Regents OK tuition hikes, suggest 6% max

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Kansas State University students likely will see a tuition increase of about 4.4 percent next year.

The Kansas Board of Regents voted 7-2 Wednesday to let the state’s public universities, community colleges and technical schools set their own tuition rates. But regents also strongly suggested that any increase be no more than 6 percent.

SEE NO. 1, BACK PAGE
Regents suggest tuition cap

NO. 1, FROM PAGE A1

The decision means it will cost more to attend all Kansas Regents institutions next year, but the size of the increase will depend on the specific institution.

KSU President Jon Wefald identified the 4.4 percent figure as a likely target. That means in-state tuition per credit hour at K-State will increase by about $8, from $187.50 to $195.75, and out-of-state tuition will increase by about $22, from $512 to $534.5.

University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Heimann said tuition there will go up by about 6 percent.

The state's six public universities have instituted double-digit percentage tuition increases in the last five years. Since 2002, increases have ranged from 42.2 percent at Fort Hays State to 136 percent at the University of Kansas.

Presidents of all six of the universities told the regents their tuition increases would be under 6 percent next year.

Not all BOR members were happy with the plan. Christine Downey-Schmidt, board chairwoman, voted for the plan but said she was opposed to a tuition cap because she wants to maintain the flexibility that university presidents have to set rates according to needs. Regents Donna Shank of Liberal and Gary Sherrer of Overland Park voted against the plan in favor of a 5 percent cap this year.

Student leaders also spoke at the meeting and said they weren't in favor of a tuition cut if it affected the quality of their education.

"We don't want the increases to be outrageous," said Courtney George, student body president at Emporia State University, "but we want our diploma to mean something. What matters most is how the money is being spent."
KU Announces Students Named to Fall 2007 Honor Roll

More than 4,540 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2007 semester. These students, from KU’s Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing in Kansas City, Ka., represent 96 of 105 Kansas counties, 43 other states and the District of Columbia and 39 other countries.

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

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.

The student from this area is Maegan Nicole Easter, Arma, Kansas.
FORT LEAVENWORTH — Army officials Feb. 6 unveiled a new education program aimed at enhancing the lives of soldiers disabled by combat injuries.

Army Secretary Pete Geren introduced eight current and former soldiers who will enroll in graduate programs at the University of Kansas in the fall.

The soldiers then owe the Army three years of service — either on active duty or as civilian employees — for every year they spend in school. To qualify, the soldiers must be at least 30 percent disabled by their war wounds.

Geren said public support for wounded veterans has grown since disclosures last year of substandard care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"You had some soldiers that had not received the care that they needed. When that became known to the Army, it was like an electric shock to the system," Geren said. "The Army has stepped up. Soldiers do take care of soldiers. And when the soldiers learned that some people had dropped the ball and not taken care of soldiers, the whole system responded.

"We're trying to pay a debt to the soldiers who have given so much to this country."

First Lt. Jason Gladney, a retired armor officer, joined the Army after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and was wounded in Iraq in March 2006. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and started a master's degree program years ago. He's now living in California and will attend the University of Kansas to finish his education.

Gladney said whether students can stay in uniform or have to be civilians, it is rewarding to know that they can continue to serve and "be part of the team."

"I think it's an incredible opportunity," Gladney said.

University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway said he approached Geren and Defense Secretary Robert Gates, the former president of Texas A&M University, whom Hemenway knew because both schools are in the Big 12 conference.

"The welcome mat is out at KU," Hemenway said. "The Army, the nation will benefit."

Geren and university leaders detailed the program during an assembly at Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Staff College, about 50 miles from the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence. The soldiers will qualify for in-state tuition at the University of Kansas, currently about $2,165 a semester, not counting books or campus fees.

"Funding won't be a problem. This is a commitment the Army will make," Geren said.

Hemenway said other universities have inquired about the program.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
Army secretary, KU announce program for disabled soldiers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

which the Army hopes to expand throughout the country.

After they complete the Army-paid education, the soldiers and civilians will go to work as instructors or other military employees, a requirement for being selected in the program. The first graduates are expected to join the Command and General Staff College staff.

Ronald James, assistant Army secretary for manpower and Reserve affairs, said the additional training would give soldiers an opportunity to give back to the military while raising the intellectual level of the Army.

“This is not a gift,” James said. “We are in an era where we are short of critical skills.”

