TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - The board in charge of Kansas' higher education system wants to make sure the cost of attending a state university or college doesn't increase too much next year, but it's not ready to impose a cap.

The Board of Regents expects to receive proposals for new tuition rates from the universities in May and to vote upon them in June. On Wednesday, the board discussed whether it should give university officials any guidance — or impose a limit on what they can propose.

The regents voted 7-2 to let universities, community colleges and technical schools propose their own tuition rates. But they also strongly suggested that the increases sought be 6 percent or less.

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 less than 6 percent next year.

Student leaders who spoke at the meeting said they had been involved in setting tuition at their schools and they don't want lower tuition if it affects 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."

Regents Chairwoman Christine Downey-Schmidt, of Inman, said she opposes a tuition cap because she wants to maintain the flexibility that university presidents have to address their campuses' needs.

But regents Donna Shank, of Liberal, and Gary Sherrer, of Overland Park, who cast the only no votes, said they favored limiting tuition increases to 5 percent.

"I'm just saying: This year, in this economy, can't we take a break and show some restraint?" Shank asked.

"We don't want the increases to be outrageous. But we want our diploma to mean something. What matters most is how the money is being spent."

Courtney George
ESU student body president

County:
Lyon
Black History Month speaker: Derrais Carter

ESU alumnus discusses challenges of African-American students

By Kelsey Ryan

Derrais Carter, an Emporia State alumnus, spoke to students about Black History Month and the issues that African Americans currently face.

At 6 p.m. on Feb. 21, students gathered in the Memorial Union Ballroom to participate as Carter spoke and asked questions regarding the experiences, education and lifetime goals of ESU students.

Carter, a published author who has recently been accepted into a Ph.D. program at the University of Kansas, enjoys speaking to students in a way that may seem atypical to some.

“I plan on talking about an issue called African American binary,” Carter said. “It’s really going in and having people dissect what they feel it means to be a black student in college. Instead of talking about extremes, like black and white, we’re talking about black and black.”

Carter talked to students about African American history, including the philosophies of W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington. He also discussed what motivates students to learn and urged students to make an extra effort with their education.

“I hope they get some type of affirmation,” Carter said. “I want people to feel like they can come out of here being willing to challenge people, challenge themselves, challenge their professors to get them the information that they need while they’re students.”

During the presentation, Carter also discussed his experiences as an exchange student in Ghana and encouraged students to study abroad.

“It’s one of those things where you go from a campus where 2/3 of my class was white women to a campus with 24,000 black people, not African Americans, but black people,” Carter said. “I’ve always been in positions where I’m a different individual. I was different in Ghana because I was American. I think that people have to be comfortable with being uncomfortable in order to really grow.”

Many students enjoyed the unique presentation given by Carter, and admired the presence of a strong call to action.

“I think he was very interesting,” said Jarissa Dotson, freshman nursing major. “I felt that he brought a lot of topics out that needed to be talked about. He challenged us to do better. He didn’t just give us information, he told us to put it into action, and to not just forget about it once we walked off.”

Not only did Carter speak about his own experiences, but he also prompted students to contemplate their own life experiences and how those experiences have affected the people that they are today.

“My favorite part was when he was putting us on the spot, asking us questions, forcing us to look inside ourselves for answers,” Dotson said.

The event was sponsored by Black Student Union, who started planning for Carter’s visit about a month ago. Addison Canidy, junior communications major and member of BSU, first met Carter his freshman year and was strongly affected by his message.

“He’s my role model,” Canidy said. “He’s such a great person, someone to look up to. He’s a person that was probably one of the first peo-
PHOTO BY KELLEN JENKINS
ESU alumnus Derrais Carter speaks to students on Thursday in the Memorial Union Ballroom. Carter spoke on issues African American college students face.

Carter
Continued from Page 1

people to tell me to get off the TV...and read. That’s something this particular generation has gotten away from. People don’t read at all unless they have to. That’s one thing that I can honestly use and I can keep on using.

Some members of BSU feel that the group is not only about ethnicity, but promotes a general sense of belonging and encourages students to reach out the community as a whole.

