



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



FHSU building projects summer 2024

Renovation of FHSU’s Forsyth Library began this summer with the interior demolition of its front foyer. The renovation project will provide vital updates to infrastructure, such as HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and Wi-Fi. The upgraded facility will support students’ research and study needs and provide spaces for collaboration and engaging academic events.

Forsyth Library’s nearly \$28 million transformation will feature many student-requested features, like more group and individual study rooms, increased natural light, and a café.

Phased construction with PGAV Architects of Kansas City and PWC of Hays as general contractor will continue for about two years, with completion expected in the summer of 2026.

Installation of the new Gross Memorial Coliseum HVAC system began in the spring of 2024 and is scheduled to be completed in August. The new HVAC system will reduce FHSU’s energy costs. Built in 1973, FHSU’s 320,000-square-foot Gross-Cunningham Complex was not air-conditioned. In 2022, FHSU was awarded a \$5 million American Rescue Plan Grant by the Kansas Legislature toward the cost of installing a new HVAC system in the facility. The final cost is estimated to be \$11.4 million.

Twelve thermal storage units are being installed to enhance the efficiency of the new HVAC system significantly. The units will store ice created during the overnight hours. During the day, the melting ice will deliver cooled air into the building. The system will also draw on excess power generated by the university’s twin wind turbines, providing “free” electricity to the new system.

And now, the rest of the story on college tuition

From the desk of retired Kansas State Senator Janis Lee

Last month, Kansas’ six public universities presented their proposed tuition and fee schedule for 2024-25 to the Kansas Board of Regents. Fort Hays State University, which has a long history of commitment to affordability, proposed a 6 percent increase. Before casting dispersions on what, at first glance, may seem a significant increase, it is important to know the rest of the story.

Under the FHSU proposal, annual tuition and fees for a full-time student at FHSU would be \$5,924, almost half the national average for public universities and 35 percent less than the average among Kansas’ six public universities.

This tuition proposal is based on a careful analysis of market trends and economic realities, and I believe it will allow the university to continue its commitment to offering the best value in higher education in Kansas. This is something we all can support.

Proposed 2024-25 Tuition and Fees Comparison



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