Steps taken to boost timely graduations

Recommendations enacted to improve percentage of students who finish in four years

T o help boost the number of students who graduate in four years, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor David Shulenburger has implemented some of the recommendations made by a task force that studied the issue.

A graduate in four task force, commissioned by the provost last spring, examined KU’s data regarding graduation rates and school policies to better understand the problem.

The group’s report, issued in September, found that KU’s four-year graduation rate of 29 percent ranks the university fifth out of 31 public Big 12 schools and 31 out of the 34 AAU universities.

In response, the provost has directed three initial steps:

• All students who enroll, starting last summer, will be advised to take at least 15 credit hours.
• The provost reported the average number of credit hours passed by freshmen in 2004 was 12.4, and the average overall course load of 13.4 falls below the 15 to 16 hours required to graduate from a four-year pro-

gram in four years.

• Students admitted for the fall 2006 semester and thereafter who need to take remedial math classes before taking higher level math courses are “strongly advised to take the remedial course before they begin study at KU,” Shulenburger said.

The classes are available at community

Studied the issue.

Shulenburger has implemented some of the

Making up every door,” he said of the

The building was converted from a

Educational building.

Education Commissioner Bob

and guests, including new Kansas

School of Education, led the board

Oct. 10 through 12.

The tour and sessions were part of

the board’s three-day visit to

Lawrence.

The agreement is already paying dividends for both.

Barbara Romzek, interim dean of

the College of Liberal Arts and

Sciences; and Paul D’Ameri, asso-

ciate dean of CIAS and liaison to

the fort, say KU has learned

valuable lessons from the per-

sonnel at Fort Leavenworth that

can be passed on to faculty and stu-

dents, and in turn have helped con-

tribute an academic point of view

and resources to the fort.

Last year, Col. Kevin Benson,

one of the architects of the Iraq

invasion, gave a lecture at the

Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics. He discussed how the plans were

made, what challenges were encountered and what mistakes

were made.

“We could have spent hours and

hours and thousands of dollars in

speaker’s fees to get someone like

this to come to KU,” D’Ameri said.

“And he was right there. All we

had to do was ask.”

The joint executive steering

committee will hold its first meet-

ing in December to decide which
direction the relationship will take

in the future. The committee con-

sists of David Shulenburger,

provost and executive vice chan-

cellor; Romzek; and Jim Roberts,

KU Center for Research president,

all from KU; and Brig. Gen. Volney

J. Warner, deputy commandant of

the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College; Brig. Gen.

John Woods, deputy commanding

Chief of Staff to the Commanding

General.

“I have some little success

stories that will make you cry.”

Neal said of the success of the pro-

gram.

After the tour, board members

heard a presentation from John

Poggio, professor of education on

“What’s new for the 2006 Kansas

Assessments.” One of the biggest

changes is that this year assess-

ment tests in math and reading will

be given to grades three through

eight. In high schools, reading

assessments will be given in 10th

grade, while math assessments

will be given to those in 11th. Next

year, science will be tested.

See EDUCATION, Page 2
Poggio also addressed test formats. Kansas Compete! Performance Assessments (KCPA), performance categories and how scores are reported and what is new in each individual area this year.

Technology and its effects on assessments were also discussed. Poggio told the board about work that has begun on computer-adaptive tests, which can individualize assessment tests, so that not every student is taking the same, standardized test.

“We’ve gotten some grant funding from beyond the state to build computer-based adaptive tests,” he said. “In the end, this has a reach much farther than Kansas.”

Ed Meyen, professor of special education, followed Poggio and expanded on technology and the role it is playing in the changing educational landscape.

To learn more about KU and Fort Leavenworth’s partnership, contact Associate Dean Paul D’Anieri at the dean’s office of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at dancer@ku.edu.

Staff College. Benson is exemplifying that goal as a doctoral student in the Department of History.

The relationship has spread beyond the academic fields one might associate with the Army. D’Anieri said the schools of journalism and engineering, and the departments of religion, psychology, theater and film and many others have been involved.

“It covers things across the board,” D’Anieri said. “Some of it’s in culture, some of it’s in anthropology, or a number of other areas.”

The partnership has also helped build acquaintances between the two organizations that go beyond individuals who know each other.

“They are trying to get past individual connections to establish enduring institutional linkages,” Romzek said. “That, for the faculty members, is a great insight.”

One of the long-term goals of the partnership is to link the educational exchange to faculty of the fort’s Command and General Staff College.

Technology is available to help teachers develop lesson plans based on assessments, and students can benefit by receiving feedback on assessment problems they missed and how to learn the material more effectively.

