technology, Global Initiatives Unit, Criminal Justice Information Services Division, FBI, Clarksburg, West Virginia – AFIX Technologies, Pittsburg – $2.3 million.
* South Topeka Sewer & Water Infrastructure – City of Topeka – $2.5 million.
* Great Plains Sorghum Improvement and Utilization Center – Kansas State University – $2.5 million.
* K-State GIScience Commons – Kansas State University – $2.57 million.
* M871 Series Trailer Refurbishment Program – Army National Guard Readiness Center – $2.9 million.
* Midwest Institute for Comparative Stem Cell Biology – Kansas State University – $3 million.
* Bus Fleet Replacement, Topeka Metropolitan Transit – Topeka Metropolitan Transit – $3 million.
* Parents as Teacher Military Pilot – Parents as Teachers National Center – $3 million.
* U.S. Highway 69, Crawford County Section – City of Pittsburg – $3.5 million.
* Kansas Polymer Research Center – Pittsburg State University – $4 million.
* The University of Kansas High Throughput Screening Upgrade – The University of Kansas Center for Research – $5 million.
* National Center for Strategic Applications for Nuclear Sensors – Kansas State University – $5 million.
* Improvement to Runway Safety at Manhattan Airport – City of Manhattan – $5 million.
* Advanced Extended Range Attack Missile – AERAM PM at AMRDEC – $5 million.
* Green Valley Road Improvements, Pottawatomie County, Kansas – Pottawatomie County, Kansas – $5.9 million.
* Reconstruction of Kansas Highway 20 between U.S. Highway 75 and Horton, Kansas – Kansas Department of Transportation – $6.5 million.
* Coming Together Around Military Families – OSD Office of Family Programs – $6.5 million.
* Defense Command Integration Center – Joint Forces Headquarters, Kansas National Guard – $6.6 million.
* Sensor Interoperability Networking, $10 million – Office of Naval Research – $10 million.
* Construction Kansas Highway 18, Riley County, Kansas – Kansas Department of Transportation – $11 million.
* Rehabilitation of the Amelia Earhart Bridge, U.S. Highway 59 – Kansas Department of Transportation – $47.2 million.
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The total doesn’t include course fees, which aren’t charged of students in all majors or for the full four years.
‘Exceptional value’ gets more costly

The new tuition compact the Kansas Board of Regents approved Thursday for the University of Kansas is getting plenty of attention, but it shouldn’t obscure a long and troubling trend in the cost of higher education.

And that’s not only because KU’s plan, which Regents approved unanimously, is no panacea. The four-year tuition compact for incoming freshmen isn’t expected to save them or their families money. Its chief merit is that it will make costs more predictable. KU is projecting annual tuition increases of 6 percent, adding them up and dividing by the four years of the compact.

KU officials say the plan will encourage students to graduate in four years; the prospect of sharply higher tuition the fifth year could indeed have the effect.

Unfortunately, students who leave after one year — 16 percent now, according to the university — would be paying for later benefits they don’t receive. What’s more, if they transfer to another Regents institution, they would face the standard tuition increase there as well.

Should Kansas State University or other Regents institutions consider such a plan, they ought to offer incoming freshmen the option of participating in a four-year plan or taking their chances with annual tuition increases.

As for those annual increases, this year’s tuition hike at KSU will be 7.9 percent. While modest in comparison to the double-digit increases of the recent past, this year’s boost is still more than twice the inflation rate.

And with other costs showing little sign of easing and the continuing shift of responsibility for higher education funding from the state to students, the trend is certain to continue. In the 20 years between 1985 and 2005, according to Regents’ figures, the state’s share of higher education funding in Kansas dropped from 49 percent to 29 percent. Even in the most recent legislative session, lawmakers addressing a building maintenance backlog of hundreds of millions of dollars committed barely enough to keep the situation from deteriorating further; some lawmakers seemed more interested in blaming the universities for the problem than in confronting the problem.

Nevertheless, higher education in Kansas remains a bargain compared to costs in many other states. Nelson Galle, a Manhattan resident who is the Regents’ outgoing chairman, was right
to call it an “exceptional educational value.”
That’s attributable in large part to the commitment of administrators and the dedication of faculty. Their challenges include keeping the outstanding education affordable for young Kansans and their families.