“I didn’t want to be a part of BSU because the people in there look like me” Canidy said. “I wanted to be a part of BSU because of the networking, the friendships, those certain things that you can’t get anywhere else.”

Canidy also feels that it is important that students understand that the value of a group like BSU runs more than skin deep, and that students can only understand the benefits of participating once they actually become involved.

“We need more people to show up to things like this,” Canidy said. “You couldn’t put a price on what we learned here from this particular speaker. Nobody can put a price on knowledge. We have a lot of good things going on but people just don’t want to come or don’t hear about it. It’s our duty to put the word out, but it’s other people’s duty to come out to events.”

Many BSU members also believe that getting involved can be as simple as starting a conversation.

“I wish that people would dig deeper,” Canidy said. “If they don’t know much about the African American culture, about what we do, who we are. ask.”
KU Medical Center could get additional research space

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) - A nonprofit foundation is offering to provide the University of Kansas Medical Center drug development and testing space if Johnson County voters approve a sales tax for research this fall.

The Hall Family Foundation is buying an office complex in Fairway and said it is willing to give one of the two buildings to the medical center.

“We have tremendous capability in this community in the drug development field,” said Bill Hall, president of the foundation started by the founder of Hallmark Cards. “What has been done by KU over the years is extraordinary. The ability to combine clinical trials with drug development capabilities should give us a significant leg up.”

County officials are being asked to place a measure on the November ballot asking voters to approve a 1/8th-cent sales tax to pay for the Johnson County Education Research Triangle initiative. If approved, the measure is expected to generate $15 million a year, which would be split between the medical center, the University of Kansas Edwards Campus and Kansas State University.

The schools plan to use the money to build new facilities in the area, develop cancer treatments and increase the number of degree programs for math and science.

Organizers have said they expect the triangle initiative to create more than $1 billion in economic development for the area over 20 years.

Kansas State is opening a new food security and research institute in Olathe on property also shared with the Kansas Bioscience Authority and private-sector companies, such as Fort Dodge Animal Health.

The Edwards Campus plans to create a Business, Engineering & Technology Center focused on offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs in molecular bioscience, engineering and other advanced areas.

The medical center’s project would cost $15 million in construction and equipment, which the Hall foundation would provide. Noting that the Edwards Campus and Kansas State already have property allocated for their projects, Hall said it was important to do the same for the medical center.

“It says to the voters that this is a real proposal,” he said.

David Adkins, the medical center’s vice chancellor for external affairs, said the 70,000-square-foot building would help as the center works to become one of the nation’s leading centers for cancer treatment and research.

The medical center already has opened the Kansas Life Sciences Innovation Center, a 200,000-square-foot facility that had helped attract top scientists.

Adkins said the Fairway building would fill a big need for clinical trials.

“At this point there is not the kind of space on our campus that would be easily and conveniently accessible to patients seeking clinical trials,” he said.

Those trials require intensive record keeping and supervision by physicians, nurses and others, said Roy Jensen, director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center. He said it would be cheaper and more efficient to put all of those efforts in one place.
By CARL MANNING
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) -- Kansans could say whether they want a district attorney to handle criminal cases in their county under a bill approved Wednesday by the Senate.

The 40-0 vote sent the measure to the House.

Voters in a single county or multiple, adjoining counties could opt for a district attorney. County attorneys then would handle only civil cases, instead of both civil and criminal cases.

"The way the bill preserves local control made it hard to be against," said Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, an Independence Republican.

To qualify for a district attorney, a county or group of counties would have to average 150 felony cases a year over five years.

District attorneys would earn the same salary as a district court judge, now $118,297. The state would pick up at least a third of the cost, with its percentage growing with the average number of felony cases. If a county or group of county's five-year average was 400 or more felony cases, the state would pay the entire salary.

The question could be put on the ballot either by county commissions or petitions submitted by voters.

There are district attorneys in Douglas, Johnson, Reno, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte counties. The other 98 have county attorneys.

SMOKING BAN: New restrictions on smoking were on the verge of being snuffed out after the Senate Judiciary Committee postponed a vote Wednesday.