The board heard from Jerry Bailey, associate professor of education, before a presentation titled “Preparing Educators as Leaders: SOW Programs and Future Directions” from Fred Rodriguez, associate dean of education administration, Jim Lichliter, professor of psychology and research in education; Chris Walther, chair of cultural studies; Karen Multon, chair of pre- psychology and research in education; and Bob Frederick, assistant professor, health, sport and exercise sciences.

A tour of a bus campus, the board attended a reception and tour at the Dole Institute of Politics. Poggio said he received positive feedback from the board about KU’s role in education.

“They seemed very enthusiastic about what is going on at KU,” he said.

News in brief

Molefi K. Asante to present ‘African-American History’


The presentation will be at 7 p.m. Nov. 15 in the Hock Auditorium Complex.

Class faculty members’ applications for promotion, tenure due Nov. 1

Faculty members of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences seeking promotion or tenure must submit applications, endorsed by their department, to the dean’s office, 200 Strong Hall, by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, in order to be considered by the College Committee on Appointments, Promotion and Tenure.

Eccumenical Christian Ministries receives national attention

Eccumenical Christian Ministries, located on Oread Ave., was chosen by the National Campus Ministry Association as the 2005 Outstanding Campus Ministry of the south central region. This is ECM’s 100th year.

The honor comes in ECM’s centennial year.

The University of Kansas

Four-year graduates online

The online college results Web site is located at www.college results.ugprk.edu.htm. To see the full graduate in four years section, including findings, recommendations and comparisons of graduation rates among all the 108 public institutions in Kansas, go to www.ku.edu/~pking/Grasp/DIG_results.finalreport.892005.pdf.

The report’s summary: “Timely graduation is a key component of student success. Students develop and perform better under conditions that both challenge and support their endeavors. By not encouraging timely graduation through appropriate advising and institutional policies and practices, KU does a disservice to students,” the report states.

Failure to graduate in a timely manner is costly to students, parents, KU and the state; as educational expectations are increased for the family, and the school’s accademic reputation, the recruitment of faculty and high ability students—especially those from out of state—suffer, the report says.

Face to face interaction is more important than online learning, Stuhr said. In fact, they have been on the upswing. Four-year graduation rates for the 1999 freshman class, 20.3 percent, and the 2000 freshman class, 31 percent, are higher than the average rate, 25.8 percent, of the last 20 years.

The graduate in four report has been distributed to all faculty, and they have been asked to review it and make additional suggestions on how to accomplish the goal. The task force was chaired by Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett, senior vice provost. Other members were Stuart Bell, dean, School of Engineering; Jan Brill, dean, school of journalism; M. Sneh, vice provost, student success; Barbara Romzek, interim dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Del Tetter, university director, institutional research and planning; Kim Wilcox, former dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and Christine Keller, assistant director, institutional research and planning.
Explore Evolution, a new multimedia exhibition, will open Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center on Nov. 1. The free exhibition, which will be on display for about two years, helps visitors understand and experience how science can conduct research on evolution.

Current scientific research and major discoveries by international- ly recognized scientists are featured. Seven areas explore and illustrate evolutionary principles and show how knowledge of evolution is fundamental to knowledge in science and medicine.

Leonard Keisakusa, director of the museum and research center, said the KU museum is extremely pleased to be one of six museums showcasing the exhibit.

"Biological evolution unifies our understanding of life on Earth, its dramatic history over more than 3 billion years, its fantastic diversity across continents and oceans and its unity from DNA to the ecological systems that sustain the life of the planet," Keisakusa said.

Matthew Dowd, chief strategist to George W. Bush-Cheney 2004, will present an insightful and provocative account of how Bush won last year, as well as handle questions about identical field he spoke Nov. 1 at the Dole Institute of Politics.

Before the 2004 presidential campaign, Dowd was senior advisor to the Republican National Committee and director of polling and research on the 2000 Bush for President campaign. In 2000, he managed all public-opinion efforts and spearheaded the strategic targeting and execution of the campaign’s almost $150 million advertising budget.

Two well-connected Kansans — the movie industry’s top advocate in Washington and an Emmy-award-winning executive producer and writer of TV’s “The West Wing” — will highlight Dole’s 40 years at KU

Walter M. Wilcox Collection of political literature to celebrate 40 years at KU

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The role of science as an engine for economic growth will be the focus of the annual Kansas Economic Policy Conference on Thursday, Oct. 27 at KU.

The event, presented by KU’s Policy Research Institute, will feature former Gov. Mike Hayden, secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and state Rep. Kenny Wilk, R-Lawrence, who was named the 2005 State Legislator of the Year by the Biotechnology and Industry Organization in Washington, D.C.

