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Local News

Story last updated at 12:36 a.m. Thursday, September 28, 2006

A \$584M problem

PSU, other regents universities try to address deferred maintenance

By KATIE STOCKSTILL Morning Sun Staff Writer

The Kansas Board of Regents has decided to address a \$584 million issue.

During a meeting held Wednesday on the Pittsburg State University campus, Kansas Board of Regents president and CEO Reginald Robinson and various members of the Pittsburg State faculty and representatives of the Kansas legislature discussed the growing problem of building maintenance.

What is the actual problem and who is it affecting?

Due to a lack of state funding, money for important and growing maintenance needs for state-owned buildings on the campuses of six Kansas public universities has been deferred. This means that simple upkeep and maintenance has been backlogged for years, creating a \$584.4 million bill for the state of Kansas. The 537 buildings on university campuses cover an area equal to the area of 350 football fields and are worth an estimated \$4 billion. All the buildings affected by the problem are used for education only.

For each building on the PSU campus, the problem is different.

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Katie Stockstill/The Morning Sun Paul Stewart, director of facilities planning for Pittsburg State University, stands on the roof of Heckert-Wells Hall Wednesday afternoon to show the building's sagging and leaking roof.



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- * Plumbing in Axe Library is rusting and deteriorating.
- * Erosion in the campus utility tunnel and all underground plumbing is making upkeep difficult.
- * The parts in the electrical switch gear in three buildings cannot be replaced because the parts are no longer manufactured. Therefore new units must be installed.
- * The roofs of Whitesitt and Willard Hall are leaking.
- * HV/AC units on the roofs of many buildings are "on their last leg" and are not working on all compressors.
- * The windows in McCray Hall are the original, single-pane windows and are not energy efficient. The paint around the windows is chipping.
- * Water seepage can often be found in the basement of the Kelce building. With very heavy rain also comes sewer back-ups.
- * The tuck-pointing on the corner of many roofs are eroding and a piece of the Russ Hall tuck-pointing has fallen off the building.
- * Porter, Weede and McCray Halls do not have air conditioning. Most of the buildings have spot air-conditioning and window units to keep hi traffic areas, such as classrooms, cool.
- * The exterior of many Porter Hall classrooms is unsightly and dangerous.
- * Cracks can been seen in the brick work of many buildings.
- * The limestone of Axe Library, and other buildings, has become discolored.
- * The flooring of Weede, Whitesitt and Grubbs Hall has settled and therefore has developed cracks and uneven surfaces.

With an average age of 55 years for all PSU buildings, the problems have only grown over the years. The total deferred maintenance bill for PSU alone is \$39.8 million.

These problems, and others found at all state universities, are estimated to be at \$800 million by fiscal year 2014.

What is being done to solve the problem?

For now, Paul Stewart, director of facilities and planning for PSU, said the university is "doing repairs " to minimize the problems stemming from the maintenance issues.

Because PSU has continued to grow, the problems also have grown. With the addition of each new building comes the added costs of annual upkeep and maintenance.

But the Board of Regents have decided to attack the problem and end the

streak of deferred maintenance on university campuses.

In November 2005, the Board of Regents adopted a comprehensive plan to address the ever increasing problem. To raise the needed funds, the Board is proposing a bond issue, a temporary sales tax increase and an increase in the statewide Educational Building Fund mill levy.

The Board is also asking the universities to do their part. In the future, when individual donates money for a new building, the university will ask that they also give money to cover future upkeep and maintenance. This will help decrease future maintenance issues.

The PSU faculty and students, the Kansas Board of Regents and the Kansas Legislature all know the issue of deferred maintenance has long plagued the campus of Pittsburg State and all other state universities. Because the upkeep and appearance is imperative to running a successful institution, the maintenance that was once swept under the rug, is now front and center.

"We need to protect history and make history," Howard Smith, PSU assistant to the president, said. "We need to create a living and learning environment for our students."



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Story last updated at 12:38 a.m. Thursday, September 28, 2006

A needed facelift

Pittsburg State might finally be getting the facelift it needs.

