

**HOW IS KSU PREPARING TO COPE  
WITH THE LIKELIHOOD OF ANOTHER  
MAJOR ENROLLMENT INCREASE IN FALL 2003?**

**Prepared by the  
Center for Institutional Effectiveness**

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## **HOW IS KSU PREPARING TO COPE WITH THE LIKELIHOOD OF ANOTHER MAJOR ENROLLMENT INCREASE IN FALL 2003?**

Annual enrollment growth from Fall 1998 through Fall 2001 was modest, averaging less than 3% per year. Four times as much growth was accommodated in one year when the university's headcount surged 12% higher (up 1,700 students) from Fall 2001 to Fall 2002. Another even greater enrollment increase appears possible between Fall 2002 and Fall 2003. However, the result could be chaotic and unmanageable next fall if KSU is unprepared for such growth and has done little to curb a growth rate that could exceed capacity. This analysis attempts to inform decision-makers about the high likelihood of another major enrollment increase in Fall 2003 and prompts questions about how the university is preparing to cope with another major growth spurt.

### Institutional Highlights

- About two-thirds of KSU's enrollment growth in Fall 2002 occurred at the lower division level, especially in the new freshman classification. In Fall 2002, there was a 34% increase in new beginning freshmen (including JEHP), a 12% increase in new transfer freshmen, a 11% increase in freshmen returning from an earlier term (for a combined 20% increase in total freshmen), a 24% increase in new transfer sophomores, and a 9% increase in returning sophomores (for a combined 10% increase in total sophomores). Nearly 1,100 additional lower division students were enrolled from Fall 2001 to Fall 2002 for a 16% gain in the lower division alone.
- In order to serve this unusually large 1,100 student (16%) increase in lower division enrollment, 87 sections of General Education courses were added to the fall schedule (a 20% increase from Fall 2001) which resulted in a 21% increase in General Education course enrollments.
- Pent-up student demand for General Education courses was so great that an average (median) of 96% of the seats available in required general education courses were filled last fall. Very little unused capacity was present in General Education course offerings last fall which could be used to accommodate additional growth in Fall 2003 without a substantial increase in additional sections, raised class sizes, or both.
- Despite the huge surge in Fall 2002 enrollment, average class sizes in General Education courses remained stable at 43 as it has for the past four fall terms. Average class sizes ranged broadly from a low of 18 in the labs for CHEM 1152 or 20 in the lecture class of GRMN 1002 to 119 in ECON 1100 during Fall 2002.
- Because of the unusually large increase in freshmen (up 20% including JEHP) and the 10% increase in new sophomores in Fall 2002, significant enrollment

gains are already "built into" the expected totals for the returning freshmen and returning sophomores in Fall 2003. If past lower division retention rates hold steady into Fall 2003, 900 more students (up 20%) can be expected to return to KSU next fall in the lower division than returned this past fall.

- Prospects are also great for another year of unusually large increases in new beginning freshmen. Admission applications by such students are running almost 100% higher than the numbers at this time last year.
- If the same rates of growth in new beginning freshmen and new lower division transfers that occurred in Fall 2002 are repeated again in Fall 2003, new lower division enrollment would grow by an additional 900 students. When the 900 new student growth is combined with the built-in 900 returning student growth, the total growth in the lower division could increase by 1,800 for Fall 2003, exceeding last year's gain of 1,100 by 75%. In order to avoid such a big increase, growth of new student admissions would need to be reduced below last year's levels.
- If a 20% increase in General Education course sections was needed to serve an additional 1,100 lower division students in Fall 2002, an additional gain of 1,800 lower division students in Fall 2003 would require another 150 section increase in General Education courses next fall as well as substantial expansion of Area F course offerings (lower division major courses) if the next fall's lower division enrollment is to be accommodated comparable to Fall 2002's increase.
- Additional demands for instructional support also exist at the upper division and graduate levels in association with enrollment growth at those levels, new degree program implementations, and professional program reaccreditations. Upper division headcount increased 7% (up 400 students) and the graduate headcount grew 16% (up 250 students) from Fall 2001 to Fall 2002. If last fall's increases are duplicated again in Fall 2003, an additional 650 students would combine with the 1,800 student increase at the lower division level to boost KSU's total headcount enrollment by 2,450 (16%) to over 18,000 in Fall 2003.

