



# **The University of Kansas**

## **Prioritizing students during the pandemic**

Presented by Chancellor Douglas A. Girod  
House Committee of Appropriations  
March 11, 2021

**KU** THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**KANSAS**

# Today's Presentation

1. How KU has prioritized students during the pandemic
2. COVID-19 losses, expenses, and federal funds
3. The importance of stable state funding

# **How KU prioritized students during the pandemic**

## **Spring 2020 timeline of events**

- March 6: hosted final day of classes before Spring Break
- March 11: announced classes would move online on March 23
- March 17: announced classes would stay online for the semester

## **We adopted student-focused values to guide our work**

- Flexibility, transparency, two-way communication

## **Actions to prioritize, serve students in spring 2020**

- Devoted our energy to creating the best possible online experience
- Amended grading policy to enable students to choose credit/no credit
- Doubled the deadline (twice) for students to withdraw from a class
- Fulfilled requests for course adaptations
- Provided refunds and credits for parking, housing and dining
- Distributed CARES Act funds to students via need-based formula

# How KU prioritized students during the pandemic

## Summer 2020

- Courses were remote

## Fall 2020 and Spring 2021

- 1/3 online, 1/3 hybrid, 1/3 in-person

## Conclusions

- Student choices in a competitive free market suggest we did well.
  - Fall 2020 enrollment fell just 2.8%
  - Fall 2020 to Spring 2021 retention was 94% (down just 2.3 points)
  - Deposits for next fall are down but not drastically
- We learned lessons that will benefit us in the future.
  - We have new remote education capabilities for post-pandemic
  - We have new processes that enable us to be more nimble

# COVID-19 losses, expenses, and federal funds

**The pandemic has created historic budget shortfalls for FY20-21**

- Losses – enrollment, housing, dining, parking, events (\$71.7M)  
Expenses – PPE, testing, campus reconfiguration, technology (\$44M)

**We've addressed the FY21 shortfall by cutting \$34M through:**

- Furloughs, layoffs, salary freeze, hiring freeze
- Executive leadership and university-wide salary cuts
- Voluntary retirement program, administrative efficiencies
- Reduction in services to students and Kansans

**For FY22, the projected shortfall is \$74.6M This will result in:**

- Furloughs and layoffs on a large scale
- Dramatic impacts on students, Kansans, industry partners

# **COVID-19 losses, expenses, and federal funds**

**KU has received \$44.4M in federal relief funds tightly restricted to:**

- health and safety, remote learning, technology (\$36.1M)
- direct distribution to students (\$8.3M)

**Nearly all funding had to be spent by Dec. 31 and is now gone.**

**Funds cannot be used for general operations or to offset losses**

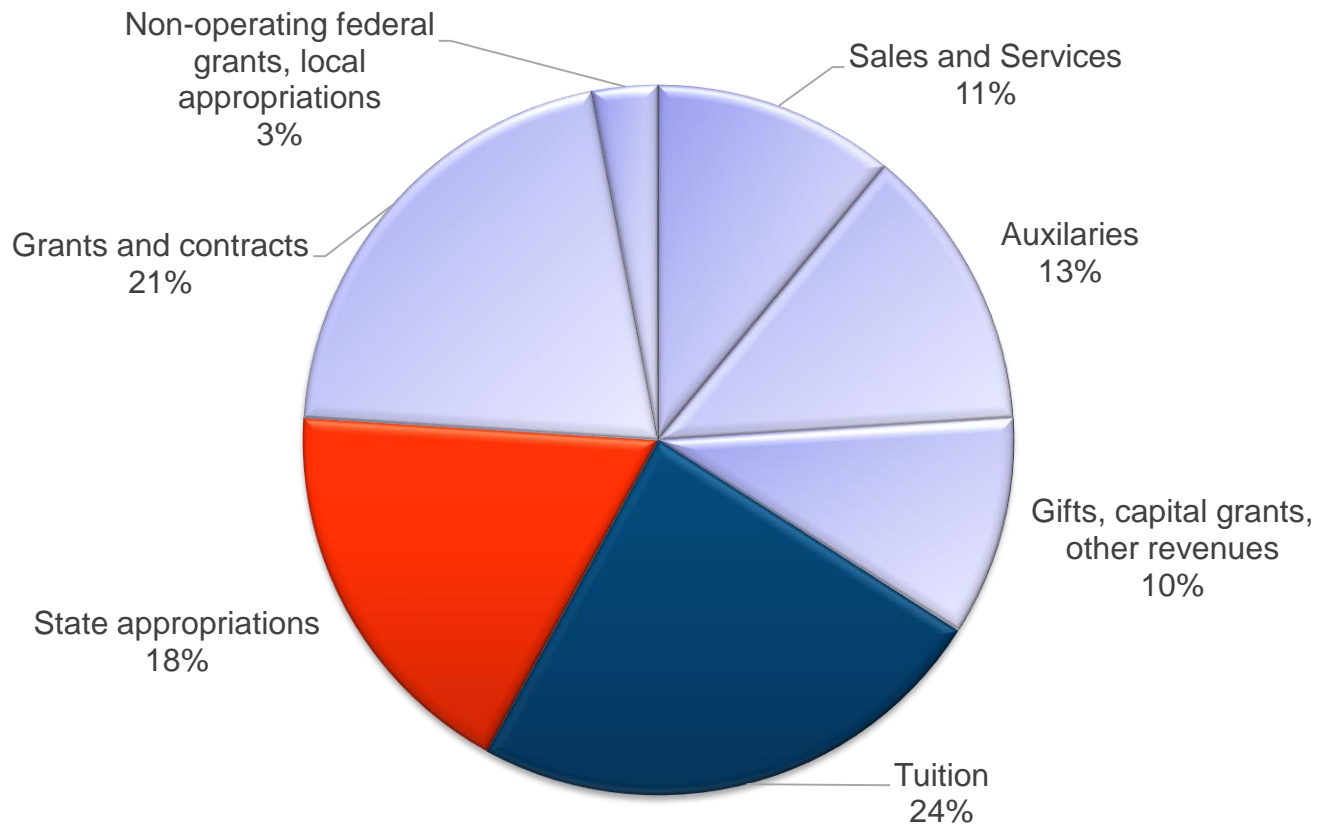
- In other words, federal funds do nothing to address historic financial challenges this spring

**Additional federal funding is on the way**

- Funds will still be restricted to COVID losses, not general operations

# The importance of stable state funding

- State funding (18%) is now below tuition (24%) as a revenue source



# The importance of stable state funding

- State funding is now below 2008 levels
- Governor has proposed the largest single-year cut in history
- This year, our ask of the Legislature is flat funding