Other speakers include Gov. Kathleen Sebelius’ policy adviser for science and energy, the president of Kansas Technology Enterprises Inc. and Deciphera Pharmaceuticals as well as economists and researchers.

For full details call (785) 864-5823 or visit kuace.org/agenda/}

News in brief

KU’s Environmental Stewardship Program, in coordination with the KU Sustainability Task Force, announces “Building A Sustainable KU,” a Webcast and discussion of sustainability for the campus community. The brown-bag lunch brings together faculty, staff and students to build awareness of sustainable practices and how they are applied at KU.

The Webcast will feature initiatives and successes regarding sustai

ability in higher education as presented at five major national conferences in the past year. Following the Webcast, the KU Sustainability Task Force will provide an update on progress at the Lawrence campus and facilitate a discussion on building a sustainable future for KU. The event will be from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, in the Kansas Room of the Kansas Union.

“Sustainability is relevant to every student in this community, not just those interested in the environ-

ment,” says Jeff Severin, Environmental Stewardship Program manager. “It relates to quality of life, encompassing economics, social equity and ecology.”

For more information about this event, contact Severin at (785) 864-4703 or visit www.ku.edu/~recycle/.

Science to take center stage at post-conference...
The University of Kansas

NEW MED CENTER FACULTY

David F. Albertini, Hall Family professor of medicine, comes to KU from the Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, Mass. He earned his doctorate in physiology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Albertini has been an assistant professor of physiology at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, where he studied the role of the Hippo signaling pathway in liver development.

Joyce A. Brecher, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, earned her doctorate in psychology from the University of Florida. Her research focuses on the role of stress in the development and progression of schizophrenia.

Daniel C. Buckles received his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco. He completed his residency in psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco, and his fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco.

Daniel J. Hurwitz joins KU as an assistant professor of internal medicine. He has a special interest in medical education and the use of clinical reasoning to improve patient care.

Rajib K. Bhattacharya specializes in endocrinology. He joined KU as an assistant professor of internal medicine. His areas of interest include diabetes, osteoporosis, thyroid disorders, pituitary disease and general endocrinology. His research interests include osteoporosis and bone loss after breast cancer chemotherapy. Bhattacharya completed medical school at the University of Calcutta in India and a residency in internal medicine at the University of California, San Francisco.

Laura F. Carver, director of the Department of Psychiatry, received her doctorate from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. Her research interests focus on the role of stress in the development and progression of schizophrenia.

Maura Wendland joins the Behavioral Pediatrics and Developmental Disabilities Center at KU. Her clinical responsibilities within the behavioral pediatrics department involve caring for hospitalized children and families with chronic or life-limiting illness or trauma-related events. She is currently involved in a new clinical program that provides a range of services, including medical, psycho-educational counseling, support to families, and assistance with community resources.

John A. Grant, chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, received his degree in neurosurgery from the University of California, San Francisco. He completed his residency in neurosurgery at the University of California, San Francisco, and his fellowship in pediatric neurosurgery at the University of California, San Francisco.

Bruno Magenbach, professor of toxicology and therapeutics, received his doctorate from the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland, for his studies on renal and intestinal transporters. He did his postdoctoral training at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of the intestinal and renal transporters of the OATP superfamily.

Roy A. Jensen, professor of pathology, laboratory medicine and medical genetics, graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. His current research, funded by the National Institutes of Health, focuses on the function of specific proteins mediating the response of certain suppressor genes and is responsible for inhibiting the growth of pre-malignant and malignant tumors in breast disease. He is also a professor of molecular biosciences on the Lawrence campus.

Peta C. Geiger joined KU as an assistant professor in the Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology. Geiger's research focuses on the adaptation of skeletal muscle to exercise and aging and the therapeutic potential of exercise and reverse type 2 diabetes. Geiger earned his bachelor's degrees in chemistry and English literature from KU. She earned her doctorate in physiology from the Mayo Graduate School at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., in 2001. She was also a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow at the University of Florence in Florence, Italy.

Yahia Choubine graduated from the University of Oran, Algeria, and earned his doctorate in molecular and cellular biology from the University of Lyon, France. His research for the past 15 years has been focused on studies of mechanisms of replication and recombination of human retroviruses and their implications for human disease.

Stewart F. Babbott, director of the division of general and genitourinary medicine, received his bachelor's degree in biochemical sciences from the University of California, Berkeley, and his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco. He completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, and his fellowship in nephrology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Peter S. N. Rowe, professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and the Kidney Institute, obtained his biochemistry doctorate from University College, London. Rowe is an internationally known researcher in the study of the molecular genetics of phosphate disorders and bone-kidney homeostasis in disease and health.