"For whatever reason, the Kansas Legislature isn't ready to tackle this," Schmidt said. "I'm not ready to pronounce last rites, but it's substantially hobbled."

The bill started out mandating a vote Nov. 4 in every county on whether smoking should be banned in virtually all public areas and work spaces.

Business owners and trade groups opposed the bill, while health advocates have pushed for a total ban, even though it has no chance of passage. The committee added numerous exemptions, including for bars, casinos, tobacco shops and adult care homes with indoor smoking areas.

One sponsor, Sen. David Wyssong, said he's not ready to give up on the bill, but added, "I'll have a lot more momentum next session. It may be another year or two, but Kansas will have a smoking ban."

The Mission Hills Republican said that because of the exemptions in the rewritten bill, "We probably would be the laughingstock of the country."

ROCKET MAN RETURNS: The Senate honored a former astronaut who is returning to Kansas to teach at the University of Kansas.

He is Steve Hawley, of Salina, who logged more than a month in space in space shuttle missions in 1986, 1990, 1997 and 1999. He now oversees planetary and space science research for NASA.

University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway announced Hawley will join the faculty of the department of physics and astronomy in the fall. Hemenway said Hawley also will promote math and science education.

The two men visited the Statehouse and sat on the Senate floor, where Sen. Pete Brungardt, a Salina Republican, praised Hawley's career.

YES, NUKES: The Senate Utilities Committee endorsed a bill designed to encourage the development of more nuclear power in Kansas.

The 6-2 vote sent the measure to the Senate for debate.

The measure would allow utilities to recover their costs through electric rates if they study the feasibility of building a nuclear power plant. It also would set favorable depreciation rules.

The state has only one nuclear plant, Wolf Creek, outside Burlington.

Sen. Roger Reitz is pushing the measure. The Manhattan Republican has said the state needs more nuclear power to meet future energy needs.

THREE STRIKES: Work has stalled on a bill mandating prison time for all criminals convicted of a third felony.

Chairman John Vratil said the Senate Judiciary Committee won't consider the three strikes measure until at least next week.

It's being pushed by Schmidt. He said his proposal addresses the problem of criminals receiving repeated probation for such nonviolent crimes as theft.

Schmidt's proposal differs from...
"three strikes" laws in other states because it doesn't provide for mandatory life imprisonment. He said that approach has led to situations where a person gets life for a low-level theft conviction.

During hearings, the committee heard concerns that the bill would force the state to expand its prisons to prevent them from becoming overcrowded.

Schmidt said he's trying to work out a compromise to overcome those objections. He said one option is to limit the types of felonies for which a third conviction automatically means prison time.

TOURISM TURN: The Senate gave first-round approval to a bill transferring the state Division of Travel and Tourism to an independent agency.

The bill would create the Kansas Tourism Corporation and transfer the division and its employees from the Department of Commerce.

A final vote of approval would send the bill to the House.

The corporation would have a 13-member board, with nine members named by the governor and legislative leaders. The Travel Industry Association of Kansas would appoint the other four.

"I think it's 25 years of frustration where we haven't paid enough attention to the market. It would allow for better marketing," said Sen. Nick Jordan, a Shawnee Republican. "We aren't competitive in our region and this would make us competitive."

But Sen. Laura Kelly suggested there would be little oversight of the new corporation.

"We need to be careful with sending taxpayer dollars to a structure with little oversight," said Kelly, a Topeka Democrat.

But Jordan disagreed, noting that legislative leaders will appoint board members and that any spending will be approved by lawmakers.

UNDER THE DOME: Wednesday was the 45th day of the 2008 legislative session, out of 90 scheduled.
Dr. Marvin Hunt, KU Administrator, to lead Baker University School of Professional and Graduate Studies

Baldwin City, Kan. - Baker University has named Marvin L. Hunt as Vice President and Dean of the School of Professional and Graduate Studies, Baker Provost Randy Pembrook announced on Friday.

Hunt is the assistant dean of Continuing Education at the University of Kansas. He also is director of the Academic and Professional Programs and director of Continuing Professional Education at KU and holds a faculty appointment in the KU Gerontology Center.

