A flat tuition rate?

REGENTS WILL VOTE ON COLLEGE PROPOSAL THURSDAY

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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 also would 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 University to 9.5 percent at Emporia State University.

The guaranteed tuition rate proposal has received positive reviews so far, KU spokeswoman Lynn Bretz said.

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TUITION: Plan could save money or cost more

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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 student leaders, under the tuition compact, resident incoming freshmen at KU would pay a single tuition rate of $213 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 also have 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 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 percent to 12 percent.

However, state officials said Kansas rates remain a deal compared to what students in surrounding states pay to attend similar institutions, averaging a discount of 15 percent to 23 percent in one comparison.

“Tuition rates have rapidly increased across the nation, but rates at our state’s universities continue to provide Kansans with an exceptional educational value,” state Board of Regents Chairman Nelson Gallo said in a written statement.

But for students such as Humm, the increases mean taking on an increasing debt burden in order to obtain a college degree.

At public universities, student-loan debt levels for 2004 graduating seniors nationally reached $17,250, a 65-percent increase from 1993 levels, when adjusted for inflation.

Forty-three percent of the undergraduate students expecting to graduate from KU in the spring of 2006 relied on loans. The borrowers carried an average load of $19,203, according to university financial aid data.

To pay for her schooling, Humm said she planned to depend heavily on student loans to finance her education.

She also planned to work, hopefully keeping her job at an Ottawa Applebee’s restaurant, and receive some assistance from her mother, Barbara.

While the prospect of borrowing a significant amount to cover her education is a bit daunting, Humm said she hoped it would all pay off in the long run.

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.”
Rose Hill High School graduate, Andrew Ricke, was among 22 students in the Department of Sociology at the University of Kansas who were honored on May 11.

Ricke, a KU 2007 spring graduate in political science and sociology graduated with distinction in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He is the son of David and Sheila Ricke of Rose Hill.
Ten Spring Hill seventh-graders qualified for Duke University's Talent Identification Program. Students are selected based on ACT or SAT test scores.

The Spring Hill students are Kimberly Dyhouse, Steffan Green, Sarah Henkle, Anna King, Patrick Lang, Anna Menefee, Sam Peterson, Miles Updike, Jordan Whitesell and Tori Wyett.

Nearly 400 Kansas children were selected by Duke for the program. All the students were honored during a ceremony at the University of Kansas June 3.
Tiffany Cook, Oskaloosa, was recently honored at the University of Kansas with a scholarship in the School of Allied Health. Cook was one of the recipients of the June Hull Sherrid Scholarship. Recipients of the scholarship are chosen by a faculty vote on the basis of scholastic achievement in clinical laboratory science. Cook was one of 26 students to receive a Sherrid scholarship.
University of Kansas art history students receive awards

The Kress Foundation Department of Art History at the University of Kansas recently gave awards to 59 students for excellence during the 2006-07 academic year.

Raechell Smith, director of the H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute, was guest speaker at the recognition event in May at the Spencer Museum of Art. KU Endowment administers funds for the awards, which were presented by art history faculty members to their outstanding students.

Caitlin Marie Alvarez, Rossville, received the Amsden Award. Caitlin is a freshman, majoring in History of Art, BA. She is the daughter of Anna Alvarez.
A Tonganoxie art history student at Kansas University is the recipient of a scholarship for study abroad.

Jonathan Gripka, Tonganoxie senior, was one of two recipients earlier this year to receive an Eglinski Scholarship for Study Abroad, named for Edmund Eglinski, professor emeritus of art history.
Artzer receives
KU art award

Christy Artzer, daughter of Anthony and Donis Artzer, Wamego, was among 59 students to receive awards for excellence from the Kress Foundation Department of Art History at the University of Kansas.

Artzer, a junior in Art—Basic Studies, received the Amsden Book Award, established in 1976 by the late Floyd and Barbara Amsden of Wichita. Faculty members and graduate teaching assistants selected winners based on classroom excellence regardless of class level or major. Forty-six students received books on subjects in which they excelled.

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In an effort to attract future bioscience research, the University of Kansas Medical Center has announced an $800 million plan to increase manpower and space at both campuses located in Kansas City, Kan., and Lawrence, Kan.

Formally announced Tuesday, the plan will aim to increase the amount of researchers by 244 and will add an additional 863,000 square feet.

The plan, entitled "The Time Is Now," calls for 152 senior recruits and 92 junior recruits to be brought to the campuses. The faculty costs will take the majority of the $800 million, with $453.6 million set aside for faculty recruitment.

