

From: [KU Chancellor](#)
To: [KU Lawrence All Staff, Faculty and Affiliates](#)
Subject: Holding tuition flat for the 2020-21 academic year
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Holding tuition flat for the 2020-21 academic year

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to let you know our plans for tuition for the 2020-21 academic year. Our hope is this information will help inform your discussions with current and prospective students as they determine their plans for the fall semester.

Later this month, we will submit to the Kansas Board of Regents a proposal to hold tuition and campus fees flat for all students on all campuses at the University of Kansas next year. The Regents will consider our proposal June 17 and 18, at which point we will be able to share with you the final version, which may include small adjustments to course fees.

Each year when we set tuition, we try to balance affordability and quality. Of course, this year is unlike any in history, and the decision to hold tuition flat recognizes the financial hardships students and families are facing as a

result of the COVID-19 pandemic. From our perspective, it is not tenable to ask students to pay more for a KU education when so many of them are managing financial challenges.

In addition to being the right thing to do for students, holding tuition flat addresses the practical reality that we must keep tuition competitive as students make decisions about fall 2020. This year more than ever, students may be choosing among remote-based course options from various institutions and prioritizing cost in their decision. While KU's tuition is competitive with many peer institutions, any increase in our tuition runs the risk of students choosing a more affordable option over KU. This is true to varying degrees for all categories of students — current undergraduate and graduate students, transfer students, incoming freshmen and prospective students.

More broadly, this topic illustrates why it is important that we continue to develop new student-centered educational experiences that reach and engage each of our students, for the fall semester and beyond. With a sense of urgency, all of us – faculty, staff and administrators – must use the coming weeks to create new, flexible learning experiences that transcend a physical place and recognize the reality that students will likely be in different places at different times. In other words, we need to develop new ways to provide students a world-class education and a sense of community ... no matter where individual community members may be.

Thank you for your commitment and effort as we do this important work together.

Respectfully,

Douglas A. Girod
Chancellor

Barbara Bichelmeyer
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Dr. Robert Simari
Executive Vice Chancellor

The University of Kansas



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