KU offers four-year tuition compact for freshmen

LAWRENCE — Parents and students have been overwhelmingly positive in response to a new University of Kansas plan that offers no tuition increases for four years to freshmen and sets fees four years in advance for all students.

KU’s Four-Year Tuition Compact, approved today by the Kansas Board of Regents, enables first-time freshmen and their families to plan financially for the true cost of tuition and fees for the time it takes to complete a bachelor’s degree program. Approximately 80 percent of college costs for Kansas residents and almost 90 percent for non-residents will be known and certain from the first day of class, said Marlesa Roney, vice provost for Student Success.

“Every time we discussed the proposal during new student orientation this month, the audience has burst into applause,” Roney said. “No tuition increase for four years is very welcome news to parents and students alike. They can now plan ahead with confidence.”

The tuition compact fixes the per-credit-hour tuition rate for first-time freshmen for four calendar years, the time it takes for a student taking 16 credit hours a semester to graduate with a bachelor’s degree. All but four KU bachelor degree programs can be completed in that time.

The compact, developed in collaboration with KU student leaders, also sets course fees for the next four years. Course fees are levied on a per-credit-hour basis in all of KU’s schools except social welfare and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Almost 65 percent of KU students are enrolled only in the College, and most won’t pay any course fees while earning a degree. Students who enroll in schools with course fees typically do so in their junior and senior years.

The university is also working to establish a four-year schedule of required campus fees, an annual charge students pay to support services such as the student health center, fitness and recreation center and the bus system. Required campus fees, which will be $377.75 for the fall 2007 semester, are set by Student Senate and voted on by the student body. The compact also includes an optional two-year fixed rate for student housing.

Returning and transfer students will pay the standard tuition rate, which is set every June by the regents. These students will pay the same set course fees as first-time freshmen. For more information about the Four-Year Tuition Compact and all tuition rates and fees, visit www.tuition.ku.edu.

A regents survey reported this week that tuition rates in Kansas are considerably lower than the rates in neighboring states. Kansans who attend KU pay $831, or 15 percent, less than residents in neighboring states to attend similar institutions each year.
LAWRENCE — More than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester.

These students, from the Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., represent 99 of 105 Kansas counties, 44 other states and the District of Columbia and 37 other countries.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who met requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the schools of allied health, architecture and urban planning, business, education, engineering, fine arts, journalism, nursing and social welfare.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university’s academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Students from the area named to the Honor Roll were:

**Logan:** Jaime L Goddard, Journalism and Liberal Arts senior;

**Phillipsburg:** Anthony Paul Niemczyk-Ceman, Liberal Arts sophomore; Bradley J Rachow, Liberal Arts junior; Stacy Lynn Rachow, Liberal Arts sophomore; Alexa Anne Riffel, Liberal Arts senior; Isaac Oren Riffel, Education senior; Amanda Christine Taylor, Liberal Arts senior.

**Kensington:** Melissa N Luiso, Business senior
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.

Returning and transfer students will pay the standard tuition rate. For in-state undergraduate students, the standard rate will be $194.80 per credit hour, up from $183.75 the previous academic year. The standard rate will be less than the $213-per-credit-hour cost that incoming resident freshmen will pay.

Christine Downey-Schmidt, the newly elected chairwoman of the Board of Regents, noted the challenging fiscal environment. "However," she said in a news release, "innovative cost-containment proposals such as KU's tuition compact are certainly refreshing, and I'm anxious to see how students benefit from this plan in the coming years."
Is the U.S. Constitution colorblind?

In a concurring opinion on the affirmative action decisions, Parents v. Seattle and Meredith v. Jefferson, handed down by the Supreme Court on Thursday, Justice Clarence Thomas asserted, "The Constitution is colorblind.

Noting that the Constitution legally protected the institution of slavery and counted slaves as three-fifths of a person for both voting and taxation, I could certainly argue Thomas' conclusion. However, the more pressing issue is what impact will this decision have on school districts across the nation.

Is Brown v. Board of Education dead, as some have argued? An equally important question: Should race be used as a factor to create "diversity" in our public schools? This is a question that hits close to home for me on personal and professional levels. As a child, the first two grade schools I attended were Central Park and Polk elementary schools. My recollection of the racial make-up of these two schools is that there were a large percentage of students who were racial and ethnic minorities. Certainly the majority of my friends and neighbors who lived in the public housing project on S.W. 13th and Western were mostly African-Americans and Latinos.

However, the racial demographics changed tremendously when my family moved out to Foxridge Apartments on S.W. Huntoon Street in the summer between my third and fourth-grade years. Honestly, I can't recall having any African-American classmates during the three years I attended McCarter Elementary, and there were only a handful of Latino students as well.