"President Pat Long and I are so pleased that Dr. Hunt will be joining Baker University," Pembrook said. "His entrepreneurial experience, academic background and communication skills will enable him to provide strong leadership in the future for the School of Professional and Graduate Studies and the university as a whole."

The School of Professional and Graduate Studies offers bachelors, masters, a doctoral and non-degree programs to nearly 3,000 working adults throughout Kansas and Missouri.

"I look forward to facilitating growth in such a vibrant climate of educational innovation and entrepreneurship," said Hunt, who will assume his new role on May 1. "I am excited because education changes people's lives, and Baker is helping to fulfill a great need for excellent business, management and liberal arts education in Kansas City, Lee's Summit, Wichita and Topeka. I am also very excited to join Baker's outstanding arts and sciences tradition."

Hunt replaces Dr. Don Clardy, who led the School of Professional and Graduate Studies to prominence in his role as dean for 17 years. For the past year, Dr. Steve Cohen stepped in to serve as interim dean of the school.

At KU Hunt directs a staff that manages continuing education programs in aerospace engineering, civil and mechanical engineering, law, sociology, public administration and many other areas. He recently was responsible for $4.5 million in contracts to offer short courses in the United States and internationally. Hunt also is a co-principle investigator for the Department of Labor's WIRED initiative focusing on bioscience education in the Kansas City region.

In 2004 Hunt created the KU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute which offers courses to 600 people ages 50 and older in Topeka, Lawrence and Kansas City. He has attracted grants ranging from $75,000 through $1 million in endowment for projects in biosciences, communication disorders and adult learning.

Hunt has undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Kansas in communication studies, and a doctorate in educational studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Baker University, founded in 1858 is the first University in Kansas. It enrolls 4,000 students in four schools - the School of Professional and Graduate Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, School of Education, and School of Nursing.

Dr. Hunt is a native of Eskridge, graduating from Mission Valley High School in 1972. He is the son of Hazel and Claude Hunt, Lawrence, formerly of Eskridge.
KU chancellor visits area

COURTESY PHOTO

University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway visits with Great Bend-area KU alumni last Wednesday, after speaking to the Kiwanis Club. Hemenway talked about the ways KU works for Kansas, such as through current efforts to fill the state’s shortage of pharmacists and teachers. He also talked about the importance of higher education to the Kansas economy, pointing out that there are 142,000 KU graduates currently living in the state. Of this year’s freshman class at KU, seven in 10 are Kansans and it is one of the most diverse and talented classes in the university’s history.
The public is invited to attend a free program at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 8, 2008 at the Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site. Dr. William D. Keel of the Kansas Humanities Council will present "Hurrah, Frei Kansas! Germans Struggle Against Slavery in Kansas Territory, 1854-1861."

In 1854, the New England Emigrant Aid Society recruited German settlers to Kansas in support of the free-staters. Nearly 80 German settlements in the northeastern counties were established.

This program will illustrate how Germans participated in the Bleeding Kansas period in the summer of 1856, including their involvement in the territorial constitutional debates, and eventually joining the Union Army in great numbers.

Dr. Keel is professor of German and chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature at the University of Kansas, and has researched the many German settlements and dialects in Kansas, including the Washington County area.

The Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site is one of 16 state historic sites operated by the Kansas Historical Society. In 1857 Gerat H. and Sophia Hollenberg established a way station for travelers on the Oregon and California Trails, and from 1860 to 1861 they operated a Pony Express station.

The building still stands and, along with the visitor center, tells the stories of the Hollenbergs, pioneer life, and the Pony Express.
By EDIE HALL
HUTCHINSON NEWS

HUTCHINSON — It doesn’t seem likely that anyone who has spent 32 days in space would be scared of anything found on Earth.

But astronaut and Kansas native Steve Hawley said there definitely is at least one thing: teaching college students.

On Wednesday, Hawley, along with U of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway, announced he would leave his post at NASA to become a full-time professor at KU.

"Heck yes, I’m nervous," Hawley said. "I’ve lectured many times, but never before have I been accountable for if anyone learned anything."