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Kirsten E. Evans specializes in general surgery. She is the associate professor of surgery at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. She received her medical degree at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Neb. She completed her residency in surgery at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Mo. and then completed a fellowship in general surgery at the University of California, San Francisco.

Danielle R. Stebbins specializes in internal medicine. Her areas of interest include pulmonary and critical care medicine. Stebbins completed medical school at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. She also completed an internship in internal medicine at Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Ashley R. Simmons specializes in internal medicine. She joined KU as an assistant professor of internal medicine. Simmons completed medical school at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine, Minneapolis. She also completed an internship in internal medicine at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. Simmons completed a fellowship in infectious diseases at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Kirsten E. Evans specializes in internal medicine. She joined KU as a clinical assistant professor in pediatrics. Her areas of interest include ambulatory medicine, adolescent medicine and the history of medicine. Evans completed medical school at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. She also completed her residency in pediatrics at The University of Kansas Hospital.

Franklin R. Quijano specializes in pulmonary and critical care medicine. He joined KU as an assistant professor of internal medicine. His areas of interest include cystic fibrosis, interventional bronchoscopy, sarcoid and ARDS. Quijano completed medical school at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He also completed an internship and residency in internal medicine and pediatrics and a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine at the KU Hospital.

Susan C. Sharp specializes in nephrology. He is a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics. His areas of interest include glomerulonephritis, diabetic nephropathy, acute renal failure and disorders of mineral metabolism. Wetmore completed medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas. He completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Wetmore also completed a residency in nephrology at the University of California at San Francisco.

Heather S. Anderson specializes in general neurology. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Neurology. Her areas of interest are multiple sclerosis, dementia and Alzheimer’s disease research. Anderson completed medical school at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. She completed an internship in internal medicine at the KU School of Medicine, Wichita, Kan. She also completed a residency in neurology and a fellowship in neurology at the KU Hospital.

Hinrich Staebler specializes in otorhinolaryngology and skull base surgery. He held the position of an associate professor in the Department of Otorhinolaryngology. His areas of interest include acoustic neuroma, cochlear implantation, disorders of the facial nerve and treatment of balance disorders. Staebler completed medical school at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, N.Y. He also completed an internship in surgery and a residency in otorhinolaryngology at Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, N.Y.

Kevin R. McDonald specializes in urology. He is an assistant professor of urology at The University of Kansas School of Medicine. McDonald completed medical school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He also completed a residency in general surgery at St. Luke’s Hospital, Kansas City, Mo., and another residency in urology at the KU Hospital.

Charles L. Hendrix specializes in plastic and reconstructive surgery. He joined KU as an associate professor of surgery. His areas of interest include cosmetic surgery of the face and body, breast reconstruction, hand trauma and reconstruction, skin cancer and burn reconstruction. Hendrix completed medical school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Lubbock, Texas. Hendrix completed an additional residency in plastic surgery at the KU Hospital.

Jennifer Weber, assistant professor of surgery, has been named Honorary Member of the Kansas Academic Advising Networking annual conference held at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

Jan Hudzicki, professor of history, has been named Honorary Member of the Kansas Academic Advising Networking annual conference held at Kansas State University in Manhattan. His paper was published later in The Russo-Japanese War in Global Perspective.

The following faculty members were not included in the Sept. 13 issue.

Terry L. Koenig, received an assistant professorship at the KU School of Social Welfare. Her areas of research and scholarly engagement include aging and ethical decision making. Koenig is conducting research in Buffalo, N.Y., on the decisions and transitions of older adults as they move to assisted living. She is teaching Human Behavior in the Social Environment in the BSW program.

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Mortar Board names outstanding educators

Five KU faculty members were named 2005 Outstanding Educators by KU's Torch chapter of Mortar Board national senior honor society.

Winners this year are Ann Cudd, professor of philosophy and director of women's studies; Maryamma Graham, professor of English; Marii Kesler, assistant professor of art history; Mary Westfal-Naiditch, associate professor of sociology; and Mark Nesbitt-Daly, associate director of the University Honors Program.

Mortar Board will honor this year's outstanding educators in ceremonies on Sunday, Nov. 6, and Friday, Nov. 18, at KU.
Jaye Ann Higginbotham
Jaye Ann Higginbotham, 50, died Oct. 2. She worked at the KU Medical Center as a physical therapy assistant for 10 years. Survivors include her partner, Ann; her father, two brothers; and two sisters.

