At the start of the twentieth century, higher education was becoming more affordable for those in the rising middle class. Subsequently, reputable universities saw increases in enrollment. Kansas State University, a relatively affordable school during the time, had always had high enrollment numbers, but it wasn’t until 1910 that K-State had an incoming class of over 2,000 students. In 1910 K-State had 2,410 incoming students, and that number steadily increased over the next decade. Generally, the number of men, women, and international students increased between 1910 and 1919, though the rates rose and fell frequently during that time. For example, women’s attendance dropped significantly after 1916, likely due to the outbreak of malaria in the United States, a particular strain that affected only women. Similarly, the number of men in attendance fluctuated, though with much more frequently. This variation was likely due to the wartime drafts and the Jazz Age.

While K-State’s population increased between the years of 1910 and 1919, tuition and room-and-board fluctuated very little. Each year in-state (resident) students were charged $3.50, and out-of-state (non-resident) students were charged $20.50. As for room-and-board, the rate for table board in a private home or boarding house ranged from $3.25 - $4.50/week in the year 1910 and between 1915 and 1919. The rate dropped slightly to $3.00-$4.00/week between 1911 and 1914. Room costs, while less expensive than table board costs, fluctuated in a similar pattern. In 1910 and between 1915 and 1919 room costs ranged from $5.00-$10.00/month, but rather than decreasing between 1911 and 1914, room costs increased to $6.00-$10.00/month. Scientists and Sociologists have puzzled over this anomaly for years, though no two can decide on why room-and-board rates fluctuated inversely between 1911 and 1916.

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Writing for the web exercise 2014