New KU tuition plan a gamble

They’re offering a basic finance course at The University of Kansas these days, which is great.

Maybe they’ll teach the kids about the screw job their families could face under KU’s new tuition plan.

As pitched by the university, the deal looks good. In infomercial form, it would sound something like this:

“I’m actress Lindsay Wagner, and I’d like to tell you about a terrific new offer from The University of Kansas.

“For years, parents have sent their high school graduates to colleges at one tuition rate only to see the annual cost rise dramatically from year to year. By the time students earn their degrees, they and their parents may be paying hundreds more than they were during the students’ freshman year.

“Well, no more.

“Thanks to KU’s four-year tuition compact, first-time freshmen and their families will lock in a tuition rate for four years.

“Think of it: four years without increases in tuition or fees. Tuition that first year will cost a little more, but isn’t that worth it for four years of financial security?

“So call now for more information. I think you’ll agree with me that at KU, value is academic.”

Tuning back to reality, though, the deal is a gamble.

First-time freshmen will pay 16.1 percent more in tuition and fees than last year’s freshmen were charged. Other newcomers pay more, too, but not that much. The rate for Kansas residents who transfer to KU is 7.3 percent higher than it was in 2006-07, while the rate for nonresidents is 6.5 percent higher.

Where the real roll of the dice comes, though, is in the duration of the deal. Essentially, students lose the guaranteed rate after four years — and then would have to pay regular tuition — unless the university grants some kind of waiver.

How many kids bilge out of college after a year? Plenty, of course. And how many of those who make it through their freshman year get their degrees in exactly four years? Not all of them.

Plus, there’s no option for first-timers. Unless you transfer in, you’re paying the 16.1 percent.

Which isn’t to say there’s nothing noble about the plan. KU officials say the annual tuition increase has been 9 percent over the past 30 years, meaning the 16.1 percent hike is a bargain. Also, they say the locked-in rate will leave students paying less per credit hour in four years than students at The University of Missouri paid last year.

So for kids who have chosen a major and have the unwavering focus to stick with that choice for four years, it’s a heck of a deal.

But how many kids like that do you know?

Ric Anderson, whose parents will attest that he definitely wasn’t one of those kids can be reached at (785) 295-1282 or ric.anderson@cjonline.com.
Journey's daughter wins spot on 'Big Brother'

**Senator says Carol Journey can see through manipulators**

By Lakase Perry
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Carol Journey, the daughter of Suapa and Sen. Phil Journey, R-Haysville, has joined the cast of CBS' "Big Brother" for the eighth season of the series premiering Thursday.

Rather than auditioning, Sen. Journey said, his daughter was called to appear on the show, which will feature 15 individuals who live together and compete for the chance to win $1 million in prize money.

Once the family learned Carol would be on the show, Journey said, they began to prepare by researching past seasons. The show follows the castmates on camera for 24 hours and will have them take part in challenges and voting others off.

"I've got a lot of confidence in Carol," Journey said. "I've seen her make good decisions in the past, and I think this is a tremendous opportunity for her."

Journey has been vocal in his opinions on gun control, school funding and discipline in school in the past, and he believes his daughter will remain true to her own personal beliefs for the sake of her own appearance and that of her family.

"She knows Daddy's watching," Journey said.

The University of Kansas student already has been flown to the shooting location, and Journey said the entire cast has been kept in the dark about what they can hope to expect when they begin shooting.

To be on the show, Carol had to choose between the opportunity to be a dancer for the Kansas City Chiefs or the chance to be a cast member. She also could miss a full semester of school at KU.

"We got power of attorney to make sure we could withdraw her if it was necessary," Journey said.

The show will be unique this season in how audience members can influence activities. The official CBS website states that a new "America's Player" element has been implemented, in which the audience can select cast members to do tasks for a prize.

The show is notorious for manipulation, as well as scandals between castmates, but Journey said he has confidence in how his daughter will perform.

"Carol has a gift for seeing through manipulative people," he said.

The show will premiere at 7 p.m. Thursday and will be broadcast on CBS three nights a week — Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The movements of the cast members also can be followed online 24 hours a day.

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