

# Class Inequality at KU

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**video link:** <https://youtu.be/Xj2n3JQYXj4>

## **Profile: University of Kansas**

- KU is the highest ranked college in the state of Kansas
- Known for basketball and research
- Enrollment: 28,510 across all campuses\*
- PWI (predominantly white institution) with white enrollment at 68.9%\*

\* Source:

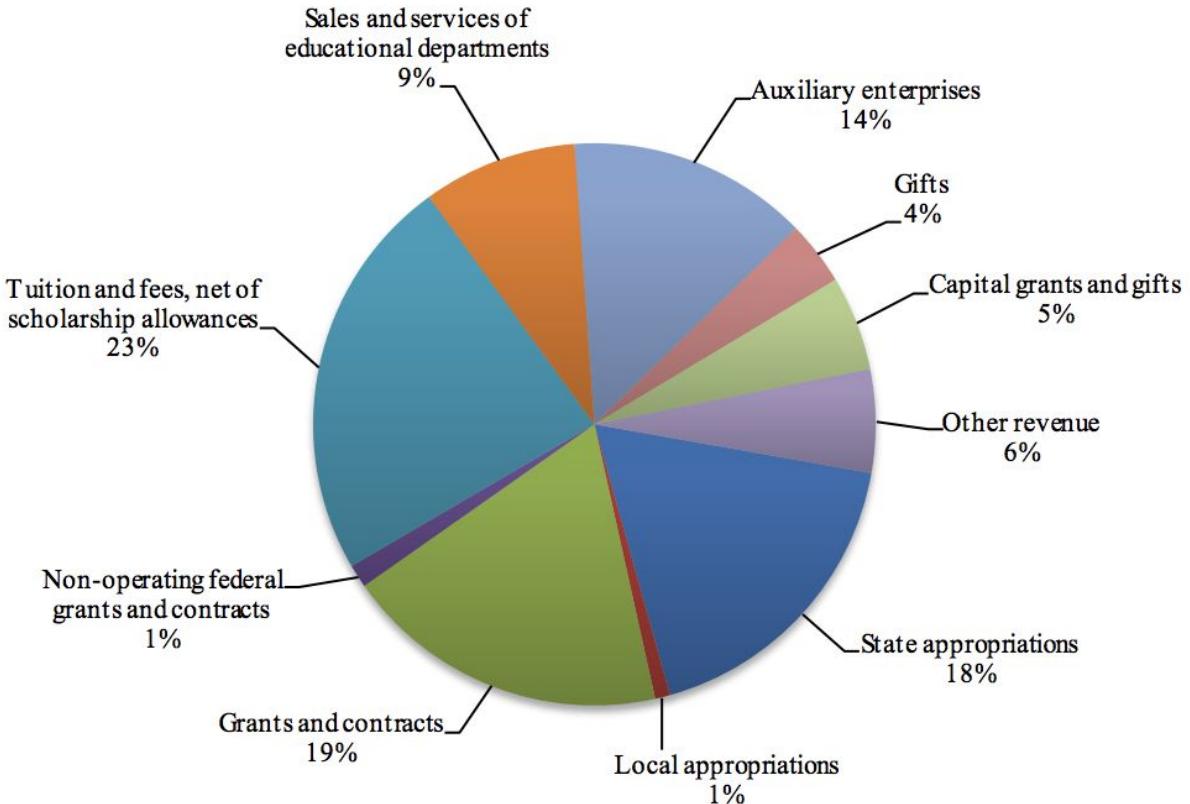
[https://oirp.ku.edu/interactive\\_factbook/enrollment](https://oirp.ku.edu/interactive_factbook/enrollment)

This is for the current Fall 2018 enrollment

# Budget Breakdown

Where does University money come from and where does it go?