### General Education Highlights

#### **ENGL 1101 Composition I (3)**

- The English Department almost matched the 34% increase in new beginning freshmen (including JEHP) with a 30% increase in ENGL 1101 registrations for Fall 2002, thanks to the addition of 17 new sections averaging 24 students each.
- Of the 2,150 new beginning freshmen (including JEHP), 1,900 were enrolled in ENGL 1101 for Fall 2002. (250 new freshmen were not enrolled in ENGL 1101 which would have required the equivalent of 10 additional sections). Typically

each fall, the total enrollment in ENGL 1101 corresponds to 85% to 90% of the new beginning freshman cohort.

- Unless a more productive instructional delivery model is developed to teach freshman composition, for every 100 additional new beginning freshmen enrolled in Fall 2003 above the Fall 2002 record enrollment of 2,150, four additional sections of ENGL 1101 should be offered to accommodate the additional growth at current levels of service.
- The average class size has held steady at 24 in this course over each of the last five years.

### **ENGL 1102 Composition II (3)**

- During Fall 2002, over 900 students enrolled in the second freshman composition course in the General Education sequence. Normally, freshmen take this course in the spring semester after completing ENGL 1101 in the fall. However, this substantial enrollment in ENGL 1102 during the fall reflects the existence of a large and growing number of students at KSU who are not completing their freshman composition sequence on a typical or traditional schedule.
- The English Department accommodated an additional 100 students in ENGL 1,102 during Fall 2002, a 14% increase from Fall 2001, as a result of teaching four additional sections with an average class size of 24.
- The average class size has held steady at 24 in this course over each of the last five years.

### **ENGL 2110 World Literature (3)**

- The English Department accommodated a 21% increase in course enrollment during Fall 2002 by adding six additional sections averaging 37 students over the number taught in Fall 2001. Nevertheless, the approximately 1,250 students served in Fall 2002 appeared low when compared to fall enrollments in other required areas of General Education. A backlog of demand for this course may be building.
- Since completion of the freshman composition sequence is a prerequisite for enrollment in this general education requirement, KSU's unusually large increase in beginning freshmen during Fall 2002 should begin to impact demand for this course significantly in Fall 2003. Another 20-30% increase in course enrollments should be expected, requiring six to nine additional sections.
- Despite the heavy student demand that exists, the average class size in this course has dropped gradually over the last five years from a high of 40 in Fall 1998 to a low of 37 in Fall 2002.

### **POLS 1101 American Government in a Global Perspective (3)**

- The Political Science Department accommodated over 1,600 course enrollments in POLS 1101 during Fall 2002, a 16% increase from Fall 2001, thanks largely to the addition of five additional sections with an average class size of 68 each.
- Course enrollment in Fall 2001 increased 23%, largely as a result of an 11-student increase in the average class size for this course.
- The average class size in this course has fluctuated in the 60s over the past five years, but has increased from a low of 61 in Fall 1998 to 68 in Fall 2002.

### **HIST 1101 Intro to World Civilization (3)**

- Despite a 38% increase in General Education course enrollment over the past five years, enrollment in this particular required course has remained rather flat at a little over 1,000 in each of the past three fall terms, increasing only 11% from Fall 1998 to Fall 2002. This is probably due to a lack of growth in the number of sections taught rather than a lack of student demand. A backlog of demand for this course may be building.
- The drop of two sections taught in Fall 2002 was offset by an eight-student increase in the average class size to 61 for virtually no net gain.
- Since this course carries a prerequisite of ENGL 1101, KSU's unusually large beginning freshman class of Fall 2002 should increase student demand for this course greatly beginning in Spring 2003.
- Prior to Fall 2002, the average class size in this course fluctuated in the mid 50s except for Fall 1998 when the average hit 72, its highest level over the last five years.

### **HIST 2112 America Since 1890 (3)**

- Despite a 38% increase in General Education course enrollments over the past five years, enrollment in this particular required course only began to show significant growth in Fall 2002 (up 22%), thanks largely to a notable increase in the number of sections taught (up five in 2002) with an average enrollment of 54.
- Although 100 more students were served in HIST 2112 than HIST 1101 in Fall 2002, the total of a little more than 1,100 appears low for a required course in General Education. A backlog of demand for this course may be building.