On Wednesday, the Kansas Board of Regents and members of the Joint Committee on State Building Construction visited Pittsburg State to see what kind of repairs need to be done to the school's buildings.

For years Kansas schools have been asking for help from the state to pay for projects to keep up their buildings. Many of these projects have fallen by the wayside because funding was not available, making the problems more expensive to correct as time goes on.

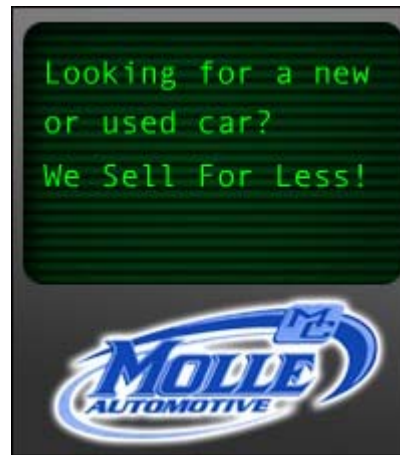
But finally the Joint Committee on State Building Construction decided to do something about the issue. It has started touring the six universities getting an idea of how much it will cost to repair these state buildings.

We are pleased to see the state starting to take action on this subject, but its late start on the projects might will end up costing tax payers more in the long run.

The Kansas board of Regents estimates that all together its schools will need \$584 million in repairs. Pittsburg State alone is in need of \$38.9 million in repairs. If these problems continue to go unresolved by 2014 the state could be looking at a repair bill as high as \$800 million.

When the Kansas legislature convenes in January, it needs to take the advice of its joint committee and the board of regents and do something to fix the problem before it gets worse.

Jessica Tims, for The Morning Sun



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Regents point out needs to lawmakers, candidates

The Joplin Globe

— By Greg Grisolano
news@joplinglobe.com

PITTSBURG, Kan. - The Kansas Board of Regents on Wednesday kicked off its campaign to raise awareness about the need for more money for deferred maintenance at state universities with a lunch and walking tour of Pittsburg State University.

State legislators and legislative hopefuls attended the meeting, including state Sen. Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer, and state Rep. Julie Menghini, D-Pittsburg.

Deferred maintenance refers to a backlog of structural repairs that have not been completed because of a lack of money. These include roof repairs, plumbing and heating systems, window-pane replacement and other routine projects, according to educators.

Reginald L. Robinson, president of the Kansas Board of Regents, said the six state universities along with KU Medical Center face a backlog of \$584.5 million in deferred maintenance. PSU currently cites more than \$39 million in deferred maintenance, ranking fourth among the regents' institutions.

Howard Smith, PSU legislative liaison, said the goal of the event was to educate legislators about the specific needs for PSU's buildings and infrastructure.

"We wanted the legislators to come together and see what we see are issues right now," he said.

Paul Stewart, university architect, said the areas he would want to work on right away, if money was available, are the buildings' walls, exterior windows and brickwork, along with utility infrastructure.

"Without that envelope, you can't maintain the environment inside - a dry, clean, productive environment," he said.

During his presentation, Robinson said the universities need \$74 million per year to prevent a further backlog. In fiscal 2006, just \$15 million was available to apportion among the institutions.

Area legislators and others who followed Stewart and Smith on a walking tour of "problem spots" around campus said they were surprised by some of the university's needs.

Jim George, a candidate for the Kansas House in the 12th District, said he was surprised by the age of some of the buildings and systems.

"I can understand maintaining, but at the same time you have to replace when things wear out, like the steam heaters in (Porter Hall)," he said. "That's outdated, and it's dangerous."

Even though she sits on the House Higher Education Committee, Menghini said some of the information was new to her.

"I was aware of some of the issues, but I certainly wasn't aware that pieces of a building (Russ Hall) were falling off," she said. "There's a lot that can be done here, but the \$64,000 question is: How do we come up with the money to do it?"

Menghini said she thinks revenue from gambling in Southeast Kansas would be an "easy fix" that doesn't involve tax increases.

