

PSU enrollment climbs

Enrollment at Pittsburg State University continues to grow at a healthy and managed pace, university officials said today. Headcount enrollment for the fall semester is 6,628, an increase of 91 students or 1.4 percent over the previous year. Students at PSU are taking a total of 88,058 credit hours of instruction this fall.

The university reported the figures to the Kansas Board of Regents this week, which today released the numbers for all of the colleges and universities it oversees.

PSU President Tom Bryant said he was pleased with the pace of growth for the university.

“We like to see growth, of course, but growth that is at a reasonable pace that we can manage effectively,” Bryant said. “This fall’s numbers are exactly in line with that philosophy.”

President Bryant said PSU’s highly respected academic programs and its reputation as a campus where faculty know and care about students have helped the university grow.

The numbers submitted by PSU reflect not only a period of sustained growth – the university has recorded four of the five highest enrollments in its history in the past five years – but also paint a clear picture of the character of the university. For example, the Full Time Equivalency (FTE) for the fall semester is 6,185 (FTE is computed by dividing the total number of credit hours by 15 for undergraduate students and 9 for graduate students). An FTE so near to the headcount indicates a very high percentage of full-time students.

“We continue to be a very traditional campus,” the president said. “The great majority of the hours we teach are taught here on our campus and most of our students are full-time students. That’s good news for a community so closely tied to the university.”

According to Lee Christensen, associate vice president for academic programs and services, the university saw increases in both undergraduate and graduate students as well as total new zero-hour freshmen and transfer students. International enrollment declined slightly, Christensen noted, from 387 last fall to 376 this fall. That is a trend at most U.S. universities that stretches back to 2001 and reflects the difficulties many internationals now face in obtaining study visas.

Editors/Directors - For more information, please call Dr. Lee Christensen, associate vice president for academic programs and services, at 620-235-4206. To schedule an interview with President Tom Bryant, please contact Joan Cleland, administrative assistant to the president, at 620-235-4101.