College-aged commissioner sees potential in tuition plan

Proposal would make college expenses more predictable, not cheaper

by Chris Green
Harris News Service

TOPEKA — An effort to make college costs more predictable sounds intriguing to Ottawa city commissioner and 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 would also 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

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On average, the University of Kansas has seen tuition jump by an average of 9 percent a year over the past 30 years, KU spokeswoman Lynn Bretz said.

**TUITION:** Plan might benefit some more than others

(Continued from Page 1)

percent jump in tuition and fees at Fort Hays State to 9.5 percent at Emporia State.

The guaranteed tuition rate proposal has received positive reviews so far, KU spokeswoman Lynn Bretz said. 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 students leaders, under the tuition compact, resident incoming freshmen 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 make money,” Humm, who has served on Ottawa’s City Commission since April, said.

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 have also 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.”

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In recent years, the most reliable thing about universities’ four-year tuition charges has been that 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 8 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 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 Galle 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 said 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."

Barbara Humm said she thinks that KU's four-year guaranteed tuition plan could help out in paying for her daughter's college education.

But even so, the substantial amount of money needed to pay for a college education remains a reality that she and her daughter will have to deal with.

"I think it's just one of those things where you do what you've got to do," Barbara Humm said.
Kansas Regent tuition to rise

Incoming KU freshmen can lock in a rate for next four years

By Mike Hall
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Tuition and fees at the state’s six Board of Regents universities will be increasing this fall by amounts ranging from 5.1 percent at Fort Hays State University to 9.5 percent at Emporia State University.

And because of a new flat-tuition program at The University of Kansas, an incoming KU freshman this fall will pay more than $400 more in tuition and fees per semester than his or her counterpart at Kansas State University. But unlike K-State’s incoming freshman, the new Jayhawks will be assured their tuition won’t increase as they work toward their four-year degrees. This will be the first year of KU’s new “compact tuition” program, setting a single price per semester to be guaranteed for the next four years.

In voting Thursday to adopt the new tuition and fee schedules for the 2007-08 academic year, regent Dan Lykins, a Topeka lawyer, pointed out much of the increase in tuition is caused by declining support from state government.

Richard Lariviere, executive vice chancellor at KU was asked if that was true.

"Yes, that’s the major reason," he told the regents.

In 1985, 49 percent of the funding for higher education in Kansas came from state government, according to records kept by the regents’ staff. By 2005, that had dropped to 29 percent.

Please see TUTION, Page 7A

2007-08 PER SEMESTER

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Meanwhile, support from student tuition rose to 23 percent in 2005 from 15 percent in 1985.

Put another way, the amount of state support being provided for each full-time equivalent student dropped to $5,719 in 2005 from $7,354 in 1985.

Lariviere said dramatically increased energy costs are another significant factor in the tuition increases.

KU is the first university in Kansas to adopt the compact tuition program. Regents officials said it was a program requested by students and parents who didn’t like waiting to find out each year how much the tuition would rise the following year.

“There are rarely moments of spontaneous applause during those student orientation sessions, but this generated one," Lariviere said.

The cost for this year’s entering class at KU will be $3,195 in tuition, plus fees amounting to $378 for a total of $3,573 per semester.

The fees and tuition for KU’s sophomores, juniors and seniors this fall will be $3,300 a semester, but they can expect to see their tuition increase each year for the rest of their KU career.

Those figures assume the student is taking 15 credit hours a semester. The actual rate is based on the number of credit hours taken.

KU officials explain that the rate for the compact tuition program was calculated by assuming a 6 percent a year increase in tuition, adding it all together and dividing by four.

Most of the recommended tuition and fees rates were approved on 8-0 votes. But regent Donna Shank voted “no” on the rates for Emporia State and Kansas State.

Regardless of the justifications presented by Emporia State administrators, a 9.5 percent increase would cause concern among members of the Legislature, she said.

Shank also found several concerns in K-State’s plan. She said it didn’t make sense to raise tuition for resident undergraduates by 7.9 percent, but raise tuition for nonresident students by only 2.9 percent, especially in light of a decrease this year in the number of undergraduates.

Despite her objections, the schedules for Emporia State and Kansas State were approved 7-1.

Mike Hall can be reached at (785) 295-1209 or mike.hall@jonline.com.
'Girls' compete in 'Pageant'

LAWRENCE — “Pageant,” a hilarious musical parody of beauty pageants and contestants, will be staged as part of Kansas Summer Theatre at The University of Kansas.

The show is a pageant, complete with six contestants vying for the title of Miss Glamouresse, who is selected by judges from the audience. Each contestant competes in swimsuit, evening gown, spokesmodel and, of course, talent categories.

What makes the pageant even more outrageous is that the contestants are played by men in drag.

The cast includes two Topekans: Robbie Gordy as Miss Bible Belt and Spencer H. Holdren as Miss Great Plains.

Performances take place at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday and July 6 and 7 and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday and July 8 on Stage Tool in the Crafton-Preamer Theatre in Murphy Hall.