The regents' tour is scheduled to wrap up Monday, Nov. 13, at Fort Hays State University.

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Paul Stewart, PSU architect, leads state legislators and media on a tour of problem areas with buildings and maintenance.

'Crumbling classrooms'

Maintenance backlog draws Kansas politicians

Greg Grisolano, Editor in Chief

Posted: 9/28/06

The Kansas Board of Regents kicked off its campaign to raise awareness about the need for more money for deferred maintenance, including on bricks and mortars, at state universities on Wednesday with a working lunch and walking tour of Pittsburg State University.

State legislators and legislative hopefuls attended the meeting, including state Sen. Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer and state Rep. Julie Menghini, D-Pittsburg.

Deferred maintenance refers to a backlog of structural repairs that have not been completed because of a lack of funds. These include roof repairs, plumbing and heating systems, window pane replacement and other routine projects.

According to Reginald L. Robinson, president of the Kansas Board of Regents, the six state universities along with KU Medical Center face a backlog of \$584 million in deferred maintenance. PSU currently has \$39 million in deferred maintenance, which ranks fourth among the Regents institutions.

Howard Smith, PSU legislative liaison, says the goal of the event was to educate legislators about the specific needs for PSU's buildings and infrastructure.

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institutions.

Area legislators who followed Stewart and Smith on a walking tour of problem spots around campus, say they were surprised by some of the university's needs.

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Even though she sits on the Kansas Legislature's state higher education committee, Menghini says some of the information was new to her.

"I was aware of some of the issues, but I certainly wasn't aware that pieces of a building (Russ Hall) were falling off," she said.

"There's a lot that can be done here, but the \$64,000 question is 'how do we come up with the money to do it?'" she said.

Menghini says she thinks revenue from gaming in southeast Kansas would be an "easy fix" that doesn't involve tax increases, or an increase in the mill levy.

The Regent's tour is scheduled to wrap up on Monday, Nov. 13, at Fort Hays State University.

Statewide Deferred Maint.: (in millions of dollars)

Kansas State University - \$209.4
University of Kansas - \$168.5
KU Medical Center - \$68.8
Pittsburg State University - \$39.8
Fort Hays State University - \$35.2
Wichita State University - \$33.9
Emporia State University - \$28.9

TOTAL: 584.4 million

Information provided from KBOR 2004 Comprehensive Facilities Audit



Media Credit: Greg Grisolano/Collegio
Paul Stewart, PSU architect, leads state legislators and media on a tour of problem areas with buildings and maintenance.

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Campus maintenance preserves more than buildings

Staff Editorial

Posted: 9/28/06

The Pittsburg State University campus has not been lying on the ocean floor for the last century. So why does some of our plumbing look like it's been recently salvaged from the R.M.S. Titanic?

Photographs taken this month for the Kansas Board of Regents show that pipes running beneath the Oval are corroded, downright moldy. (One doesn't need too many guesses as to why some PSU buildings occasionally boast brown tap water.)

But our plumbing isn't the only badge of age this campus wears. Look closely and you'll see that many building exteriors are slowly rotting away; some floors are buckling and swelling to the point where a few Grubbs Hall doors have had to be filed down just so that they might close; roofs and foundations are leaking during rainstorms and, as a result, students must deal with indoor flooding.

Of course, PSU isn't the only school with maintenance issues. According to the Kansas Board of Regents, the six Kansas state universities are now dealing with a maintenance backlog equal to more than \$584 million. However, only \$15 million for maintenance was divided among the schools in 2006. The Board of Regents estimates that if this maintenance budget is not increased soon, the total cost of deferred maintenance for Kansas state schools could be as much as \$800 million by 2014.

There are numerous reasons universities need (and ask) for funding. It's hard to argue that any given school-related issue or cause is more worthy of monetary support than another.

However, the foundation of any university's success is its sense of strong morale. If a school's campus is not maintained, there will be no campus pride, no campus presence, and eventually, perhaps, no school to attend.