# Who Gives the Money?



Source: Page 7 of the 2017 KU Financial Report

[https://financial-reporting-services.ku.edu/sites/financial-reporting-services.ku.edu/files/docs/Annual\\_Financial\\_Reports/KU\\_AFR\\_FY2017.pdf](https://financial-reporting-services.ku.edu/sites/financial-reporting-services.ku.edu/files/docs/Annual_Financial_Reports/KU_AFR_FY2017.pdf)

## **23%: Students**

- Tuition is the largest source of revenue for KU, non-consolidated
- 23% is not a huge portion, however (less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ )
- Tuition grows exponentially annually
- A decade ago, 2008, tuition was \$3,195.00 on the Lawrence Campus (in state)
- Today, tuition on the Lawrence Campus is \$10,092 (in state)

Sources:

- 1) [https://oirp.ku.edu/sites/oirp.ku.edu/files/files/Four-YearTuition/FY2008/FY2008\\_Tuition\\_Proposal\\_Appendix\\_A\\_072108.pdf](https://oirp.ku.edu/sites/oirp.ku.edu/files/files/Four-YearTuition/FY2008/FY2008_Tuition_Proposal_Appendix_A_072108.pdf)
- 2) <https://admissions.ku.edu/tuition-scholarship>

## **Students (cont.)**

- **Tuition increased by roughly \$7,000 for in state students in the last decade.**
- This dramatic increase has been commonly attributed to lack of other funding sources
- ...But this only accounts for 23% of the budget

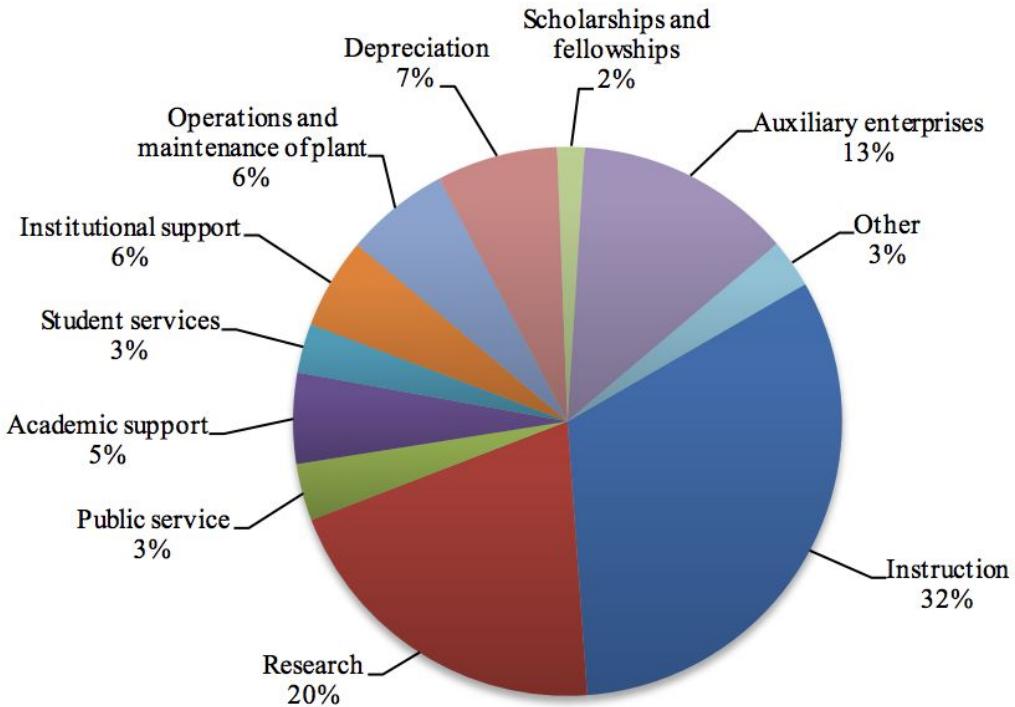
## ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST, 2018-19

	Kansas residents	Out-of-state residents
Estimated tuition (plus any <a href="#">program course fees</a> )	\$10,092	\$26,302
Required campus fees	\$1,056	\$1,056
Housing and meals	\$6,500 - \$14,500	\$6,500 - \$14,500
Books	\$1,076	\$1,076
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,724 - \$26,724</b>	<b>\$34,934 - \$42,934</b>

