KU proposes freezing tuition rates for 4 years

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOPEKA — In an effort to make the cost of getting an education predictable, the University of Kansas has proposed a plan that would freeze tuition rates for incoming freshmen for four years.

If the plan is approved by the Kansas Board of Regents, first-time freshmen also would have the option of paying a fixed rate for student housing for two years.

The "Four-Year Tuition Compact" was presented Thursday to the regents, who will vote on tuition proposals next month.

Kansas State on Thursday proposed a 7.9 percent increase in tuition and fees for resident students; Wichita State, 6.4 percent; Emporia State, 9.5 percent; Pittsburg State, 7.1 percent; and Fort Hays State, 5.1 percent.

The University of Kansas plan, which would begin next fall for incoming freshmen, would increase tuition rates at the university nearly 16 percent over current levels but keep that rate the same for four years.

Freshmen also would get a schedule showing annual increases in course and campus fees, meaning they would know about 80 percent of their college costs in advance.

Under the plan, resident freshmen would pay $213 per credit hour, which is 15.9 percent more than the current rate of $183.75. For full-time, resident freshmen, tuition would be $3,408 per semester, $468 more than this year.

A full-time, out-of-state resident would pay $8,960 a semester.

"We want to get away from the whipsaw effect of tuition increases over the past 30 years," university Provost Richard Lariviere said.

The program has another goal: increasing the number of students who complete degrees in four years.

"Completing four-year academic programs in four years is a high priority," Chancellor Robert Hemenway said. "By offering no tuition increases for four years, we are giving students a powerful incentive to finish their degrees on time."

Lariviere estimated it would cost students who take more than four years to complete a degree an extra $1,000 per semester.

To protect against inflation, Lariviere said the university would ask for a new tuition rate for each incoming freshman class.

Although expressing some hesitations, regents generally liked the idea, which sets the tuition for incoming freshmen by averaging an anticipated 6 percent annual tuition increase over four years.

In the last 30 years, tuition has increased an average of 9 percent a year. But those increases have varied widely, ranging from no change one year to increases of up to 25 percent.

Hannah Love, student body president, said she supported the proposal.

"I think it is a solution to help stabilize those numbers and curb those increases that we continue to see," said Love, a junior from Dodge City.

For other students, the university is proposing a 7.3 percent increase in tuition and fees for resident undergraduates and 6.5 percent for nonresident undergraduates.
BRANDENBURG GRADUATES FROM KU

David J. Brandenburg, Riley, will receive his Graduate Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Kansas University’s annual commencement exercises on Sunday, May 20. He is the son of Jim and Linda Brandenburg, Riley.
Students selected for Duke TIP

The University of Kansas will host a state recognition program for about 400 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the Duke University Talent Identification Program.

The event takes place at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 3, at the Lied Center. Marlesa Roney, vice provost for Student Success, will preside.

Selection to Duke TIP is based on college entrance-exam scores that students take while still in middle school. The top 5 percent are chosen for the program. Each Duke TIP student receives a medallion. The state recognition ceremonies honor seventh graders who have earned scores above the average scores of college-bound high school seniors. Local students selected are Alexander Hermesch and Cody R. Honeyman, Seneca; and Austin A. Schmitz, Axtell.
Inducted into Honor Society

The University of Kansas’ Alpha chapter of Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society will induct 103 new members at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 19, at Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

Election to Phi Beta Kappa recognizes a student’s high academic achievement while pursuing a broad and substantive liberal arts curriculum. To be eligible for consideration for membership, students must have senior status and a minimum grade-point average of 3.65 on a 4.0 scale.

New members include Jamie Lynn Bergman, daughter of Diane Brown and Francis Bergman. Bergman is a graduate of Nemaha Valley High School in Seneca.
TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — In an effort to make the cost of getting an education predictable, the University of Kansas has proposed a plan that would freeze tuition rates for incoming freshmen for four years.

If the plan is approved by the Kansas Board of Regents, first-time freshmen also would have the option of paying a fixed rate for student housing for two years.

The "Four-Year Tuition Compact" was presented Thursday to the regents, who will vote on tuition proposals next month.

Kansas State on Thursday proposed a 7.9 percent increase in tuition and fees for resident students; Wichita State, 6.4 percent; Emporia State, 9.5 percent; Pittsburg State, 7.1 percent; and Fort Hays State, 6.1 percent.

The University of Kansas plan, which would begin next fall for incoming freshmen, would increase tuition rates at the university nearly 16 percent over current levels but keep that rate the same for four years.

Freshmen also would get a schedule showing annual increases in course and campus fees, meaning they would know about 80 percent of their college costs in advance.

Under the plan, resident freshmen would pay $213 per credit hour, which is 15.9 percent more than the current rate of $183.75. For full-time, resident freshmen, tuition would be $3,408 per semester, $468 more than this year.

A full-time, out-of-state resident would pay $8,960 a semester.

“We want to get away from the whipsaw effect of tuition increases over the past 30 years,” university Provost Richard Lariviere said.

The program has another goal: increasing the number of students who complete degrees in four years.

“Completing four-year academic programs in four years is a high priority,” Chancellor Robert Hemenway said. “By offering no tuition increases for four years, we are giving students a powerful incentive to finish their degrees on time.”