Hawley and Hemenway made the announcement in four locations across the state Wednesday, including a lunchtime stop at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center, where Buhler High School students enrolled in earth, space and astronomy science had gathered.

"It is quite appropriate to make this special announcement at the Cosmosphere," Hemenway said. "What we’re doing today is announcing that Steve Hawley will be returning to KU this fall as a professor in the department of physics and astronomy. He is a Jayhawk who is coming home to nest."

Hawley directed his remarks to the youth gathered, encouraging them to be unafraid to try, even if they think failure is certain.

"Back when I decided to apply to NASA, it was a little bit like playing the lottery. Your chances for winning are pretty much the same whether you play or not," Hawley said.

"I really thought there was no chance I’d get to be an astronaut. The reason I applied was not because I thought that I’d get picked."

"I realized that I didn’t want to go through my whole life saying, ‘I wonder if I would have been able to do that if I had just tried.’"

Hawley said other Kansas astronauts, including Chapman native Joe Engle, inspired him to study hard, adding he hopes to pass that inspiration on to the students he teaches.

"I’m excited to share some of my experiences with the students both at KU and across the state," Hawley said.
Big leap for astronaut

By Edie Hall

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Hawley said other Kansas astronauts, including Chapman native Joe Engle, inspired him to study hard, adding that he hopes to pass that inspiration on to the students he teaches.

“I’m excited to share some of my experiences with the students both at KU and across the state,” Hawley said. “I am eager to work with the next generation of scientists, astronauts, engineers and leaders. I think KU gave me a great start, and I want to return the favor and give our next generation a great start, too.”

But, students must do their part, Hawley said.

“You really don’t know what opportunities are out there,” Hawley said. “Preparation is key so that when the opportunities present themselves, you can take advantage of them. It could be that the next person to set foot on the moon or the first person to set foot on Mars will be a student in one of our Kansas schools.

“And that is pretty exciting.”

About Steve Hawley

Astronaut Steve Hawley grew up in Salina and graduated from Salina High School, now Salina Central High School, in 1969. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas in 1973 and went on to get his Ph.D. in astronomy and astrophysics from the University of California in 1977.


ON THE NET

Go to www.hutchnews.com to see video of Kansas-born astronaut Steve Hawley making a stop at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center to announce his move to the University of Kansas.
Astronaut Steve Hawley speaks to students and media Wednesday at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center after an introduction by University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway, seated. Hawley announced he’ll return to KU in the fall as a professor of physics and astronomy.
GHS seniors receive KU Honors

By Chelsea Boore and Jeanice Bradshaw

Trojan Tribune Reporters

The University of Kansas Alumni Association and University of Kansas Endowment recently honored eight GHS seniors for placing in the top 10 percent of their class.

A total of 42 scholars were chosen from Crawford County. The eight Girard students selected were Trent Boultinghouse, Josh Donaldson, Bobby Frisbee, Sierra Gottlob, Katie Gull, Jordan Mahnken, Jenna Smith, and Erin Stolte.

The dinner program was held Feb. 4 in the Crimson and Gold Room in the Jack Overman Student Center at Pittsburg State University.

“The banquet was a true honor to be able to attend,” recipient Sierra Gottlob said. “It was great to be recognized for the hard work that all of us have put in over our high school careers.”

Beginning in 1971, the KU Honors Program has recognized more than 100,000 graduating seniors, all of whom have ranked within the top 10 percent of their class.

Scholars received a Kansas Honors Program certificate and a special edition of “The American Heritage Dictionary” in hardback and CD format.

In addition to parents, Principal Blaise Bauer, Assistant Principal Tom Stegman, and Superintendent Gary Snawder and Mrs. Snawder attended the event.

GHS seniors display dictionaries they received after being named KU Honor recipients for placing in the top 10 percent of their class. They include, front left, Principal Blaise Bauer, Trent Boultinghouse, Bobby Frisbee, Josh Donaldson, and Assistant Principal Tom Stegman. Back left, Sierra Gottlob, Jenna Smith, Katie Gull, Jordan Mahnken, and Erin Stolte. (Nathan Geier/Trojan Tribune)