

University sets budget 'town halls'

Forsee says state cuts could worsen.

By Janese Heavin Monday, November 9, 2009

University of Missouri System President Gary Forsee is calling on faculty and staff to work with administrators to navigate the rough budget waters expected to plague the system over the next several years.

He sent a mass e-mail last week to faculty, staff and administrators at all four campuses, warning that the university is facing budget challenges that are of "a once-in-a-generation magnitude." And, he wrote, cuts in state funding could get worse as revenues continue to tumble. Permanent "adjustments" to state support of 5 percent to 10 percent "would not be surprising," he said.

Forsee's letter invited employees to participate in one of four town hall meetings over the next 30 days. The letter did not include dates or times.

UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said the date and time of the meeting on the MU campus have not been set. At UM-St. Louis, a meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in the Century Rooms at Millennium Student Center, and on the Kansas City campus, the meeting will start at 10:15 a.m. Nov. 19 in the Administrative Center. The town hall at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla will be Nov. 30, but the time and location have not been finalized.

Asking employees to "plan to attend a Town Hall," Forsee said shared governance and open communication are keys to moving forward. "I want to be sure we have ample opportunity to engage in a discussion about balancing how we plan to deal with ongoing financial challenges with the important actions we need to focus on to ensure our continued strength for the next decade," he wrote.

Forsee also invited faculty and staff to e-mail any suggestions they might have before the meetings.

The letter comes after months of gloomy financial forecasts for the university. During the October Board of Curators meeting, Forsee warned that federal stabilization money protecting the university from further state cuts eventually will run out. "Our planning view should be that as we go into 2011 and project forward in 2012, we could have as much as a 10 percent challenge to our operating budget," Forsee told the board.

He also outlined initiatives to find new revenue sources and called for regional forums to “engage our campuses, our communities, the state, investors, those who could bring money to the equation to examine ... what else we could be doing.”

An increase in tuition next year could offset state cuts. During a meeting with MU faculty last month, campus Budget Director Tim Rooney said MU would need to increase tuition by at least the consumer price index — which could be as high as 3 percent — next year if state funding falls short of expectations.

Year-to-date state revenues have declined 10.8 percent this year compared to last year, the state announced last week.

State consultant Jim Moody last month warned curators that legislators and residents don’t realize how bad the funding crisis is and predicted Gov. Jay Nixon would have to slash some \$300 million from the budget this fiscal year.

Nixon recently cut \$204 million from this year’s budget, which included more than \$7.5 million from university-related allocations.

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

MU students honor area teachers

By Valerie Schremp Hahn

We just got this from Mizzou — a notice about area teachers honored there by MU Honors College students who nominated them. Cool idea! Congratulations to these teachers.

The University of Missouri recognized the outstanding teaching abilities of 32 Missouri high school teachers, including 15 from St. Louis, at the 2009 MU Honors College Annual Recognition Banquet. Each year, students in the MU Honors College nominate high school teachers to attend the banquet. The following is a list of the honored teachers from the St. Louis area:

Ed Donnelly, Lindbergh High School
Fred Ermentrout, Timberland High School
Tim Gannon, Parkway Central High School
Patrick Keenoy, Washington Middle School
Kevin Knickman, Cor Jesu Academy
Joseph Koester, Ft. Zumalt South High School
Tim Luecke, McCluer High School
Rick Mace, University City High School
Kevin O'Brien, Cardinal Ritter College Prep
Gayle Piepho, Rockwood Summit High School
Susie Pike, Westminster Christian Academy
Suzanne Rainey, Rockwood Summit High School
Anthony Thomas, University City High School
Brandon Williams, Ladue Horton Watkins High School
Jeanne Wilson, St. Joseph's Academy

The 2009 first-year MU honors students were encouraged to complete nomination forms that described their former teachers' contributions to their academic careers. At the event, students spoke about their memories and presented the teachers with certificates of recognition.

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Higher education has taken a back seat for too many years

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2008

Higher education has taken a back seat for too many years

The editorial "Kick open doors" (Nov. 4) raised outstanding points regarding higher education. Clearly, the percentage of adults in the St. Louis area — and in the state of Missouri — that holds a college degree must increase for the good of our region and state. For this to happen, there are many things that must be addressed.

Certainly, as the editorial recommended, we need to vastly improve need-based financial aid. **For 2008, the University of Missouri System provided \$651 million in financial aid to more than 51,000 students. More funds are needed. The university is exploring every avenue to increase the number and amount of scholarships.**

Missouri ranks 45th in per-capita state funding for higher education. The University of Missouri System now receives less state funding than it did in 2001, even though enrollment at the University of Missouri's four campuses has grown by more than 6,400 students (or roughly the equivalent of another campus equal to the size of the Missouri University of Science and Technology). Enrollment is expected to increase again for the 2010-11 school year. Faculty salaries have not increased in years, and many of the university's buildings are in desperate need of repair, maintenance and renovation.

Without question, as stated in the editorial, "Missouri's economic future depends on getting more students into college and making sure they finish."

Higher education in Missouri has taken a back seat for too many years. There is much work to do and it must be done quickly.

W. Dudley McCarter — St. Louis

Co-Chair, University of Missouri 100



College football coaches see salaries rise in down economy

No MU mention

By Steve Wieberg, Jodi Upton, A.J. Perez and Steve Berkowitz, USA TODAY

BERKELEY, Calif. — Jeff Tedford is a proven, program-building football coach who makes no apologies for the contract extension he landed before this season — and the \$2.8 million in pay he's guaranteed this year — from the University of California.