We support the Board of Regents' proposal that more funding be allotted to schools for this deferred maintenance backlog. And while money might not grow on trees, it must be recognized that, although PSU is more than 100 years old, the school does not pride itself on tradition enough to leave its facilities untouched like so many biblical relics.

For the school to be preserved, the campus must be preserved. At the very least, so that we may be lucky enough to complain of further plumbing problems 100 years from now.

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Thursday, September 28, 2006



KKOW News

PSU, BOR Push for Better Higher Education Funding



From the basements to the rooftops, legislators, candidates and media were taken on a tour through the Pittsburg State University campus to show the result in a \$40 million deferred maintenance funding shortfall on the PSU campus alone - \$548 million statewide. Representatives from the Kansas Board of Regents, in a presentation, noted that state funding to universities in Kansas during the past 10 years has steadily declined. Board of Regents Director of Government Relations and Communications Kip Peterson said the ratio of buildings to funds does not match.

"Two-thirds of the state building inventory happen to be on the state university campuses," Peterson said. "It requires \$74 million a year just to maintain what we currently have, unfortunately the state only provides \$15 million a year."

Assistant to PSU President Howard Smith said many structures are not maintained because of the lack of money.

"Basically it comes down to having dedicated funds," Smith said.

University and state officials hope this tour - and similar tours across the state on campuses - help convince lawmakers to put focus back on funding higher education.



Paul Stewart, director of facilities planning at PSU, led the tour around campus pointing out maintenance needs. Behind him are air-conditioner units that try to keep classrooms cool.

PSU maintenance needs are critical

By **SUSAN LYNN**
Register Editor

PITTSBURG — A quick walk around the campus of Pittsburg State University on a beautiful fall day leaves one thinking, “stately.” Impressive buildings are tucked among well-manicured lawns. Every kind of tree that can grow in southeast Kansas is planted on the campus, giving its grounds welcome shade.

The university’s classrooms and dorms brim with a record student enrollment. Its long-range planning includes a performing arts center and other sparkling additions to its 233-acre campus. Which is all well and good.

But look closer, and challenges face the university because of long-delayed maintenance.

Mortar is crumbling off cornices, wooden window frames are rotting, single-pane windows, which do little to keep cold out or heat in, are in most of the older buildings. Several of the buildings lack air conditioning.

Wednesday area legislators, candidates, and media representatives were shown some of the maintenance needs at PSU, from basement to rooftop in a small sample of the campus buildings.

Prefaced by an informational session by PSU administrators and the president of the Kansas Board of Regents, guests were taken into the bowels of buildings to see firsthand their deteriorating condition. Examples of corroded water valves, ancient steam heating systems, buckled floor tiles, and misaligned bricks were shown on the walking tour.

With a goal of addressing the sites of most of the state’s higher education facilities, Reginald Robinson, Kansas Board of Regents president, is out to spread the message that more money needs to be allocated to repair the decaying educational buildings on the state’s campuses.

That’s a lot of ground to cover. The Regents oversee the budgets of six universities, 19 community colleges, 10 technical institutions and one municipal university (Washburn.)

Because of a lack of state funding and the increasing age of the campuses’ buildings, the needs are critical across the state. A 2004 comprehensive facilities audit showed that \$74 million a year is needed to adequately maintain university and college campuses. For fiscal year 2006, \$15 million was allotted for this purpose. That means that 80 percent of all needed repairs and replacements can not be completed.

Faced with an increasing reduction in state funding, the state’s higher education institutions are forced to seek money from other sources, primarily from private donations and federal grants.

More and more, the role of university administrators is to “sell” their institutions to prospective donors.

“Our endowments are critical to fund our building needs,” said PSU president Tom Bryant. As an example, the campus’ stadium was renovated in two phases in 2000 and 2006 all through private donations.

Private monies also are a big source of scholarships, Bryant said, which help fund a majority of the students’ educations there. “We refuse to turn a student away because of inadequate funds,” he said.

Founded in 1903, PSU currently has 6,628 students, 6,400 of which live on campus.