The family suggests memorials to the Jane Higginbotham Memorial Fund for the Physical Therapy Department at the KU Medical Center, sent to Lawrence Funeral Home.

Yvonne B. Willingham
Yvonne B. Willingham, 70, died July 26. She was the associate director of the University Press of Kansas for 21 years from 1984 until her retirement in 1995. Survivors include John, her husband; a son; a daughter; and six grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to the Lawrence Unitarian Fellowship.

Shelby A. Miller
Shelby A. Miller, 50, died Sept. 26. He was a professor of chemical engineering from post-World War II until 1954. Survivors include a son; a daughter-in-law; and two grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Lakeshore Opera and WFMT-FM radio station.

Notice
The University of Kansas is an equal opportunity, affirmative-action employer. The University reserves the right to make employment offers contingent upon the completion of a background check and a criminal history. Federal and state legislation prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability and veteran status. In addition, university policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, marital status and parent status. For more information about KU’s equal-opportunity and affirmative-action programs contact the Department of Human Resources and Equal Opportunity, 101 Carruthers, 1-432-8640.

Exhibits
Art and Design Gallery
302 Arts and Design Building 1:40 p.m. Sun., 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon. - Wed.

Calendar
Translation of the Three Poems
Exhibit at the Spencer Museum of Art
October 24, 2005 • 8:45 AM • Page 7

In Memory
KU People

Franseen named head of research section

Evan Franseen, a specialist in geologic stratigraphy and sedimentology, has been named acting head of the Strigraphic Research Section at the Kansas Geological Survey, based at KU.

As acting section chief, Franseen is responsible for the Survey’s program that explores the history of the state’s rock layers at and below the earth’s surface. He also oversees the county geologic mapping program.

Strigraphic Research Section geologists explore the age, composition, distribution of fossils and geophysical and geochemical properties of rock layers. Their findings can be used to enhance the study of the state’s natural resources, including water, oil and gas, coal and industrial minerals.

Currently a senior scientist, Franseen joined the Survey in 1989. He has a doctorate in geology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Gina Williams leaving chancellor’s office

Gina Williams has been named head of the Strigraphic Research Section at the Kansas Geological Survey, based at KU.

Williams, senior administrative specialist, is leaving the chancellor’s office on Nov. 18. Williams said she will start a consulting business and spend more time with her two daughters.

Awards

Campus Q&A

September employee honors given

Cade Cruickshank

Unclassified employee of the month

Started at KU: Cade Cruickshank has been with the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications since 1996.

Current title: Engineering Analyst

What that means: He takes care of the school’s technical needs in the areas of computing, networking and broadcasting, serving 40 faculty members and administrators and 400 students.

Notable: He has figured out ways to keep television station KUJTV running without many of the major expenses that most broadcast stations incur. If the signal goes out, Cade knows how to get it back. He is always on call and frequently travels from his home in Tonganoxie to take care of broadcasting issues outside of regular hours. He’s known as the school’s go-to person whenever a technology problem needs to be resolved, is the first to volunteer to help with after-hour events and attends seminars to stay up to date with the latest technology.

Recent feat: When the school received a tuition enhancement technology allocation, Cade provided the technology committee with advice on what items needed to be purchased. He set up the entire network for the school’s new multimedia newsroom in Dole.

Carlotta Liska

University support staff

Started at KU: Carlotta Liska began her KU career in 1989 as a housekeeper.

Current title: Senior administrative assistant in Facilities Operations

What that means: You have ever called FOD to report a dripping faucet, an icy patch on the sidewalk, a broken lock or the smallest problems, you have probably spoken with her.

Notable: Carlotta takes all calls about problems in the Facilities Operations area - an estimated 50 calls per day. She dispatches work requests and answers calls using a two-way radio. She processes all the necessary paperwork dealing with jobsites, personnel, scheduled maintenance and work orders, handling approximately 5,000 work orders each year.

Recent feat: Carlotta has helped to design new work order software that is going to be implemented soon. She has been pulling extra weight in the department so that colleagues can attend meetings about the new software and has volunteered to work extra hours with the project. With her supervisor, Butch Larios, she will train all FOD units to use the new software.

KU lands two continuing education awards

The University Continuing Education Association, Great Plains Region, presented two awards to KU at the association’s recent conference in Chicago. Sally Roberts, associate professor of special education, received an Excellence in Teaching Award and “Saturday Morning at KU Med,” a series developed by Alan Warne, associate director for program development at KU Medical Center Continuing Education, received a Non-Credit Program Award.

For more information about “Saturday Morning at KU Med,” visit http://kuce.org/kumc.

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