Lariviere estimated it would cost students who take more than four years to complete a degree an extra $1,000 per semester.

To protect against inflation, Lariviere said the university would ask for a new tuition rate for each incoming freshman class.
LAWRENCE -- McPherson's Rachel E. Lee and John P. Lujano and Sadie M. Webb of Moundridge will be honored June 3 when the University of Kansas sponsors a state recognition program for seventh-grade students selected for the Duke University Talent Identification Program.

Each Duke TIP student receives a medallion. The state recognition ceremonies honor seventh-graders who have earned scores above the average scores of college-bound high school seniors.

Selection to Duke TIP is based on college entrance-exam scores that students take while still in middle school. Students participate 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.

Marlesa Roney, vice provost for Student Success, will preside. Robert N. Sawyer, founding executive director of Duke TIP, will deliver the special address to the students and their families and guests.

-
KU faculty gets introduced to southwest region

By EMILY BEHLMANN
bebhlmann@gctelegram.com

Brent Metz, a native of Michigan, has lived in Kansas for about six years, teaching anthropology at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. But until this week, he had never seen any part of the state west of Topeka.

"I didn't know I had a reason to go west until now," he said while leaning on a bar stool at Clark Pharmacy, Cimarron's landmark soda fountain and gift shop where almost 50 KU faculty sipped floats and shakes Wednesday afternoon.

"Metz is from a wooded area, but he said he likes the open spaces he's seen on the Wheat State Whirlwind Tour so much that he could see himself living in an area western Kansas.

Members of the KU faculty have been taking this annual tour for the past 10 years. This year's group is sweeping through 35 Kansas counties this week.

On Wednesday's leg of the five-day, 1,200-mile journey, their tour bus departed from Colby and stopped at Duff's Buffalo Ranch, Logan County; Majestic Theatre Restaurant, Scott City; downtown Cimarron; and the Gray County Wind Energy LLC wind farm and Stauth Museum, Montezuma, before finishing the day in Dodge City.

Margey Frederick, KU director of special events and visitor services, said the tour is designed to give faculty "a little taste of everything," especially in places that are off the beaten path.

"We want our KU faculty to know where our students come from," said Bob Hemenway, university chancellor and originator of the tour. He joined the faculty for Wednesday's leg of the trip.

Jeremy Martin, assistant professor of mathematics, said he likes the idea of learning more about the regions where many of his students grew up.

He grew up in San Francisco and has spent his life living in big cities.

"I have students from small towns in western Kansas," he said. "It's a different point of view."

Martin said that he was having a lot of new experiences, and that he had seen his first grain elevator this week.

He also had his first tractor ride when the group visited Steeples Wheat Farm in Palco.

"To us big city boys and girls, that's an experience," he said.

The wind farm, made up of 170 towers spread over 20 square miles, is built and operated by Florida Power and Light Energy LLC. The company sells the power to UtiliCorp, which distributes in Kansas and Missouri.

At the Stauth Museum, they perused the artifacts from the world travels of Montezuma couple Claude and Donnie Stauth, and viewed Smithsonian photos of the rain forest in the traveling "A Magic Web" exhibit.

Highlights of today's tour include a tour of Gypsum Hills in Medicine Lodge, Pratt Fish Hatchery in Pratt, the Kansas Sampler Foundation in Inman and the Underground Salt Museum in Hutchinson.
University of Kansas faculty tour the Gray County Wind Farm on Wednesday afternoon as part of the Wheat State Whirlwind Tour during a stop near Montezuma.
25 years of service

USD 392 School Board President, Ron Sturgeon, presented Julie Bernard (above) and Pam Hutchinson with University of Kansas certificate of service awards for completing 25 years of service to education at the last school board meeting. (courtesy photos)
Plainville aces ication to wrestling.

Student to take part in Duke TIP ceremony at KU

The University of Kansas will host a state recognition program for about 400 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the Duke University Talent Identification Program.

The event takes place at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, June 3, at the Lied Center. Marlesa Roney, vice provost for Student Success, will preside. Robert N. Sawyer, founding executive director of Duke TIP, will deliver the special address to the students and their families and guests.

Selection to Duke TIP is based on college entrance-exam scores that students take while still in middle school. The top 5 percent are chosen for the program. Students participate 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 receives 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 are 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. In addition to Kansans, additional students taking part in the ceremony at KU are Missouri residents from the Kansas City metropolitan area or towns near the Kansas-Missouri state line. Information tables to answer students' and parents' questions about KU programs and activities will be in the Lied Center lobby during the event.

Duke TIP is a nonprofit educational organization that identifies and helps cultivate the talents of academically gifted youth. Since 1980, more than 1 million students have taken part in the program that is supported by student fees and donations from individuals, corporations and foundations.

Included is McGregor P. Jones, Plainville.
LAWRENCE — The names of more than 4,280 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas — representing 97 Kansas counties, 44 other states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 52 other countries — have been announced by the University Registrar.

KU’s Class of 2007 numbers more than 6,400, including 2,125 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2006. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these former students returned Sunday, May 20, for the university’s 135th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium.

Among the graduates were Nichole Denise Canton, daughter of Jay and Kim Canton, and Amber D. Odermann, daughter of Barbara Odermann, all of Ashland.