Staff Sgt. Thomas Davis has been cleared to stay in the Army. He has been in for five years and wants to retire after 20. Davis was wounded by an improvised explosive device in June 2006, and is now a basic training instructor at Fort Benning, Ga.

“I didn’t know how long that was going to last. This is great to come out and go in a different direction and still serve in the Army the best way that I can,” he said.

Davis will seek an information technology management degree next fall.

“I’d like to go somewhere that’s warm and there isn’t snow,” he said.

— AP
KANSAS UNIVERSITY

LAWRENCE — Several area undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2007 semester. Students, their hometown and field of study include:

Garnett
- Ashli Nicole Bowman is a senior education major. She graduated from Anderson County High School, Garnett.
- Ian Oak Osler, a junior in the school of liberal arts, is the son of Kenneth and Eileen Osler. He graduated from Anderson County High School, Garnett.
- Richard Z. Robinson, sophomore engineering major, is the son of Richard and Jerry Robinson. He graduated from Anderson County High School, Garnett.
- Cassidy Leann Spring, a freshman in the school of liberal arts, is the daughter of Steven and Marcia Spring. She graduated from Anderson County High School, Garnett.
- Beilei Wang, a senior business major, is the daughter of Christopher and Cui Hong Fink. She graduated from Anderson County High School, Garnett.

Greeley
- Janell L. Katzer, a member of the school of pharmacy, is the daughter of Eileen Katzer. She graduated from Anderson County High School, Garnett.
- Marisa D. Kratzberg, a senior in the school of liberal arts, is the daughter of Richard and Sheila Kratzberg. She graduated from Anderson County High School, Garnett.

Greeley
- Imagene Elleanor Harris, a senior in the school of liberal arts, is the daughter of Kenneth and Melinda Gifford. He graduated from Ottawa High School.

Baldwin City
- Katherine Marcella Beall, a junior in the school of liberal arts, is the daughter of Cynthia and Raymond Beall, Liberal. She graduated from Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
- Emily Nicole Brown, a senior education major, is the daughter of Dan and Jill Brown. She graduated from Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
- Jacob B. Coble, a junior liberal arts and engineering major, is the son of Judy Coble. He graduated from Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
- Sonja Emily Combest, a senior in the school of liberal arts, is the daughter of Michael and Jody Combest. She earned a GED from the state of Kansas.
- Morgan Elizabeth Gris-sum, a sophomore engineering major, is the daughter of Gary and Kathleen Gris-sum. She graduated from Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
- Jeffrey Thomas Hill, a senior business major, is the son of David and Pamela Hill. He graduated from Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
- Lynne Marie Lammers, a junior in the school of liberal arts, is the daughter of Jana Jorn, Baldwin City, and Carl Lammers, Ottawa. She graduated from Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
- Kristin Joy Lynch, a junior engineering major, is the daughter of John Lynch. She graduated from Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
- Rachel K. Miles, a senior business major, is the daughter of Deanna Miles. She graduated from Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
- Brian Thomas Turk, a senior engineering major, is the son of Gary and Donita Turk. He graduated from Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
- Melissa M. Fuller is a senior in the school of liberal arts, is the daughter of Delores and David Jones. She graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Andrew Jacob Garcia, a senior in the school of liberal arts, is the son of Jimmy and Jeanne Garcia. He graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Matthew M. Gifford, a junior in the school of liberal arts, is the son of Mark and Melinda Gifford. He graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Carra Lynn Gorby, a freshman liberal arts major, is the daughter of Teresa and John Gorby. She graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Jennifer M. Harness, a senior in the school of liberal arts, is the daughter of David and Cynthia Harness. She graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Imagene Elleanor Harris, a senior in the school of liberal arts, is the daughter of Terry Crane. She graduated from Pomona High School.

Ottawa
- Stephanie Lynne Hermreck, a freshman in the school of liberal arts, is the daughter of Dale and Linda Hermreck. She graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Meghan Kathleen Miller, a senior education major, is the daughter of Gary and Pam Miller. She graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Kenneth M. Morton, a senior fine arts major, is the son of Ken Morton. He graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Jesutomi Mercy Ojeleye, a senior in the school of liberal arts, is the daughter of Akinola and Temitope Ojeleye. She graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Cynthia C. Polsley is a senior liberal arts major. She graduated from Olathe Christian School, Olathe.
- Jesse Lane Smith, a junior in the school of liberal arts, is the son of Craig and Tammy Davis. He graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Shannon Elyse Sullivan, a senior fine arts major, is the daughter of Tom and
Diane Drake. She graduated from Ottawa High School.

