



University of Kansas chancellor speaks to House Education Budget Committee

<http://www.fimlight.cn> 2007-02-02

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[关键词] higher education

Jan. 31, 2007. LAWRENCE —
University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway testified today before the House Education Budget Committee. Below is the text of his prepared remarks.
Chairman McLeod, Vice Chair O'Neal and Ranking Member Feuserborn: Thank you for allowing me to come before the Education Budget Committee to visit with you regarding progress the University of Kansas is making and where KU is going.
Joining me this afternoon are the academic leaders of the Lawrence and KU Medical Center campuses: Richard Lariviere, executive vice chancellor and provost of the Lawrence campus, and Dr. Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor for the KU Medical Center and executive dean of the medical school.
There are three topics I would like to cover: 1. The university's strong momentum in fulfilling its mission.
2. Our careful stewardship of the state's investment in the university and
3. Our progress on the KU Cancer Center initiative to become a Comprehensive Cancer Center.
Today, KU is stronger than ever before. We have sustained record-high enrollment and have attracted a remarkably qualified student body. Our alumni association is active throughout the state, and our endowment association is one of the oldest and most successful in the nation.
KU is a public university, and 24 percent of our fiscal year 2006 budget came from state appropriations. We maximize this state investment to offer an exceptional higher education degree for undergraduate, graduate, nursing and medical students. We support the governor's proposed 5 percent increase in the Regents' operating budget. However, I want to remind the committee that since 1985, higher education funding has declined as a state priority. While state spending has grown by 54 percent, state university support has only grown by 5 percent. The Kansas Board of Regents recent report alerted Kansans that by 2010, if current state funding trends continue, working students and their families will contribute more to the operation of the state universities (through tuition payments) than the state will (through annual appropriations).
Yesterday, the committee heard testimony on legislation that would require a study on tuition at KU and Kansas State University and require the Legislature's approval of the study. The five-year tuition enhancement plan undertaken by KU in 2001 was done in partnership with KU students. They sought to fund improvements to KU on their own. Tuition revenue was targeted toward funding additional faculty positions, improved technology, additional financial aid for the neediest students and other enhancements to improve the KU campus. More than \$7 million, or 20 percent of new tuition revenue, has been committed to KU tuition grants for the university's neediest

