School of Architecture
Summary of Course Fee Increase Proposal

The School of Architecture is proposing a FY 2009 Course Fee of $33.90 per credit hour, which reflects a 5.5% increase in the FY 2008 Architecture Course Fee of $17.90 plus an additional $15.00. Based on 16 credit hours per semester, the additional $15 would result in an additional $480.00 in course fees per academic year.

Like other professional schools at KU, the School of Architecture has a special need to fully prepare its students for careers in what has become a technologically advanced field. This requires that computer software and hardware, studio and shop equipment, lab instruments, and other items of technology be acquired and used extensively in the School's instruction curricula. Providing adequate, properly equipped instructional and laboratory space for students is another critical area that would be addressed through the increased course fee.

The fee increase would ensure the availability to all students of state-of-the-art computer equipment, and essential shop and laboratory equipment in a facility on the West Campus that would house design/build studios, materials investigation labs, and shops.

Student involvement in discussion about the fee increase proposal has been extensive. Through meetings with officers of student organizations, School of Architecture Assembly meetings, three open forums for student feedback, and a think-tank meeting with students last April, every effort was made to ensure that every student and faculty member had multiple opportunities and means to learn about the proposal, and to register their support for it, or opposition to it.

The outcome of these meetings shows quite clearly the strong, widespread student support for this proposed fee increase. The School's student organizations, including Student Council, American Institute of Architecture Students, Emerging Green Builders, Kansas Association of Planning Students, and Alpha Rho Chi, fully endorse and support the increased fee. They recognize that this increase will make a material difference in quality of education they receive in KU's School of Architecture.