- Jeffrey Donald Thomason, a sophomore in the school of liberal arts, is the son of Laura and Don Thomason. He graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Drew Ryan Waldron, a senior business major, is the son of Randy and Sandy Waldron. He graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Yue Wang, a freshman in the school of liberal arts, is the daughter of Zong Ping Zhou. She graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Sierra Lynn Wright, a sophomore in the school of liberal arts, is the daughter of William and Robin Wright. She graduated from Ottawa High School.
- Buck Allen Bradley

Pomona

- Kyle MacKenzie Kost, a senior education major, is the son of Kenneth Kost. He graduated from Williamsburg High School.

Wellsville

- Noah James Groshong, a senior allied health major, is the son of James and Deanna Groshong. He graduated from Wellsville Jr-Sr High School.
- Brandon Lee Walker, a senior pharmacy major, is the son of Kathryn Brakeville. He graduated from Osawatomie Senior High School.
KU To Honor High School Seniors

Students from six Kansas high schools will be honored Tuesday, February 21, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 20 seniors from high schools in Edwards, Pawnee and Stafford counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at the Knights of Columbus, Scenic Drive, Larned.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or high-education goals. Honorees' names are listed at www.news.ku.edu/2008/february/7/khplanned.shtml.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Sarah Blaney, assistant director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association. Kevin Corbett, president of the KU Alumni Association, will speak to the students, parents and guests.

Honoered students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $12 each.

Community volunteers collect reservation, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the evening. John Adams of Larned will be the site coordinator as well as county coordinator for Edwards County. Other county coordinators are Al Frame of Kinsley for Edwards County; and Gayle Cornwell of Saint John for Stafford County.

Those attending from Kinsley Junior Senior High School are William Fulls, Ben Burghart, and William Burkhart.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.
KU students want beer at Union

LAWRENCE — Students at the University of Kansas are pushing a proposal to reinstate sales of beer at a campus bowling alley and eatery for the first time in nearly a decade.

University union directors recently approved the student-led proposal.

But prospects for the return of beer sales at the Jaybowl and Hawks Nest are uncertain.

Three years ago, a similar proposal was rejected by then-Provost David Shullenburger. A spokeswoman for current Provost Richard Lariviere said he hadn’t seen the proposal and declined to comment.

Sales of beer stopped in 1998 following the death of a student in a traffic accident. Both she and the driver were intoxicated.

Beer is sold at the student union at Kansas State University in the bowling and billiards areas.
Regents request smaller tuition hikes

BY CHRIS GREEN
HARRIS NEWS SERVICE

TOPEKA — The state Board of Regents on Wednesday decided against imposing a formal cap on next year’s round of tuition increases for six state universities.

Following a lengthy discussion, the board instead voted 7-2 to request that university leaders propose tuition hikes later this year “well below” the double-digit ones paid by students and their parents earlier this decade.

However, board members also said they expected to see charges increase by 6 percent or less this year, unless university leaders face extraordinary circumstances.

“I think we’ve made it clear that we would like to see proposals under the 6 percent limit,” Regent Janie Perkins of Garden City said.

Two board members, Gary Sherrer of Overland Park and Donna Shank of Liberal, wanted to impose a formal 5 percent cap but were voted down. In opposing the resolution calling for more moderate tuition hikes this year, Sherrer and Shank said the board’s action would carry little meaning.

“This motion just says: ‘Don’t do it as big as you did in the past and we’ll see you in June,’” Sherrer said, referring to the month in which board members set tuition rates.

Yet Regent Jill Docking of Wichita, who made the proposal, said she felt higher education officials had reached an understanding Wednesday on what level of hikes would be acceptable.

“If they come in at 8 percent, then we have the authority to say ‘no,’” Docking said.

College officials defended their efforts to keep tuition at reasonable rates in recent years but several indicated that they generally planned to hold increases below 6 percent this year.

“We understand that the era of double-digit tuition increases is over,” Kansas State University President Jon Wefald said.

The board’s debate Wednesday was sparked by a series of steep hikes that have significantly driven up the price of the state’s historically low tuition rates.

