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LAWRENCE -- Final plans for the new \$5.8 million Humanities building at the University of Kansas will quiet the debate over whether it will be the tallest building in the state. This question arose when a concept announced earlier indicated that the tower portion of the building would be 25 stories.

The project as it will be offered to bidders now has 15 stories in the tower portion, Keith Lawton, vice chancellor for operations at the University of Kansas, announced today.

At the time of the earlier announcement, associate architect Arthur Woodman of Woodman and Van Doren of Wichita had included in the building more parking space and areas for expansion than had been programmed and submitted to him by the University.

As the plans approached completion, however, state and university officials questioned whether the additional space was realistic within the limits of the funds available.

"The final cost estimate by the architect has confirmed this viewpoint," Lawton said, "and his plans consequently return to the University's original program. An increase in construction costs in the past few months also has reduced the space that could be enclosed for the money."

Some of the facilities originally planned for the 25-story tower and the two five-story classroom wings have been redesigned for greater efficiency, and some of the faculty offices planned for the office tower now will be located in one of the two wings.

The glassed-in student concourses which will provide access between the classroom wings and the first five stories of the office tower now have been designed to do double duty such that they will be effective student study areas as

well as trafficways. Space in the two classroom wings that was dedicated in original plans to these relocated student study areas have been reassigned for faculty offices once planned for the tower.

"Even though the tower portion of the project will be reduced by ten stories," Lawton said, "because of rearrangement within the structure, the loss of space will be minimal."

The following reductions have been made: offices, from 487 to 436; classrooms, from 51 to 44; seminar rooms, from 28 to 27. In the final plans, 44 percent of the Humanities Building space will be in the tower portion, 56 percent in the two classroom wings and the concourses. The classrooms will increase the number of classrooms on the entire campus by one-third.

Seven of the original classrooms have been redesigned for offices. In the tower, a redesign of the floor plans will provide a large open office for teaching assistants in the center of each floor, surrounded by private offices for full-time faculty, thus turning into usable space area which had been dedicated to hallways and partitions.

Some indoor parking for a sub-basement level still will be available for approximately 35 cars, and parking for 15 cars will be available immediately adjacent to the building.

Sixteenth and seventeenth floors will be included in plans as alternates when the building goes out for bids.