Universities seek tuition increases of up to 6 percent

TOPEKA (AP) — Officials at the state’s six universities are proposing to raise tuition this fall by as much as 6 percent.

The charges would generate $22 million in revenue over the next academic year. The universities would use the money for faculty increases and to sustain ongoing programs.

The plans were presented today to the Kansas Board of Regents, who will vote on the proposals next month.

Tuition increases would vary by institution. The University of Kansas is proposing a 6 percent increase for full-time, undergraduate and graduate students. But the university is also seeking to extend a program that locks in tuition rates for incoming freshmen for four years.
TOPEKA (AP) — The Kansas Board of Regents has approved a policy allowing criminal background checks for job applicants at the state's six universities.

The new policy is being adopted after the discovery of several convicted felons working in a department at the University of Kansas.

The policy adopted Wednesday makes exceptions for student and temporary workers, but all other new employees are subject to criminal background checks. That includes a review of the sex offender registry.

The policy is modeled after a one used for years at KU Medical Center. The policy discussion began after reports in news media, including a Lawrence Journal-World investigation that discovered a number of convicted felons working in one University of Kansas department.
KU announces prospective graduates

LAWRENCE – The names of more than 4,450 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring – representing 95 Kansas counties, 48 other states and the District of Columbia and 44 other countries – have been announced by the University Registrar.

KU’s Class of 2008 numbers more than 7,000, including 2,555 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2007. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these candidates for degrees will return Sunday, May 18, for the university’s 136th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2008 are expected to participate.

Faculty and candidates for degrees will assemble about 2 p.m. along Memorial Drive for the procession, which begins at 2:30 p.m. The program begins about 3:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, participants should call KU Info, (785) 864-3506, or listen to local radio and television stations to learn the exact time of the commencement ceremony. Commencement information and an up-to-date schedule of events are available online at www.commencement.ku.edu.

Local candidates include:

**Inman**
- Laura Annette Kwasniak, doctor of medicine.

**Lindsborg**
- Matthew Scott Achenbach, son of Scott and Susan Achenbach, bachelor of social work.
- Betty Ann Amos, doctor of philosophy/education/special education.
- Anthony Scott Barger, son of Dan and Deb Fricke, bachelor of general studies/political science.
- Anastasia Rose Nuss, daughter of Lawton Nuss and Jo Montgomery, bachelor of science in occupational studies.
- Erich H. Ohlde, son of Mark and Nacy Ohlde, bachelor of science in mechanical engineering.
- Andrew Michael Palmer, son of Patty Palmer-Casebeer, bachelor of science in electrical engineering.
- Amber Nicole Pihl, daughter of Ronald and Susan Pihl, doctor of pharmacy.

**McPherson**
- James William Bley, Gerry Bley, master of science/computer engineering.
- William Reed Brauer, son of Richard and Toni Brauer, bachelor of science in business/management.
- Evan Nicholas Culver, son of Terry and Vickie Culver, bachelor of science in computer science.
- Tracy Ann Hanson, daughter of Craig Hanson, bachelor of arts/English.
- Janette Hess, bachelor of science in electrical engineering.
- Lisa Beth Hicks, daughter of Anita Dunham, bachelor of science in journalism.
- Kristen Louise Kearney, daughter of Tom and Louise Kearney, bachelor of science in education.
- Anna Elizabeth Koehn, daughter of Daniel and Kim Koehn, bachelor of fine arts/art and history of art minor.
- Tristan M. Penn, son of Edward and Estelle Penn, bachelor of general studies/psychology.
- Meredith Jayne Seibel, daughter of Bradley and Judith Seibel, bachelor of science in business/marketing.
- Amelia Grace Yowell-Mayes, daughter of Michael and Tricia Yowell, bachelor of general studies/political science.

**Moundridge**
- Kelli Elizabeth Krase, daughter of J. Krase, bachelor of medicine.

**Windom**
- Erin M. Ekholm, daughter of Diana Ekholm, bachelor of arts/human biology.
- Carlton Adam Burke Reel, son of Rodney and Mary Reel, doctor of pharmacy.

**Gypsum**
- Ashley Suzzanne Unruh, daughter of Susan and Gene Unruh, bachelor of science in business/management.
Universities seek to raise tuition up to 8.7 percent

TOPEKA (AP) — Tuition would increase this fall by as much as 8.7 percent at the state’s six universities under proposals their top officials outlined Thursday.

The changes would raise at least $22 million during the next academic year, and officials told the Kansas Board of Regents that their universities need the new dollars to provide adequate pay raises and sustain existing programs. The board, which oversees the state’s higher education system, plans to vote on the proposals next month.

The largest percentage increases would be in the tuition charged to some incoming freshmen at the University of Kansas and to some juniors and seniors at Kansas State University. But some students at both institutions would see no increase in what they pay.

University of Kansas officials asked the regents to continue a program under which incoming freshmen are guaranteed the same tuition for four years. Kansas State proposed, for the first time, charging juniors and seniors more than it charges freshmen and sophomores.