In recent years, the board has approved the hikes proposed by university leaders in May, a month after they’re initially unveiled. But several board members called last month for a discussion on whether the board should change its approach to setting tuition rates.

Since 2002, in-state tuition and fees have more than doubled at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University.
Dr. Gregg Wenger hosts University of Kansas medical student at Sabetha Family Practice

Martin Musumbi gets four-week taste of rural medicine

PATTY LOCHER
News Editor
The Sabetha Herald

Gregg Wenger, M.D., Sabetha family physician, is hosting Martin Musumbi, a medical student from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, for four weeks as part of a community-based educational experience.

Musumbi is working under the mentorship of Dr. Wenger from Jan. 28 through Feb. 23 as he learns what it is like to practice medicine in a rural community.

"I enjoy working here in the Sabetha clinic," Musumbi said after almost two weeks in Sabetha. "It’s very rewarding working with the people from this rural community."

Musumbi grew up in Nairobi, the capital and largest city in the Republic of Kenya, a country in Eastern Africa.

Musumbi said he has wanted to be a medical doctor since he was about 6 or 7 years old, and biology was one of his favorite subjects in high school. He also enjoyed geography, he added.

Musumbi attended The University of Kansas Medical Center where, in 2002, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in respiratory care.

Following completion of his undergraduate degree, he was employed by KU Hospital for two years, in the sleep disorders center.

Musumbi started medical school in 2004. His primary area of interest is internal medicine, with emphasis on pulmonary, critical care and hospital-based medicine.

During summers of medical school, he has volunteered, through the KU Medical Center, at Health Partnerships Clinic of Johnson County.

ty, which he described as a safety-net clinic for uninsured residents of Johnson County.

Musumbi expects to complete his Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree in May 2008. In March, he will learn where he will go for his residency, which will begin in July. His preferences, he said, are Kansas City, Dallas and St. Louis.

"I am hoping to do a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine during my residence," Musumbi said.

Growing up in Nairobi, he participated in Boy Scouts during most of sixth through eighth grade, and in high school, he was on the school tennis team.

Musumbi enjoys playing chess and tennis, although he said his tennis game “isn’t great” right now.

He is married and has two children. He met his wife, Christine, while a student at KU Medical Center, and they were married in March 2002. Their children are a son, Jason, 3, and a daughter, Michelle, 7 months.

Dr. Wenger is a volunteer mentor, or preceptor, with KU School of Medicine’s Kansas Rural Preceptor Program. Since 1951, the program places all fourth-year medical students, approximately 175 each year, in communities across Kansas.

The program helps introduce students to the practice of primary care in non-urban areas, to increase their awareness of professional opportunities in rural areas, and to give them the opportunity to use their diagnostic and clinical skills in real-life scenarios under the guidance of their preceptor mentors.

“These students gain valuable knowledge and skill in the field that they wouldn’t receive without this program – a program made possible by partnerships with doctors across Kansas,” said Barbara Atkinson, M.D., executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center and executive dean of the KU School of Medicine.
Dr. Gregg Wenger, left, Sabetha physician, stands by Martin Musumbi, KU medical student who is receiving four weeks of rural medicine training in Sabetha.
The surface area of a lake can misrepresent its health and viability. Too often, volume robbing sediment that lies on the bottom decreases the lake’s depth and its storage volume. Restoring a lake’s volume and protecting it by limiting future watershed erosion is the objective of a state program administered by the State Conservation Commission and underpinned by measurements by the Kansas Biological Survey.

Horton City Administrator Levi Henry knows all about sediment in Mission Lake northeast of town. Part of it is first hand. He has kayaked the lake, taking informal depth measurements with his paddle for his own information.

The original 169-acre Mission Lake, has shrunk to 123 surface acres as a result of soil washed in from the watershed.

More critical, however, is the work done by the Kansas Biological Survey to map the lake’s depth, electronically measure the sediment thickness and verify the latter information with sediment core samples.

“Mission Lake is so important to Horton that the citizens passed a $4 million bond issue in April of 2005 by a two-to-one margin (300 to 157),” says Henry. “Use of that money was conditioned on receiving money from the state through the State Water Plan Fund.”

Horton was selected from a field of communities to receive the grant money derived from the Clean Drinking Water Fee Fund. The 2005 Kansas Legislature had approved the pilot program to restore and protect a small public water supply lake.