AS RECENTLY as 20 years ago, Kansas funded just about half of a state university’s operating expenditures. Today that commitment has fallen to less than 30 percent. If the trend continues, in just four years state funding will comprise less than 25 percent of a university’s operating expenditures. Students and their families make up for part of that loss in income. Tuition at PSU 20 years ago provided 15 percent of the budget. That share has risen to 25 percent this year. In that same time frame, the state in 1985 paid \$7,354 per student at a regents university, compared to today’s commitment of \$5,719 per student. (The figures are corrected for inflation.)

PSU administrators figure they need \$39 million to bring their buildings up to a satisfactory level of maintenance, or what Howard Smith, PSU vice-president, referred to as “preserving history.” Combined, and including the University of Kansas Medical Center, the universities — Kansas State, KU, Fort Hays State, Wichita State and Emporia State — the maintenance needs total \$584.4 million.

To address the issue, the nine-member Board of Regents are asking legislators to consider a multipronged approach: (1) enact a temporary sales tax increase; (2) pass a bond issue; (3) increase the statewide Educational Building Fund mill levy; and (4) enforce new campus administrative practices that would include maintenance obligations in the funding picture. All these initiatives are needed to help keep the state’s higher education system functioning, say Regents and university administrators.

October 10, 2006

Board: Universities need money

Regents' president, CEO says state should contribute more; upkeep costing millions

Michael Strand

Salina Journal

As he travels the state, Reggie Robinson sometimes asks people how much of the tab for running the state's six state universities is picked up by the state.

A common answer is "about half" -- and that was true 20 years ago. But today, it's less than 30 percent, and some estimate it will drop to under one-quarter by 2010.

For Robinson, president and chief executive officer of the Kansas Board of Regents, that's a trend he'd like to reverse.

On Monday, as part of a statewide tour to push for more state support for higher education, Robinson was at Kansas State University at Salina talking to several local lawmakers and candidates.

"We want legislators, and aspiring legislators, and the public to understand these issues," Robinson said.

He said now is a good time to discuss the issue as "the legislative agenda is affected by what gets brought up during the campaign season."

Robinson said, "The need for higher education has become greater than ever." To illustrate, he cited specifics, such as federal predictions that 80 percent of job growth will be in fields requiring some post-secondary schooling. And he also talked in generalities, making note of the threat of global competition.

Though that reduction in state funding can be seen in several ways -- such as the fact that new university buildings are funded by private donations and not tax dollars -- it was the growing liability of deferred maintenance that dominated his presentation.

In 2004, the regents estimated that needed repairs, including roofs, sidewalks, tuckpointing, electrical and plumbing systems, totaled \$584 million. A 2005 report by the Legislative Division of Post Audit stated "those costs probably were on the low side."

Neither number includes athletic facilities, dorms or student unions, said Nelson Galle, chairman of the Kansas Board of Regents.

The regents' 2004 study estimated needed improvements at Kansas State University at

Salina at \$8.1 million. Though many of the buildings are relatively new, problems include the 40-foot high hangar doors and aircraft apron, both dating to the 1950s.

Left unaddressed, Robinson said, the statewide repair bill will reach \$800 million by 2014.

"If this isn't addressed, as you know from your own home, the problem will get more profound," he said. "The board has heard repeatedly from university presidents ... that this is among their most significant challenges."

The reason the problem could grow so quickly, Robinson said, is that the Legislature provides \$15 million a year for maintenance. The regents estimate that just keeping up with maintenance would cost \$74 million

To address that shortfall in this past legislative session, the regents proposed a package that included increasing the statewide education building fund levy from 1 mill to 2 mills, and increasing the state sales tax from 5.3 to 5.4 percent, with the increase going to that same building fund. Combined with an additional \$150 million in bonds, the proposal would have raised an estimated \$491 million through 2011. The plan died in committee.

Dennis Kuhlman, dean of K-State at Salina, said he realizes lawmakers have other issues to deal with, including highway funding, a deficit in the state employees' retirement plan, increasing Medicaid costs -- and coming up with the money to pay for promised increases in K-12 education.