I remember thinking it was odd and surprising on the 30th anniversary of Brown v. Board in 1984 just how racially homogeneous Topeka West High School was. Did this lack of diversity impact my education? I can't honestly say it did, but I know the quality of education I received and the resources available to me at Topeka West were probably better than they would've been had I attended school in other parts of the city.

In addition to my teaching duties at KU, I have for the last several years worked on a program that strives to increase the diversity of academia. When I was a member of this program in 1992, we understood diversity to primarily mean racial and ethnic diversity.

A couple of years ago, our program broadened its definition of diversity to include virtually any student at KU. I admit I was bothered by this decision, but in subsequent years I've seen the benefits of a more expansive understanding of diversity.

However, while I'd like to agree with Thomas about the Constitution, my eyes, ears and heart won't let me. The Supreme Court seems to believe we can solve racial discrimination by pretending it doesn't exist. The truth is, ignoring a problem won't make it go away. W.E.B. DuBois wrote the problem of the 20th century was the problem of the color line. A century later and the problem still remains.

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Nineteen area students are among the more than 4,690 undergraduate students earning honor roll distinction for the spring semester at the University of Kansas.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum grade point average for each year students are in school. Students also must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Students from this area receiving recognition, and their colleges, are:
- Council Grove -- Aric Aldrich, Liberal Arts; Molly Aldrich, Pharmacy; Hali Baker, Liberal Arts; Jacob Frese, Liberal Arts; Benjamin Hornung, Liberal Arts; Brenda Pracht, Pharmacy; and Kaylee Sarratt, Liberal Arts.
- Admire -- Audra Jenkins, Liberal Arts.
- Northern Heights High School -- Stuart Symmonds, Liberal Arts.
- Alma -- Chase Boucher, Liberal Arts; Amanda Lasswell, Education; and Jenny Wilson, Liberal Arts.
- Eskridge -- Derek McFarren, Liberal Arts.
- Herington -- Ryan Albrecht, Liberal Arts; Taylor Erickson, Liberal Arts; and Jenna Haire, Nursing.
- Cottonwood Falls -- Jordan Kline, Pharmacy, and Noah Lock, Liberal Arts.
- Strong City -- Shelly Unruh, Allied Health.
and fees for a student taking 16 credit hours a semester.

Todd Cohen, university relations for the University of Kansas, said the new program is intended to help parents and students better plan for college expenses.

While the tuition for each incoming freshman class will change, the rate that is set in the summer before the student’s freshman year at KU will be their tuition and fees rate for all four years at the university.

Cohen said that any student that needs or decides to take undergraduate courses for more than five years will simply pay the “regular” tuition and fees rate for the rest of the years they are considered an undergraduate student at KU.

Pittsburg State University president Tom Bryant said Pittsburg State has not ruled out the option of a four-year tuition compact, but believes the university’s current flat-rate system is as beneficial to students at the four-year tuition compact.

“The tuition for the four-year compact is front-loaded so that the students pay a higher tuition rate for the first two years so that it compensates for the lack of increase the last two years,” Bryant said. “So those students who do not complete all four years of college at KU end up with a pretty large bill.

“We feel that students can take advantage of our flat-rate system and end up with a four-year degree from Pittsburg State at a very reasonable price.”

Cohen said the tuition compact, which will begin this fall, is required for all incoming freshmen at the University of Kansas.
Samantha Steckloff, KU Hillel’s JCSC Fellow, placed in the top 10 at this summer’s Miss Kansas competition in Pratt, Kan. At Hillel, Steckloff worked to engage students in Jewish life at KU through women’s health, freshmen outreach, and other program initiatives. She also took 25 KU students to Israel in January as part of Hillel’s birthright Israel trip. KU Hillel’s JCSC Fellow position is funded by the Morgan Family Foundation.
Jewish Heritage Foundation gives $1.6 million to Jewish community

The board of directors of the Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City announced approximately $1.56 million in program and core grants to local Jewish organizations.

“For the first time in our history, we will be allocating funds directly to local temples and synagogues in recognition of their tremendous importance to our Jewish community” said Daniel L. Scharf, M.D., Foundation Board President. “During our recent strategic planning process, our board expressed a strong desire to find a way to support our religious and spiritual organizations. As a result of this process, unrestricted grants totaling $50,000 have been distributed as part of a one-year pilot program to determine how we can best help these vital institutions. Our hope is that these funds will serve as an additional resource to support congregational operations.”