Horton taps six wells to meet its needs and to provide water to Willis, four miles to the north.

“We’re meeting our needs now, but as we pursue new industries, we’ll need Mission Lake’s water and maybe even more from another source to complement the wells,” Henry says.

Dry weather this summer and early fall has proven a challenge. The mayor has requested residents of Horton and Willis to voluntarily conserve water. Once storage volume is restored to the lake in 2009, a water treatment plant upgrade is planned.

The Kansas Biological Survey’s team of scientists, led by Mark Jakubauskas, uses scientific grade echosounding system to map estimated sediment thickness and water depth, or reservoir bathymetry.

“We’re able to map the location of our measurements as we navigate the lake gathering data,” says Jakubauskas. “The results of the echosounding will be compared to simultaneously obtained sediment core samples.”

The core samples allow sediment classification and chemical analysis. Images of lake depth created with acoustic sounding can be superimposed on pre-impoundment topographic maps to show changes in the lake’s bottom.

Both the sediment and lake depth measurement and complementary water quality assessment are part of the Biological Survey’s Applied Science and Technology for Reservoir Assessment Initiative (ASTRA) at the University of Kansas.

Based on the recommendations of an engineering firm, the City of Horton will decide the best plan of action. If dredging is the best alternative to extend the life of the reservoir, then the work of the Survey will indicate how much needs to be removed and serve as a check on how much was removed.

Work to prevent sedimentation was started in the 1990s as a byproduct of a program to control chemical runoff from farmers’ fields. Filter strips and buffer strips were planted and conservation tillage practices were adopted.

Plans are to work with farmers in the watershed to check the condition of the physical practices and the current use of conservation tillage methods.
This time, colleges want hike from state

Universities' agreement to tuition break comes with call for more funding.

By Chris Green
Harris News Service
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TOPEKA – To hold the line on future tuition hikes, state university leaders say they're going to need some more help from the Kansas Legislature.

Higher education officials generally agreed during Wednesday's state Board of Regents meeting to limit next year's round of tuition increases to less than 6 percent.

However, the effort to slow steep increases in tuition charges will hinge heavily on how much lawmakers choose to increase higher education funding in the future, school leaders say.

Several regents, state university officials and even student leaders emphasized this week that schools are trying to keep tuition raises down but can't do it alone.

"We need additional funding from the state Legislature or else we're going to keep seeing tuition going up," Matt Wagner, Kansas State University's student body president, told board members.

In fact, several board members said this past week they
were against setting a formal cap on tuition because it might reduce accountability for lawmakers.

"I don't want to take responsibility away from those across the street," Regent Janie Perkins of Garden City said of lawmakers.

Since 2002, the basic charges for attending the University of Kansas and Kansas State University have more than doubled. Tuition and fees at other schools have jumped by an average of more than 10 percent a year, except for Fort Hays State University, which has averaged an 8.5 percent annual hike.

Over the same period, though, lawmakers have bolstered the state's share of university funding by an average of about 2 percent a year.

Yet legislators remain divided over how much blame lawmakers should take for tuition increases.

"It's impossible to give the Regents everything they want," House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, said, "so they will always be able to justify increasing tuition."

However, Senate budget Chairman Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer, said university leaders can make a "very good case" that the state hasn't put enough aid into the system.

"That is a very legitimate concern that they have," Umbarger said.

Recent uptick
State universities absorbed a 5 percent cut in state funding during fiscal year 2003 because of the state's financial difficulties, according to Regents data. But over the past four years, the annual increases have ranged from 3 percent to nearly 6 percent.

In addition, universities are also set to receive $80 million over the next two years to start long-delayed building repairs as part of a deferred maintenance plan.

This year, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has proposed a nearly 4 percent jump in state general fund support for universities.

Regent Donna Shank of Liberal noted the recent upsurge in state support as higher education officials debated a cap on tuition increases this week. She said many legislators remind her of those efforts when she talks about the need for additional state support.

Plus, state funding hasn't been the only factor driving skyrocketing tuition charges in the state. Universities have also sought the increases to close ground on peers who were charging significantly more.

Rep. Eber Phelps, D-Hays, said that if the Legislature needs to provide additional help for universities to stabilize tuition, then that's something he'd favor.

However, he also noted that lawmakers are again facing a tight budget year and have to prioritize their spending in the face of numerous requests.

"There's not a lot of wiggle room in there," Phelps said.