*Estimated cost includes allowances for tuition and fees (based on 30 hours each academic year in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; other programs may have additional course fees), room and board, and books. For financial aid purposes, other estimated costs are \$1,892 for transportation and \$1,188 for personal expenses and \$68 for loan fees.*

Screenshot from the KU admissions website:  
<https://admissions.ku.edu/tuition-scholarship>

# Who Gets the Money?



Source: Page 9 of the 2017 KU Financial Report

[https://financial-reporting-services.ku.edu/sites/financial-reporting-services.ku.edu/files/docs/Annual\\_Financial\\_Reports/KU\\_AFR\\_FY2017.pdf](https://financial-reporting-services.ku.edu/sites/financial-reporting-services.ku.edu/files/docs/Annual_Financial_Reports/KU_AFR_FY2017.pdf)

## **Spending for Students**

- 32%: Instruction
- 20%: Research
- 6%: Institutional Support
- 5%: Academic Support
- 3%: Student Services
- 2%: Scholarships and fellowships
- Total 68%

# **Spending Not Directly For Students**

- 13%: Auxiliary enterprises
  - 7%: Depreciation
  - 6%: Operation and Maintenance of Plant
  - 3%: Public Service
  - 3%: Other
  - Total 32%
- 
- This is not directly for students, which isn't to say that it doesn't help students in anyway, but it is not directly supporting academics or students

# **Where Is the Indirect Money Going?**

- Auxiliary enterprises is basically the athletics department
- While athletics (mainly basketball) bring in a lot of money, they also take a lot of it in order to function as they do.

## **What About Student Programs?**

- In addition to tuition, students are required to pay extra fees that go towards campus activities and clubs
- These student fees are mainly regulated by the Student Senate

## **Student Senate**

- Main function is to decide who gets what money
- Student organizations and community outreach programs get funding through them
- This includes the Campus Cupboard

# Campus Cupboard

- Operates like a grocery store through the KU Center for Community Outreach
- Provides food for students with food insecurity, a growing problem on campus.
- The organization name feels like a misnomer, because KU admin is not funding it, the students themselves are.

## Campus Cupboard (cont.)

- Since funding comes from student fees through the Student Senate, that means students are paying to support themselves through the cupboard
- Students pay the student fees, which in part cover the Campus Cupboard
- **Tuition dollars, over \$10,000 this year (in state), does not cover the Campus Cupboard**

## **Important Takeaways**

- Total revenue goes to many different sources, which is NOT general knowledge.
- Tuition counts for less than it seems
- Tuition has risen exponentially in the past decade.
- Student fees, separate from tuition, goes toward student orgs, like Center for Community Outreach, which runs the Campus Cupboard

Most of the money students spend goes to tuition, so why doesn't tuition go farther in terms of directly supporting the students that need it?

# Food Insecurity

Why are some students going hungry?

# **Types Of KU Students**

- There are many different types of students that go to KU, and no one is exactly the same
- ...But most fit inside one of the following categories.
- \*Disclaimer: this is not meant to offend or stereotype anyone specific, but rather to see classist trends in the general University system

## **Greek Life (or other Rich Kids)**

- Most of the Greek Houses (or expensive, hotel-like dorms) are very expensive
- Despite the high cost, many students in Greek life can afford
  - Name-brand products
  - Frequent vacations
  - Expensive cars
  - ... and other splurges
- They often have rich parents that pay for their education entirely, not needing loans or jobs
- Overwhelmingly white students

## Typical Students

- Much like myself, who don't live luxuriously, but can comfortably afford basic necessities, and potentially savings
- Parents help out where they can, and loans are mostly manageable
- Come from middle class
- Can't afford the most expensive dorms, but live in middle range ones
- Have a job, but mostly for extra income

# Broke Students

- Have to work multiple jobs and/or long hours to pay for school, in work-study program
- Many are international and/or first generation college students
- Most get loans, which can take decades to pay off
- Cannot afford many pricier college experiences, like studying abroad
- Eat less healthy, but less expensive, foods, and may rely on food cupboards
- Struggle with hunger
- Low-quality housing, often not able to afford on-campus dorms