- Since this course carries a prerequisite of ENGL 1101, KSU's unusually large beginning freshman class of Fall 2002 should increase student demand for this course greatly beginning in Spring 2003.
- The average class size in this course has fluctuated from the low to the high 50s, most recently dropping an average of four students during the enrollment boom of Fall 2002.

### **ECON 1100/2100      Global Economics/Principles of Microeconomics    (3)**

- In one year from Fall 2001 to Fall 2002, the Economics Department accommodated a 31% increase in ECON 1100 enrollment thanks to the teaching of two additional sections with an average class size approaching 120 each. Enrollment in the course option for business majors (ECON 2100) has remained basically unchanged for the past five years.
- Between the two options, a total of nearly 1,500 students were served in this General Education requirement in Fall 2002, which is up 200 (16%) from earlier fall terms.
- Fall 2002's unusually large beginning freshman class will have a delayed impact on enrollments in ECON 2100 since completion of MATH 1101 or higher is a prerequisite for that course. There is no comparable prerequisite for ECON 1100.
- The average class sizes in these economic courses have generally fluctuated between 110 and 120, which is about twice the size of other social science course requirements in General Education.

### **ANTH/GEO/PSYC/SOCI 2105      Social Issues    (2)**

- The four departments supporting this General Education requirement accommodated a 44% increase in the combined 2105 enrollments for Fall 2002, jumping from about 800 to nearly 1,150, thanks largely to an increase of seven sections taught. Nevertheless, the total number served in the fall is substantially lower than several other required courses in General Education. A backlog of demand for this course may be building.
- Since Fall 1998, the greatest enrollment growth has occurred in SOC 2105 (up 53%), followed by GEOG 2105 (up 47%), PSYC 2105 (up 28%), and ANTH 2105 (down 43%).
- The average class sizes in three of the four options for this requirement have fluctuated in the 50s and 60s, with PSYC 2105 being the exception with a substantially smaller average class size in the high 30s.

### **COM 1109/PHIL 2200/FL 1002    Humanities Elective    (3)**

- The three departments supporting the options for this General Education requirement accommodated nearly 1,600 students, a 21% increase in overall enrollment from Fall 2001 to Fall 2002, thanks largely to an increase of eight sections taught.
- More than twice as many students enroll in COM 1109 and in PHIL 2200 than in a foreign language at the 1102 level to satisfy this requirement.
- Over the past five years, the greatest gain in fall enrollment has been in SPAN 1002 (up 128%), followed by COM 1109 (up 55%) and PHIL 2200 (up 9%). Six sections of SPAN 1002 with an average class size of 35 were taught in Fall 2002 compared to two sections of FREN 1002 with an average of 25 and one section of GRMN 1002 for 20 students. Average class sizes in COM 1109 fluctuated near 40 while the averages in PHIL 2200 were a little over 30.

### **ART/MUSI/THTR 1107    Arts in Society    (3)**

- The three departments supporting the options for this General Education requirement accommodated a total of almost 1,400 students in Fall 2002, which was a 6% drop from the previous fall term. Despite a 38% growth in overall General Education enrollment from Fall 1998 to Fall 2002, enrollment in this arts requirement has increased only 6%.
- The distribution of course enrollments across the three arts options has tended to be roughly equivalent from year to year.
- Average class sizes in THTR 1107 have grown to 170 compared to ART and MUSI where average class sizes have most often fluctuated near 110.

### **MATH 1101/1113    Math Modeling/Precalculus    (3)**

- Enrollment in MATH 1101 since Fall 1998 has grown 49% to 1,550 students in Fall 2002. Last Fall's figure was 38% higher than Fall 2001's because of an increase of seven sections taught and an average class size growth of five students per section (to an average of 41 which is substantially greater than the average of 33 five years ago in Fall 1998).
- Enrollment in the more advanced option of MATH 1113 grew 36% over the last five years and 25% since Fall 2001, also because of an increase of three sections taught and an average class size growth of five students per section (to 39).

- More students were accommodated in this General Education requirement during Fall 2002 (a total of 2,630) than any other Core requirement.