The remaining $345 million will be spent on the 862,500 square feet of space required.

Part of the funding will come from research grants. The medical center is hoping to increase research grants to $340 million by the end of 2016. Additional funding will be provided by tax dollars and other resources, such as the Kansas Bioscience Authority.

"We know what it will take to move KU's research enterprise to the next level," he said in a statement. "The benefits will be profound. Advances in research will improve lives and a vigorous research effort absolutely can be an economic driver for the region."

In addition to bringing medical
benefits, the plan could bring large amounts of economic impact.

A study conducted by Andersen Consulting in 2002 showed the Stowers Institute for Medical Research adding more space and researchers would bring $1.4 billion in regional economic impact.

A study entitled Kansas Economic Growth Act’s Bioscience Initiative, conducted by the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation and Ernst & Young LLP, projected 23,000 new bioscience jobs, 20,000 “indirect” jobs and $1 billion in research funding.

A third study conducted by the Perryman Group, said $1.3 billion in economic impact can be made by year 10 of the plan, along with the creation of 9,400 permanent jobs.

Among established programs, the 10-year extramural grant funding goals are $80 million for cancer; $36 million in neuroscience and brain health; $24 million for maternal, fetal and child health; $32 million for reproductive sciences and fertility; $28 million for the medical center’s kidney program and $17 million for its liver program.

The medical center’s cancer program will see one of the largest increases in overall space, with 310,000 square feet in additional space available by the last year of the plan.

KU Medical Center’s emerging programs, bioengineering, bone, diabetes, heart, immunology, integrative medicine, obesity, ophthalmology, personalized medicine and public health programs are all hoping to see $10 million in additional grant funding.

Bioengineering will receive the most additional space with 180,000 square feet in space by the end of the plan.

“Regional greatness is within our reach, but it can’t be achieved without a world-class regional medical center,” said Barbara Atkinson, MD and executive vice chancellor at the University of Kansas Medical Center. “The foundation of the University of Kansas Medical Center is solid, but we believe the time is now to pursue a focused, long-term strategy designed to transform the University of Kansas Medical Center into a high performing catalyst for advancing knowledge and cures.”

The goals which inspired the plan include placing KU Medical Center in “world class” status, along with placing Kansas City in the top 20 in regional markets for life science programs.

The plan also featured collaboration with other regional hospitals, including the Stowers Institute for Medical Research, Midwest Research Institute, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Kansas-Lawrence, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, the Veterans Administration Hospitals, University of Kansas Hospital, Saint Luke’s Health System, Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, and Truman Medical Center.
Area Students Take Part In Duke TIP Ceremony

The University of Kansas hosted a state recognition program Sunday, June 3 for about

400 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the Duke University Talent Identification Program. Joseph M. Schneider of Andover and Logan Breault of Benton were among the students selected for the program.

Selection to Duke TIP was based on college entrance-exam scores that students take while still in middle school. The top 5 percent were chosen for the program. Students participated by taking either the SAT or ACT national achievement tests. Working with host academic institutions such as KU, Duke TIP sponsors 33 state ceremonies in its 16-state talent search region.

Each Duke TIP student received a medallion. The state recognition ceremonies honor seventh graders who have earned scores above the average scores of college-bound high school seniors. About 900 students qualified in the Kansas region. About 400 were expected to attend the ceremony.

The program is in its 27th year, and this is the ninth year KU has hosted the Kansas state recognition program. Duke TIP is a nonprofit educational organization that identifies and helps cultivate the talents of academically gifted youth.
Adelson Works As Intern

Ryan S. Adelson, of Andover, was among 25 University of Kansas undergraduates who earned credit during the spring semester working as interns for legislators in Topeka.


Through the Topeka Public Service Internship Program, the students worked with state elected officials, state administrators and lobbyists to learn more about state government and public service. Internships have been offered during the spring semester of each year and usually begin in January and continue through the end of April.

Burdett Loomis, KU professor of political science, directed the program.

Each Thursday, Loomis met with the students for a weekly seminar to review the progress of the 90-day legislative session. Some seminars included visits by state officials for an additional perspective on state government and public service.

Topeka intern assignments vary from researching public policy issues to helping with constituent correspondence to committee work or bill tracking to helping Kansas citizens in various capacities.

Students could earn three to nine hours of credit. They spent at least two days a week in Topeka. Interns were not paid, but they received a stipend for expenses in commuting from Lawrence to Topeka.