The board wasn’t entirely pleased with the proposals. The regents strongly suggested in February that the universities seek increases of 6 percent or less, and a few of the changes suggested went beyond that mark.
Hedrick completes KU Counseling Psychology Masters program

Angela Noel Hedrick, daughter of Connie and Mike Hedrick, was one of more than 4,450 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring. Angela received a degree in Counseling Psychology/MS Graduate Master of Science in Counseling Psychology.

Angela is a graduate of Pretty Prairie High School. Following graduation she will begin a career at KVC Behavioral Healthcare in Kansas City, KS, as a Therapeutic Case manager. KVC is a private, not-for-profit organization providing medical and behavioral healthcare, social services and education to children and families.

Angela will be a Licensed Professional Counselor providing direct services to children and families who are involved with the foster care system.
The University of Kansas Class of 2008 announces that Chelsie Dawn Harper has completed the requirements for the degree of Bachelor Science in Sport Science with an emphasis in prephysical therapy in the School of Education. The commencement ceremony will take place at Memorial Stadium, Sunday, May 18.

Harper has been awarded scholarships from KU Endowment and recently received national recognition as an Order of Omega, Patrick W. Halloran Scholarship recipient. She has volunteered as an escort at Lawrence Memorial Hospital and is currently employed at Bird Physical Therapy. This fall Chelsie will complete an internship at KC Sports Rehab in Overland Park. She is currently applying to graduate schools, in hopes of pursuing a Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT).

Harper is a 2004 graduate of Hugoton High School. Chelsie is the daughter of Steve and Donna Harper of Hugoton. She is the granddaughter of Alfred and Dorothy Harper of Hugoton and Jane Bohannan of Liberal and the late J.B. Bohannan.

Deidre Diane Rosel, daughter of Steven and Deborah Rosel of Topeka has signed a letter of intent to swim for the University of Kansas in the fall of 2006. Rosel is a senior at Washburn Rural High school in Topeka and was one of seven recent KU swimming and diving signees. Rosel is a USA Sectional Qualifier and a member of the USA Swimming All-Academic team and is a member of the Lawrence Aquahawks club team — a yearround competitive swim team.

Her grandparent are Jean and Jay McEvilly and the late George Rosel and Connie Shover and the late Mary Shover, all of Liberal.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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“For six years now, we have had huge tuition increases,” former Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer, a regent from Oyerland Park, said during a break. “In this economy, my personal belief is that you do not want to start shutting the doors of your universities based on ability to pay.”

Some of the proposals remained fluid. Officials at four universities — Emporia State, Fort Hays State, Kansas State and Wichita State — said they would have to revise their plans to include larger increases. They blamed the Legislature’s decision to appropriate $10 million less for their operating budgets than Gov. Kathleen Sebelius had proposed.

Several regents, including Sherrer, expressed frustration with the universities’ criticism of legislators.

Regent Donna Shank, of Liberal, suggested that universities consider trimming their spending.

“We are in a tough economy right now,” she said. “Everyone is having to cut back right now. Do we put all that burden on the backs of the students?”

Adam McGonigle, student body president at the University of Kansas, said it’s important to keep tuition under control. But he acknowledged that students expect to see modest increases.

“The cost of living goes up every year,” he said. “The cost of an education goes up as well.”

The largest increases at the University of Kansas are driven by its “compact” program, in which the university sets a single tuition rate for incoming freshmen for four years. The program started last year, and university officials pitched it as protection for families against large tuition increases.

Calculating the rate each year is complicated because the university attempts to cover some potential increases in its costs.

The rate charged to incoming freshmen who participate in the fall will be 8.6 percent or 8.7 percent higher than the rate for those who enrolled last year. But both groups — about 30 percent of all University of Kansas students — wouldn’t see any increase in 2009-10.

For other University of Kansas students, tuition will increase 6 percent.

“There is inevitably a crystal ball element to this,” said Provost Richard Lariviire.

At Wichita State, tuition would increase 5.9 percent for students from Kansas but only 5 percent for non-Kansans so that it would remain competitive with out-of-state schools, its officials said. Fort Hays State proposed tuition increases of 5.5 percent.

Tuition at Pittsburg State would increase by up to 5.8 percent. Officials at Emporia State didn’t have final figures, but students there are likely to see increases of between 4.9 percent and 6 percent.

Kansas State proposed no increase for freshmen and sophomores on its Salina campus, which emphasizes technology. For other students, the increase would range from 1.9 percent to 7.4 percent.

The biggest jump would be in the tuition charged to juniors and seniors from outside Kansas attending classes on its Manhattan campus.

If the regents accept Kansas State’s proposal, it would be the only state university to charge different rates to freshmen and sophomores than to juniors and seniors. But Tom Rawson, vice president of administration and finance, noted that lower-level classes tend to be larger and emphasize lectures over lab work.

“There really are some differences in cost,” he said.
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— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Kansas universities seek to raise tuition as much as 8.7 percent

BY JOHN HANNA
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A
Recent graduates from Kansas University include: Darcy Lea Troyer, Manhattan, daughter of Deryl and Joyce Troyer, Professor of Medicine and Doctor of Medicine, and Elizabeth A. Copeland, Riley, daughter of Jay and Vonda Copeland, Political Science BA Senior and International Studies, and Bachelor of Arts/Political Science & Bachelor of Arts/Spanish & Women's Studies.