



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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BUDGET AGREEMENT IS POSITIVE IN CONTEXT OF DIFFICULT ECONOMY BUT DOES CUT HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

(TOPEKA) – Today the Kansas Board of Regents expressed its appreciation to House and Senate budget negotiators for their recent work and for the agreement they reached regarding higher education funding. In addition, given some of the confusion associated with the complicated budget negotiation process, the Board believed it would be useful to provide clarity about the budget recently adopted by the conference committee and its associated funding implications.

“Trying to balance the state’s budget in such a difficult economic environment is certainly no easy task. I applaud the careful and thoughtful review conducted by the House and Senate budget negotiators as they worked throughout last week to forge an acceptable compromise between the various House and Senate funding positions,” said Regent Donna Shank of Liberal, Chair of the Kansas Board of Regents. “The economy has put the Legislature in a tough position, but I truly appreciate that the budget negotiators recognize the important role higher education will play in returning Kansas to prosperity.”

“Last week the conference committee agreed to a funding reduction of approximately 7% for the state’s higher education system, which is extremely close to the level of reduction the Board has publicly supported,” noted Shank. “It is never truly desirable to say we are pleased with a budget cut, but in light of today’s extraordinary fiscal challenges, and as a result of the 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.”

“Some have stated that higher education ‘was left untouched’ during the recent budget negotiations, which is simply incorrect. This 7% or \$63 million reduction represents a significant cut to the system and it will have a serious impact,” added Shank. “Institutional personnel and program cuts are likely at these funding levels. Institutions will also have to absorb inflationary cost increases, along with some additional spending that the proposed budget mandates but does not fund. However, we understand that every state governmental entity must share in the pain and we are prepared to do that.”

Much of the confusion about the budget numbers is tied to the use of “percentages” as a measure of analysis, with some significant inconsistency regarding the benchmark against which those percentages are measured. The measure the Board has used consistently in measuring the level of reduction has been the originally-approved Fiscal Year 2009 appropriation for higher

education, approximately \$853 million. The Board’s analysis of the budget situation is presented in that context. The following table outlines the amount of State General Fund (SGF) support for the state’s higher education system (7 public universities, 19 community colleges, and 6 technical colleges):

HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM SUPPORT (SGF)	
FY 2008:	\$829 million (actual expenditures)
FY 2009:	\$853 million (original appropriation)
FY 2009 (revised):	\$817 million (4.25% or \$36 million reduction from FY 2009 original)*
FY 2010:	\$790 million (7% or \$63 million reduction from FY 2009 original)**

**Reflects February Budget Rescission*
***Recent Conference Committee Agreement*

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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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