"These issues could overshadow higher education and push it to the back of the room," he said.

"I wish I had recommendations for the Legislature," Kuhlman concluded. "I don't. I'm just telling you about the problem."

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October 12, 2006

Headlines**Sports****Weather****Classifieds**

State's universities need more money for maintenance

ESU has \$29 million backlogBy [Scott Rochat \(Contact\)](#)

Wednesday, October 11, 2006



Photo by David Doemland

Those touring the Emporia State University campus Wednesday afternoon stand atop a roof of the power plant where the surface is turning into a lawn.

Emporia State University has had to put off nearly \$29 million of needed repairs and upkeep due to lack of funding, the chief executive officer of the Kansas Board of Regents said Wednesday.

CEO Reggie Robinson said the state's universities have a total maintenance backlog of \$584 million, a backlog that continues to grow each year.

"If you don't address these maintenance concerns, this will only grow more expensive and it will only grow more severe," Robinson told an audience of state legislators, candidates for office and local dignitaries at ESU's Memorial Union.

The address was part of a "working lunch" sponsored by the Board of Regents and ESU. Two others have been held at Pittsburg State University and at Kansas State University's Salina branch.

About half of ESU's deferred maintenance needs come from four buildings: the William Allen White Library; King Hall; Roosevelt Hall; and the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building. The total only includes academic buildings, leaving out items such as the dormitories or athletic fields.

A behind-the-scenes tour showed some of the problem areas, such as an old and duct-taped electrical system in White Library or the crumbling concrete and general deterioration in the steam tunnels below the former Butcher Childrens School.

"Everything's behind doors, so you don't see it from the public side," said Mark Runge, director of university facilities. "But behind the public side, there's a lot of need."

Besides the electrical problems, a recent study found that White Library's heating and cooling systems, windows and parts of its interior needed to be either repaired, upgraded or replaced.

One unplanned item came up during the tour when an elevator carrying half the tour group went to the fourth

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floor and then back to the first without stopping. The elevator then refused to go up again.

"That wasn't on the list," ESU Vice President for Administration Ray Hauke said to some laughter.

The same study found Roosevelt Hall to also need work on its heating and cooling systems, its plumbing and its foundation. As Runge took the group behind Roosevelt, he pointed out the long white cracks that stood in sharp relief against the red brick.

"We're getting vertical breaks through the concrete and that indicates a very serious problem," he said.

"Sounds like my old apartment," joked Charles Long, a Democratic candidate for Emporia's seat in the Kansas House.

In addition to the heating, cooling and plumbing issues, the HPER building also needs a new roof, Hauke said. About a third of the money for the roof replacement has been saved. King Hall was not toured, but according to the report had issues with its plumbing, windows, electrical system and teaching laboratories.

Just to keep things from getting farther behind at all state universities, Robinson said, the state would need to spend about \$74 million a year. The state didn't. This year's money for maintenance came to \$15 million, of which ESU got \$855,000.

In general, Robinson said, state funding to universities has been going down. In 1985, the Legislature provided 49 percent of a state university's operating funds. Now it's about 29 percent and projected to slide further.

After the tour, Rep. Bill Light, R-Rolla, said he wasn't sure how to address the funding issues but that something clearly needed to be done.

"I think it's going to be important for the state to do something about these conditions on all our campuses," Light said. "It is something we're going to have to tackle. It's just going to get worse."

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and Compound Building.

Mark Runge, director of facilities, led the deferred maintenance tour and explained the problems at each individual building.

In WAW Library, the heating and cooling system is extremely outdated and is need of replacement. Hauke said the electrical systems in the library are so outdated that parts for it cannot be ordered from the company and have to be ordered via the second hand market.

"We call it the black market," Runge said with a chuckle.

Another concern in the library which has arisen just recently is that the piers supporting the weight of four other floors seem to be sinking through the basement floor. Runge said the floor may be sinking or the floor may be rising. He said University Facilities faculty are trying to determine which event is happening so the situation may be remedied. According to Runge, one pier has sunk almost two inches in a very short amount of time.

