



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOARD APPROVES PLAN TO FREEZE TUITION FOR KANSANS

Board Would Allocate Federal Stimulus Dollars For Building Maintenance & Tuition Restraint

(TOPEKA) – Today the Kansas Board of Regents unanimously approved a plan that would freeze state university tuition costs for Kansas residents for the 2009-2010 academic year. The plan, which would also address important campus deferred building maintenance projects across the state, will be possible if: 1) the Legislature limits Fiscal Year 2010 higher education budget reductions to no more than 7%, and 2) the State receives higher education-related funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

“After careful consideration, we have identified a plan for how the Board and the Legislature can together provide meaningful financial relief to Kansans,” said Regent Donna Shank, Chair of the Kansas Board of Regents. “This plan would help to keep higher education affordable in these tough economic times through a one-year state university tuition freeze for Kansas residents, and it would create jobs and stimulate the economy through work on important deferred building maintenance projects.”

In Fiscal Year 2009, assuming that ARRA funding is available, the Board’s plan would allocate \$9.6 million in federal stimulus funds to the state’s public higher education institutions (7 public universities, 19 community colleges, and 6 technical colleges) for deferred building maintenance projects. In Fiscal Year 2010, assuming that higher education budget reductions do not exceed 7% and ARRA funding is available, the Board’s plan would allocate \$40 million in federal stimulus funds to the state’s public higher education institutions for deferred building maintenance projects and tuition cost mitigation, which would make the one-year state university tuition freeze for Kansas residents possible.

“Due to careful planning undertaken over the past six months, the state’s higher education system is prepared to absorb a 7% budget cut in Fiscal Year 2010. This reduction will not be easy or painless, and it will have a serious impact. Nonetheless, we understand that every state governmental entity must share in the pain so we are prepared to do our part,” said Shank. “As a result of months of preparation, and due to the unexpected federal stimulus funds, the Board has determined that it is possible to freeze tuition if the cuts do not exceed 7%.”

“There are three important components of this plan,” Shank pointed out. “The state’s higher education community would do its part to help address the challenging budget situation, significant resources would be used to address campus deferred maintenance problems, thus

creating jobs and putting Kansans back to work, and, due to a freeze on tuition, hard-working Kansans and their families would be able to keep more money in their pockets during these tough economic times.”

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About the Kansas Board of Regents:

The nine-member Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state’s six universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state’s 32 public higher education institutions (six state universities, a municipal university, nineteen community colleges, and six technical colleges). In addition, the Board administers the state’s student financial aid, adult education, GED, and career and technical education programs. The Board also authorizes private proprietary schools and out-of-state institutions to operate in Kansas, and administers the Kan-ed network, a statewide network that provides broadband Internet access and distance learning capabilities for schools, hospitals, and libraries.

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Kansas Board of Regents Plan for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (State Fiscal Stabilization Fund) Resources

FY '09: Assuming that \$9.6M is available from SFSF

1. Allocate to sectors based on share of SGF.
2. Dedicate 100% to higher education system maintenance projects.

FY '10: Assuming Governor's SGF Recommendation and \$40 M SFSF

1. Allocate to sectors based on share of SGF.
2. Receipt of SFSF funding by coordinated institution conditioned on commitment to federal guidelines which require that SFSF dollars are used either for maintenance or to mitigate the impact of tuition restraint.
3. One-year state university tuition freeze for Kansas Residents, contingent on Legislative adoption of Governor's SGF recommendation (7% Level presented in GBA).
4. Distribute a portion of state university share to buffer impact of tuition restraint.
5. Distribute the remainder of that share to state university deferred maintenance.

Adopted 3-12-09