FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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REGENTS RESPOND TO HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE’S ACTION

(TOPEKA) – Today Board of Regents’ Chairman Gary Sherrer, of Overland Park, issued the following statement regarding yesterday’s decision by the House Appropriations Committee to reduce state university employee pay by 7.5% and require those dollars to be spent on campus maintenance projects:

“We’re concerned by the Committee’s action, which is simply unfair and unnecessary. Removing dollars from the paychecks hard-working university employees depend upon, and then spending those dollars on building maintenance, doesn’t result in any savings to the state. We call upon the Legislature and the Governor to reject this unnecessary and unfair proposal.”

If ultimately signed into law, the House Appropriations Committee’s action, which was touted as a way to balance the state’s budget, would reduce a state university employee’s final six paychecks of the 2011 fiscal year (ending June 30) each by 7.5%, and then would require those dollars to be spent on campus deferred building maintenance projects.

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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 (seven public universities, 19 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 Kan-ed, a statewide network that provides broadband Internet access and distance learning capabilities for schools, hospitals, and libraries.

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