Hauke explained about the worsening foundation problem with Roosevelt Hall. He and Runge both expressed concern over the fact the foundation is settling more and more each year and is beginning to show signs of more serious problems.

"You'll see cracks in the wall," Runge said. "We're not just getting small cracks in the wall. We're getting vertical breaks in the concrete."

King Hall's problems are mainly with the heating and cooling system and the electrical system. Hauke said the problems in King Hall are very similar to those of the library.

The HPER Building needs a new roof, which has been estimated to cost about \$1 million alone.

The Butcher Education Center has bricks falling off its exterior and renovations to fix the exterior problems alone will cost \$200,000.

The underground campus tunnel system, which connects all of the campus buildings with the exception of the HPER Building and the Student Recreation Center, has crumbling concrete ceilings and asbestos-insulated pipes. The tunnels are used to carry hot water from the Power Plant to nearly every campus building for hot water and heating use.

The overall subject of the day was that something needs to be done to cure the budget problems repairs such as these cause.

Hauke also explained that with Emporia State being in a competitive industry, these repairs often simply get covered up so that prospective and current students don't realize these campus buildings are dilapidated.

"If something looks too good to be true at 20 feet away, it probably is too good to be true at 20 feet away and you should probably take a closer look," Hauke said.

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State policy-makers tour Emporia State, witness need for repairs

Story by Gena Terlizzi

49 ABC News Topeka

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From leaky roofs to shifting foundations, buildings at State universities across Kansas are in need of some major repairs.

State policy-makers toured Emporia State University Wednesday. They wanted to see firsthand the maintenance backlog for which the University is requesting funding. The tour began in the Student Union, where the outdated heating and cooling system makes it tough to regulate temperatures throughout the building. "In order to keep the temperature in the mail room comfortable, the folks in the library for the blind and the computer lab are either really hot or really cold, depending on the season," says Dave Hendricks, associate director of operations for ESU.

In the library, hidden behind the rows of books, is the mechanical room. The electrical panels are so old that replacement parts aren't available. "We're living on borrowed time with the electrical system," says Hendricks. The system wasn't designed to handle the high technology needs of today's students. "A library designed in 1950 obviously does not meet the needs of a library in the 21st century," says Mark Runge, director of University facilities.

At Butcher Hall, the 1950's style windows are rusted out, and on the inside, the situation isn't any better. "We have problems with the sewer lines. I apologize for the smell," says Runge.

The maintenance issues are all over the campus. At Roosevelt Hall, the shifting foundation is causing the walls to crack. A classroom roof is in need of a complete overhaul. "The roof is so bad we're afraid to touch it. It might start leaking."

The tour was a chance for University officials to show policy-makers the real needs of the University. And as State Representative Don Hill explained, it was a worthwhile experience. "We've seen numbers, we've seen pictures, but to see examples of this up close, the way we've had the opportunity to, it's very useful," says Hill.

Lawmakers and Board of Regents members have been traveling to universities across the state for the past couple of weeks. They still have a few more to go and will be at the University of Kansas in Lawrence in early November.



Local News

Crumbling Buildings and Funds at State Universities

Amanda Kinseth

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The Kansas Board of Regents invited lawmakers to tour Emporia State University's campus Wednesday so they could get a first hand look at the maintenance problems.

Floors are shifting, buildings are crumbling, and the board says it's happening at all the state's universities.

It hopes lawmakers will remember what the deterioration when school funding comes up in legislation.

"The classrooms are the ones that have the most need for maintenance money. It's behind walls, underneath the ground, in the steam tunnels and pipes," says Kip Peterson, Kansas Board of Regents.

The board's 2004 audit found for deferred maintenance costs. Kansas State University is behind almost \$209.4 million dollars. The University of Kansas owes \$168.5 million, and Emporia State University, on the low end, is down \$28.9 million.

ESU says it's focusing on bond issues to address the immediate problems - while looking for a longer funding solution.

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