2007 program grants were given to the following Jewish organizations:

- Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy: $100,000, financial assistance program;
- Jewish Community Center: $64,316 Department of Adult Jewish Learning; $53,526, Genesis Program, an educational program for interfaith couples; and, $280,310 for funding of the Heritage Center;
- Jewish Family Services: $32,067, Jewish Chaplaincy program; $24,094, Community Assistance Program; $23,915, Community Support Network; and, $23,915, BLING, an educational program aimed at pre-adolescents who are at risk of developing eating disorders;
- Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City: $133,000, Sasone Program for special needs children; $150,000, Jewish Senior Network Client Subsidy Program; $34,580, Jewish Community Simcha Box Program; $24,788, Young Professionals Program; $15,000, Young Emissary Program; and, $25,000, Jewish Student Union;
- Jewish Vocational Services: $28,000 Career Management Services Program;
- Kansas University Endowment Association: $45,000, enhanced curriculum in modern and biblical Hebrew language and culture at University of Kansas;
- Kansas University Hillel Foundation: $26,505, Friday Night Shabbat Experiences program; $22,900, Student Leadership Development Program;
- Lawrence Jewish Community Center: $19,175, Lawrence Jewish Learning Center;
- Midwest Center for Holocaust Education: $31,300, Holocaust Witnesses Archive Project;
- Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City: $14,825, Conversion to Judaism course; $5,500, Community-Wide Second Night of Passover Seder; $7,700, Community-Wide Selichot Program; and, $5,000 Community-Wide Day of Jewish Learning;
- Village Shalom: $200,000, TAP program; and, $35,000, Indigent Care Program;
- Core agency support grants, which provide operational dollars, were given to the following Jewish organizations:
  - B’nai Brith Youth Organization: $10,000, rental expenses at the Jewish Community Campus;
  - Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy: $10,000, marketing campaign;
  - Jewish Community Archives of Greater Kansas City: $10,000, office equipment and partial program director salary;
  - Jewish Community Center: $10,000, rental expenses at the Jewish Community Campus;
  - Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee (JCRB/AJC): $8,000, Calendar of Jewish Holidays Project and Web site design;
  - Jewish Family Services: $10,000, multi-year strategic plan;
  - Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City: $5,000, start-up costs for the Jewish Organization Health Initiative;
  - Jewish Vocational Services: $9,975, new carpet and chairs;
  - Kansas University Hillel Foundation: $10,000, house utilities and annual financial review;
  - Lawrence Jewish Community Center: $10,000, facilitator and administrative support for strategic planning;
  - Midwest Center for Holocaust Education: $10,000, replace network server and convert GiftMaker Pro database to Raiser’s Edge;
  - National Council of Jewish Women: $7,500, subsidize rental costs;
  - Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City: $10,000, funding of a part-time administrator.

The Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City was created in 1995 with the sale of Menorah Hospital to Health Midwest, and throughout the past 12 years has dedicated itself to improving the quality of life to the citizens of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area through its support of the area agencies who serve them.

Officers of the Foundation board are: Daniel L. Scharf, M.D., president; Sheryl T. Davidow, executive vice president; Howard T. Jacobson, vice president-investments; Merilyn Berenbom, vice president-grants, James M. Klein, secretary; and Steven A. Gerishon, treasurer.

Foundation staff includes Ellen Kort, executive director; Cathy Boyer-Shesol, senior program officer; and Marianne Mantel, administrative director.
KU ANNOUNCES SPRING 2007 HONOR ROLL

More than 4,690 University of Kansas undergraduate students, including several local students, earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who met requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the schools of allied health, architecture and urban planning, business, education, engineering, fine arts, journalism, nursing and social welfare.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university’s academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Local students on the honor roll include:

From Junction City: Samantha Eileen Birchfield, daughter of Donna Gallo; Troy Joseph Cowan, son of Sandra Powers; James Thomas Craig, son of Thomas and Brenda Craig; John Daniel Gary, son of Jeryl Gary; Emily Christena Heldstab, daughter of Randy and Chris Heldstab; Jaimie Marie Heldstab, daughter of Randy and Chris Heldstab; Emily Annette Pinaire, daughter of Richard and Margie Pinaire; Joseph Andrew Pinaire, son of Richard and Margie Pinaire; Sharon Maria Ramos, daughter of Sergio and Debra Ramos.

From Chapman: Brandi Leigh Dixson, daughter of Glenda Dixson; Elizabeth Louisa Hamel, daughter of Greg and Julie Hamel; Emily Elizabeth Markley, daughter of Joe and Sheila Markley; Cody Adair Riedy, son of Gary Riedy; Hillary Renae Stroda, daughter of Bob Stroda; David Paul Wiese, son of Merve and Kay Wiese.
KU School of Allied Health announces graduation awards and scholarships

KANSAS CITY — 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.

Dean’s scholarship is given to meritoriously award full-time students within the School of Allied Health who have demonstrated excellence in scholastic accomplishments, professional leadership and social consciousness as evidenced by achievements while in their selected program of study: Trinh Thuy Tran, 2006, Dodge City.

June Hall Sherrid Scholarship — Faculty vote for the scholarship recipients on the basis of scholastic achievement in Clinical Laboratory Science, students from the area receiving scholarships were, Lindsay Marie Gibbs and Trinh Thuy Tran, both of Dodge City.