General admission tickets for “Pageant,” which is appropriate for all ages, are on sale in the KU ticket offices: University Theatre, (785) 864-3982; Lied Center, (785) 864-ARTS; and Student Union Activities, (785) 864-7469; and at www.kutheatre.com.

Tickets are $15 for the public, $10 for all students and $14 for senior citizens and KU faculty and staff.
Area students to be welcomed into University of Kansas family

LAWRENCE — New University of Kansas students and their parents from Butler, Chautauqua, Cowley, Elk, Greenwood and Sumner counties will be welcomed into the KU family at the Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 12, in Wellington.

The KU Alumni Association and its South chapter will greet the next generation of Jayhawks at the Slate Creek Lodge, 411 S. West Rd. Area alumni, new students, students interested in learning more about KU and parents are invited to attend and enjoy complimentary food and beverages. Each new Jayhawk will receive a free T-shirt.

Chapter members coordinating the event are: Bob Bourdette of Winfield, president; Colette Kocour of Wellington, secretary; David Andreas of Winfield, co-student recruitment chair; Scott Ennis of El Dorado, co-student recruitment chair; and Cathy Mitchell of Wellington, event coordinator. Alumni association staff will arrive with the signature KU trailer full of grills, burgers and brats for the festivities. Current KU students, alumni and university representatives will mix and mingle with students to answer questions and offer advice.

Alumni association representatives and guests planning to attend are: Mike Davis, senior vice president for alumni programs; Danny Lewis, assistant director for alumni programs; David Ochoa, membership relations coordinator; and Heath Peterson, director of student programs.

Students from the area planning to attend KU this fall are Anne Kelly, transferring from Emporia State, of Grenola; Heather Simmons, transferring from Bethany College, of Howard; and Theodore Ross, Central Jr-Sr High School, of Burden.

For more information or to make reservations, visit www.kualumni.org, call the KU Alumni Assoc. at (800) 584-2957.
The Emporia Fire Department recently came to Hetlinger Developmental Services to share with staff and consumers the equipment used by the department.

Volunteer firefighters adjust their gear before entering a burn trailer operated through the Kansas University Fire Institute. Volunteers from around the county spent a day training this month at the host station, Reading Fire Benefit District No. 4.
Kathrina Sandstrom, 3, was learning how to take photographs with a digital camera when she snapped this shot of younger sister, Arabella, 5 months, enjoying a meal in her high chair.

From left: Alice Nida, Derrick Duncan, Al Johnson, Bill Jensen, Lisa Kirmer and Steve Harmon pose for a picture at a Hi-Noon Kiwanis meeting. Duncan and Kirmer were inducted into Hi-Noon Kiwanis by President Nida and former President Bill Jensen. Kirmer's sponsor was Harmon, and Duncan's sponsor was Johnson.

Police Officer Larry Clay gives Bradley Scheller, 3 1/2, his bear Boo back after checking to make sure Boo’s car seat was safe. Safe Kids Emporia held a car seat safety-check up last month.
The Gazette welcomes photographs for its Friends & Family page, which is published on page 8 of the Saturday edition. Submitted photos should have complete information about who took the photograph, who is in the photograph and why it was taken as well as a name, address and telephone number to contact for questions. Submissions may be dropped off at The Gazette newsroom, 517 Merchant St., mailed to P.O. Drawer C, Emporia KS 66801 or e-mailed to photodesk@emporiagazette.com. Please put “Friend & Family” in the subject line of the e-mail. Photos must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday for consideration on that Saturday. A self-addressed, stamped envelope should be included if you’d like the photograph returned. The Gazette reserves the right to refuse any photograph.
For information: 342-4805.

Chuck and Jan Mercer of Emporia attend their grandson Derrek Mercer’s graduation from Harris County High School in West Point, Ga., on May 19.
Regents Freeze KU Tuition Rates For 4 Years

TOPEKA (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.
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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.
University of Kansas graduates announced

LAURENCE - The names of more than 4,280 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring - representing 97 Kansas counties, 44 other states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and 52 countries - have been announced by the KU 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 candidates for degrees will return Sunday, May 20, for the university’s 135th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2007 are expected to participate.

Ashland: Nichole Denise Canton, daughter of Jay and Kim Canton HistoryBGS Senior Bachelor of General Studies/History; Ashland, Amber D Odermann, Business AdministrationBSS, Bachelor of Science in Business/Business Administration

Beloit: Karen M Wagner daughter of Elmer and Marlene Wagner, PharmacyPD Prof 1 Doctor of Pharmacy.

Lewis: Tara Beth Roenbaugh daughter of Greg and Denise Wood, Clinical Laboratory Science Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science.

Bucklin: Trevor Andrew Mcgee son of Lyndol and Bridget Mcgee News and InformationBSN Senior Bachelor of Arts/Theatre and Film * Bachelor of Science in Journalism; Elizabeth Dawn Rogers daughter of Betty Rogers

Juris DoctorJD Prof 3 Juris Doctor; Bucklin Elizabeth Rose Vocasek daughter of Fred Vocasek International StudiesCOMAJOR Senior Co-Major: International Studies&Bachelor of Arts/Spanish.