## **Classism**

- This classist breakdown mirrors classes in the broader society
- The only difference is that most upper class people go to college, so there are more upper class people represented in the University system than lower class people
- Lack of representation makes it even harder for lower class students

# **Class Inequality**

- In broader society, we are seeing a shrinking middle class; rich are getting richer, poor are getting poorer
- Lower class students make their way into college, and can often barely afford it
- Upper class students can not only afford college, but can also live a very high quality of life while doing so
- If students can barely afford school to begin with, they may not go to college at all, or drop out, not getting that higher education

## **Major Takeaways**

- There are students who have lots of money, and students who have no money
- More and more people have less and less money today
- Students who can barely afford college decide to either go and starve, or skip college altogether

College is essential to getting a good job, so why should only some students be able to afford it? **Answer: Capitalism!**

# Late Stage Capitalism

What happens when you let the market decide it all?

## **Capitalism: Ideal Outcome**

- A free market economy allows for businesses to expand as they wish
- People vote with their money, so when something is unfavorable, they do not spend their money on it, therefore weeding out any negative business practices.
- Similarly, good business practices are awarded with more business, more money
- The money earned by successful businesses benefits not only its workers, but the whole economy and the country.

# **Capitalism: Real Outcome**

- The free market economy makes the government favor corporations over the people
- Many informational outlets are controlled by corporations, any negative information is unlikely to reach the consumer, allowing for more money to reach the business and less to stay with the general population.
- The people who own the most successful businesses earn the most money, but do not put it into their company- they keep it for themselves

## **Negative Impact: Education**

- Across the whole education system, poorer areas get a low-quality education and richer areas get a high-quality education.
- At the collegiate level, this means that richer kids can get into colleges at a higher rate than their poorer counterparts
- When federal and state governments allot less money to education, colleges rely more on tuition dollars and big donors, making education more expensive and less accessible

## **Sidenote: Negative Impact: Environment**

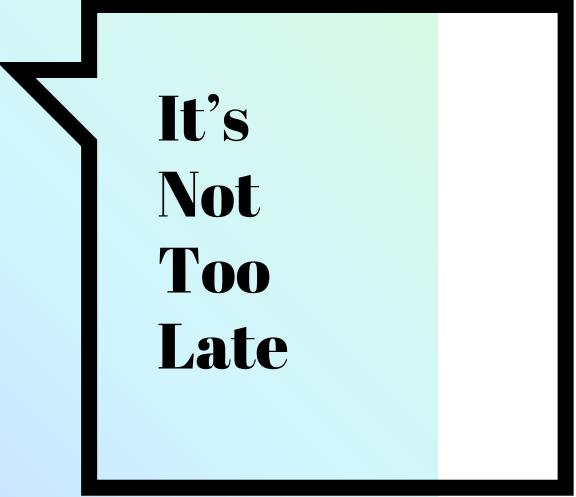
- Capitalism values money above all else, including the environment
- Business-influenced governments don't want to make business harder by going green
- Lower carbon emissions, renewable energy, etc. do not become mandatory for businesses, so they over-pollute and cause the majority of climate change\*

\* source:

<https://www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/fossil-fuel-companies-knew-about-global-warming#.WgItYGJKuo>

## **Major Takeaways**

- Capitalism is the root of inequality
- If we change our economy to move away from capitalism, power can be restored to the people
- When people are the focus of the government, not businesses, poverty can be directly addressed.



**It's  
Not  
Too  
Late**

- As long as we maintain a largely capitalistic economy, these problems and many more will continue.
- But we can change! There are many short term and long term solutions to both the general public and college students...

# What Can We Do?

- **Vote** for candidates that support the following:
  - Universal healthcare
  - Affordable/Free higher education
  - Workers' Rights
  - Livable Minimum Wage
  - Fair Tax Plan
- **Donate** and **Volunteer** at local food banks
- **Use Your Voice** on campus!  
Be heard! Someone will listen.

## Conclusion

- There is a disparity in wealth in society, and this is especially prevalent on college campuses, like at the University of Kansas
- KU spends more and more of the students' money, which does not always help the students
- When capitalism leads to widespread poverty, there needs to be a change.



# Thanks :)