**MATH 1106/1107/1190      Elementary Applied Calculus (3)/Elementary Statistics (3)/Calculus I (4)**

- The combined fall enrollments for these three options to the second math requirement in General Education grew 35% over the last five years and 23% from Fall 2001 to Fall 2002. Last fall's growth was attributable to an increase of six sections taught and a growth in the average class size to 37 in MATH 1106, 39 in MATH 1107, and 35 in MATH 1190.
- Enrollment in Calculus I showed the greatest growth over the past five years (up 49%) followed by Statistics (up 47%) and Applied Calculus (up 16%).
- The total enrollment accommodated in the second math course (1,833) was roughly twice as great as the enrollment in the second freshman composition course during Fall 2002.

**SCI 1101/CHEM 1151/CHEM 1211/PHYS 1111/PHYS 2211  
(First Course in the Science Sequence Requirement)**

- The combined enrollment in the first course of the General Education requirement in the sciences grew to over 1,850 in Fall 2002 (up 38%) from Fall 2001, largely due to a substantial increase in the average class sizes for SCI 1101 (from 56 to 76), CHEM 1151 (from 43 to 71) and CHEM 1211 (from 45 to 60). The numbers of corresponding lab sections for these courses were increased significantly to accommodate these big gains in the size of the lecture classes.
- About half of the total fall enrollment in the first science course was in SCI 1101 which had grown 255% since Fall 1998; enrollment in the two CHEM options had grown 41% and 62% in five years respectively, followed by a 45% and a 26% gain for the two options in physics.

**SCI 1102/CHEM 1152/CHEM 1212/ PHYS 1112/ PHYS 2212  
(Second Course in the Science Sequence Requirement)**

- The combined enrollment in the second course of the General Education requirement in the sciences grew to a little more than 750 (a 10% increase) from Fall 2001 to Fall 2002. This was the smallest fall enrollment accommodated by any of the course requirements in General Education. A backlog of demand for these courses may be building.
- Three-fourths of the total fall enrollment in the second science course was in SCI 1102 which increased 137% since Fall 1998. Class size in the 10 sections of that course held steady at roughly 60 over the past four years. A single section of CHEM 1152 (for 72 students), CHEM 1212 (for 79 students), and PHYS 1112 (for 22 students) were also taught in Fall 2002.

### Writing and Math Priorities

- Since basic skills in composition and mathematics are fundamental prerequisites for many courses in the undergraduate curriculum and provide essential preparation for passing the Regents' tests, priority should be given to accommodating registration by new freshmen in the composition and mathematics sequences of the General Education program. If the numbers of sections and available seats in these basic skills courses are insufficient to meet the demands of growth in the new freshman cohort, subsequent student success is likely to suffer.
- Prior to Fall 2002, the beginning freshman cohort fluctuated modestly around 1,500 students and then mushroomed to over 2,100 in Fall 2002. Major accommodations in the composition and math sequences were made in Fall 2002 to serve this unusually large increase in the freshman cohort. If another major jump in the size of the new freshman cohort materializes for Fall 2003, KSU should give priority once again to making additional major accommodations by increasing the number and size of the composition and mathematics course sections in General Education.
- Because of the great demands of projected new and continuing student growth in the lower division, KSU may have reached the point where it has to set a target goal that limits the size of the new beginning freshman cohort to a level that is manageable and can be accommodated appropriately. Such targets are not likely to stop continued growth of the student body overall, but could help to control growth and keep it within reasonable and manageable ranges.

### Key Planning Questions

- What is a manageable size for the fall cohort of new beginning freshmen in Fall 2003?
- How can KSU move from a posture of unrestricted enrollment growth to a managed or controlled growth posture? How could the processing of admission applications and acceptances be modified to limit the level of growth in the new student cohorts for Fall 2003?
- What class scheduling preparations are being made to accommodate the large wave of current freshmen who will return as sophomores in Fall 2003 (and upper division students in subsequent years)?
- What class scheduling preparations are being made to accommodate another large wave of new beginning freshmen in Fall 2003?
- Will KSU's current and anticipated instructional, support, and parking facilities be sufficient in Fall 2003 to accommodate 17,000 to 18,000 students?

- How much of KSU's future allocations of faculty resources are we willing to dedicate to the support of enrollment growth in the lower division as opposed to growth in upper division and graduate programs?
- What level of enrollment at KSU is likely to exceed the institution's capacity for accommodation and result in a planned or de facto capping of the size of the student body?
- Is this an opportune time to increase KSU's quality and standards for student achievement without sacrificing continued enrollment growth?