Dodge City Kurtis Allen Bell son of Ronald and Alice Bell Sport ScienceBSE Senior Bachelor of Science in Education; Lindsay Marie Gibbs daughter of Dennis and Susan Gibbs Clinical Laboratory ScienceBS Senior Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science; Crystal Joy Hesman, MedicineMD Prof 1 Doctor of Medicine; Erin Marie Koontz daughter of Mark and Cheryl Koontz Strategic CommunicationsBSJ Senior Bachelor of Science in Journalism; Amy Renee Le daughter of Wade and Bonnie Sims PsychologyBSG DECL Senior Bachelor of General Studies/Psychology; Ashley Louise Pyle Female - MedicineMD Prof 1 Doctor of Medicine; Rachael Megan Raugewitz daughter of Richard and Kathryn Raugewitz NursingBSN Senior Bachelor of Science in Nursing: Tanner Cole Scott son of Glory Spikes FinanceBSB Senior Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance Dodge City; Trinh Thuy Tran daughter of Tuyet Tran Clinical Laboratory Science; Mark Anton Viethaler son of Carl and Nancy Viethaler News and InformationBSJ Senior Bachelor of Science in Journalism; Linda Thao Vo daughter of Hoanh Nguyen and Chan Vo NursingBSN Senior Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Elizabeth Rose Vocasek daughter of Leona Vocasek International StudiesCOMAJOR Senior Co-Major: International Studies&Bachelor of Arts/Spanish.

Spearville, LeAnn Marie Bell daughter of Leona Naab PharmacyPD Prof 1 Doctor of Pharmacy.

Cimarron, Sheryl Marie Doubek daughter of Doug and Sarah Doubek PsychologyBA DECL Senior Bachelor of Arts/Psychology.

Copeland Sarah Beth Leonard daughter of Risa Stevens Strategic CommunicationsBSJ Senior Bachelor of Science in Journalism.

Ingalls, Kelsey Lynn Gerber daughter of Brent and Marla Gerber EnglishBS Senior Bachelor of Arts/English.

Montezuma, Amy Winsor daughter of Doug and Carol Winsor Elementary EducationBSE Senior Bachelor of Science in Education.

Jetmore, Chastity Lorraine Romero daughter of Betty Romero AnthropologyBSG Senior Bachelor of General Studies/Anthropology&Bachelor of General Studies/History of Art.

Sublette, Honey Rose Hooper daughter of Michael Hooper AnthropologyBA Senior Bachelor of Arts/Anthropology.


Haviland, Carson Blythe Ballard daughter of Chris and Liz Ballard DesignBFA Senior Bachelor of Fine Arts/Design.

Meade, Steadman Leon Rogers son of Leon Rogers Educ-Curr&InsMSE
Graduate Master of Science in Education; Lindsay D Ross daughter of Tim and Lori Ross Strategic CommunicationsBSJ Senior Bachelor of Science in Journalism. Plains, Casandra Lea Dreitz Female - MedicineMD Prof 1 Doctor of Medicine; Tamarah Nicole Dreitz daughter of John and Blenda Dreitz Communication StudiesBA DECL Senior Bachelor of Science in Journalism * Bachelor of Arts/Communication Studies; Amanda L Mercer daughter of John and Rhonda Mercer Strategic CommunicationsBSJ Senior Bachelor of Arts/Psychology * Bachelor of Science in Journalism; Plains Elizabeth Ann Mercer daughter of John and Rhonda Mercer Clinical Laboratory ScienceBS Senior Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science. Ness City, Vicki Ann Gerstner daughter of Rosalie Gerstner Social WorkMSW Graduate Master of Social Work Utica, Jennifer Suzanne Lindsley daughter of Dale and Lynda Lindsley Clinical Laboratory ScienceBS Senior Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science
Regents approve KU 'tuition compact' deal

By CHRIS GREEN
cgreen@dailynews

TOPEKA (HNS)— The state Board of Regents signed off Thursday on a plan to make tuition at the University of Kansas more predictable for incoming freshmen.

However, higher education officials said they don't expect a similar “four-year tuition compact” to spread to the state's other four-year universities.

Under KU's system, tuition will go up about 16 percent for this fall's incoming freshmen class. But that rate will remain frozen for that class' four years, university officials said.

Each subsequent class of incoming freshmen at KU will receive a new four-year tuition rate, which will help protect the school against inflation.

Christine Downey-Schmidt, the newly elected Board of Regents chairwoman, called the fixed tuition plan “innovative.” But she also acknowledged that a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work when it comes to setting higher education fees across the state's system.

“We will not be requiring this on all of you,” Downey-Schmidt, a former Democratic state senator from Inman, told university officials. “It isn’t a fit at this point.”

The compact is part of KU's effort to make it easier for students and parents to plan for college expenses. University officials also set out a four-year schedule for fees and will allow students to fix their on-campus housing costs for two years.

Fort Hays State University President Edward Hammond said he doesn’t see his institu-
KU regents freeze tuition for 4 years

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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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.