



Medical Student Assembly

<http://msa.kumc.edu>

msa@kumc.edu

April 29, 2005

Dear Dean Knoll,

After reviewing the plan for the fee increase that was presented at Medical Student Assembly on Tuesday, we feel that we can only partially support this proposal as it is written. We feel that the plan for the Kansas City campus is extremely reasonable and will add some much-needed resources to the current student health facility, but approximately 110 of our constituents are completing their medical education at our Wichita campus and will not benefit from the fee increase. As we understand it, the Wichita campus does not have a formal student health facility, and the students are expected to utilize the Internal Medicine department for their healthcare needs. The Internal Medicine department then receives money from the Wichita students' health fees in return for providing this service. Many of our representatives, some of whom are rising second years who will be Wichita students next year, had a lot of concerns regarding the proposal. They contacted a current Wichita student to see if this agreement was in place from the students' perspectives. She informed us that she had originally believed this was the arrangement, but when she tried to utilize the service, she was charged a significant amount of money for the office visit and additional lab work.

Therefore, while this arrangement is a good plan in theory, it does not seem to be benefiting the students as was intended. We feel that, until the discrepancies in healthcare availability, cost, and accessibility are rectified, it would be unjust to ask the Wichita third & fourth year medical students to shoulder this fee increase. If every Wichita student were charged the additional \$41.40 (and assuming approximately 110 students are being charged), this would result in a sum of \$4,554.00 being given to the Internal Medicine department for a service that they do not seem to be fulfilling. The fee increase for the Kansas City students can be justified by a measurable gain: an increase in amount of hours a doctor is available an additional licensed healthcare provider available at all times. However, there are no quantifiable gains to be had for the Wichita students other than that a sizable amount of funding will be transferred into a departmental account.

As for the Kansas City campus, we are in full support of making Student Health Fees equal across the board regardless of enrollment status. We also feel that hiring a licensed R.N. and increasing the number of hours Dr. Kennedy spends in Student Health are worth the increased fee amount. Therefore, we will fully support this proposal with the stipulation that the Wichita students not incur the same fee increase.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to discuss this matter with us. We realize that you choose to take these proposals to individual governing bodies and we appreciate you listening to our concerns. We also know that you must find a compromise or some sort of concession that all of our governing bodies can agree to, in addition to Student Governing Council. Thank you for considering our suggestions. We look forward to working with you in the future!

Sincerely,

Michele A. Bennett
MSA Co-President

Christina Schnose
MSA Co-President