He's on board, too, with more than \$430 million in planned improvements to Cal's venerable Memorial Stadium. They'll make the 86-year-old bowl more earthquake-resistant, and the upgrades should catch the eyes of football recruits. "So yeah," Tedford says, speaking over the clatter of construction outside his office, "it's a big deal."

But here and elsewhere across the landscape of big-time, big-budgeted college athletics, these are sensitive times.

Higher education is in crisis, staggered by a depressed economy that has shrunk state appropriations, endowments and overall institutional budgets. The Berkeley campus has taken a near \$150 million cut in state funding and is laying off faculty and staff, imposing furloughs, cutting back new enrollment and paring course offerings while hiking students' tuition.

Most sports programs, though, spend on. Starting with football coaches' salaries.

USA TODAY's latest study of compensation reveals that Tedford is one of at least 25 college head football coaches making \$2 million or more this season, slightly more than double the number two years ago. The average pay for a head coach in the NCAA's top-level, 120-school Football Bowl Subdivision is up 28% in that time and up 46% in three years, to \$1.36 million.

Furthermore, USA TODAY's first comprehensive look at the salaries of assistant coaches finds many approaching and even exceeding presidents' compensation and most eclipsing that of full professors. At the top: The \$1.2 million Tennessee is paying defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin, an NFL veteran who returned to college football to work for his son, head coach Lane Kiffin.

At least 66 football assistants, including more than two dozen in the Southeastern Conference, make \$300,000 or more, and USA TODAY found that perks once reserved for head coaches are commonplace: multiyear and rollover deals, supplemental income from TV and radio, performance bonuses, retention bonuses, cars, complimentary tickets and country club memberships.

Tennessee's nine assistants earn an average of more than \$369,000; Texas' better than \$327,000.

By comparison, the American Association of University professors put last year's average salary for full professors at public doctoral universities at \$115,509. Two years ago, the most recent period covered by *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* annual survey of presidents' compensation, median pay and benefits for CEOs at public research institutions was \$427,400. Nearly one in 10 pulled down less than \$300,000.

As the coaches' numbers soar, so do concerns among the presidents. USA TODAY's findings come a little more than two weeks after the release of a survey of bowl-subdivision university presidents by the watchdog Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics in which 85% of the respondents said they felt football and basketball coaches' compensation "was excessive."

With schools making greater use of privately raised money to pay coaches, the presidents were pessimistic in the survey about their ability to slow the spiral. They saw coaches' salaries as "a key contributor to the (fiscal) 'arms race' in intercollegiate athletics" and "the greatest impediment to sustainability," the Knight Commission noted.

Big-ticket capital projects aren't drying up, either. Auburn is in the middle of building an \$85 million basketball arena, and UCLA, another UC system flagship, is putting \$185 million into the renovation of 44-year-old Pauley Pavilion. Arizona recently unveiled a plan to spend \$378 million on facilities upgrades in every major sport in the next 20 years or so, starting with a new complex in the north end zone of Arizona Stadium that would house offices and locker rooms and incorporate 5,000 premium seats.

The spending "doesn't surprise me. It shocks me," says Hodding Carter, a former assistant Secretary of State for public affairs under Jimmy Carter who's now on the faculty at North Carolina and a member of the Knight Commission.

He points to the economy's ravages on education. "Here was a God-given opportunity in the forum of a true disaster," he says, "to step up to the issue and finally say, 'Look, I don't care where the money is coming from. It is unseemly for one institution on (a) campus to be acting as though these were happy days forever while everybody else is getting it in the chops.'

"It's just too bad. It calls into question the commitment of much of the institutional leadership in higher education."

Arizona's board of regents has launched a review of all of the system's intercollegiate athletics programs and whether the students, schools and the state see enough benefit to justify current levels of spending. Former U.S. senator Dennis DeConcini, who is on the board's capital committee, will lead the effort.

"I don't have an agenda," DeConcini says. He cast the lone dissenting vote on a raise that boosted football coach Mike Stoops' guaranteed pay to almost \$1.3 million this season, though he says he has fewer problems with the flagship university's ambitious building plans.

"Reading it, much of it is justified," he says of the proposal. "On the other hand, it's a terrible time to be announcing \$400 million in expenditures ... in the middle of a recession and raising tuition and furloughs and everything else."

At least 34 states, including Arizona, have cut assistance to public colleges and universities since the recession began, according to the non-profit, Washington, D.C.-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

The center also tracks the schools' cost-cutting responses. Arizona State has eliminated 550 staff positions through attrition and layoffs and more than 200 faculty associate positions, imposed employee furloughs ranging from 10 to 15 days, closed about four dozen academic programs, merged others and limited enrollment in its nursing school. Florida will lay off more than 50 staff and faculty and eliminate 150 positions. The California State University system, whose 23 campuses include Fresno State and San Diego State, is cutting enrollment by 10,000 students.

Some athletics trimmed

Despite the higher salaries, athletics overall has not escaped the paring knife.

The Texas-based Division I-A Athletic Directors Association says a third of the schools responding to a survey this year had cut athletics staff in the last five years and about one in six had chopped at least one sport. This year, at least 15 schools have said they would eliminate a total of 32 teams.

In football and other sports, teams are being told to take fewer players on the road. Leagues are rethinking schedules and travel, downsizing postseason tournament fields and questioning the number of videographers and other once-unheard-of specialists who populate schools' athletic programs. Staff overgrowth is increasingly cited as a fiscal issue.

Salaries, however, take the single biggest bite out of athletics operating budgets in the top-tier Bowl Subdivision — a median 33.3%, according to the NCAA's most recent analysis (spending on new or improved facilities and other capital projects is accounted for separately). Coaches' compensation accounts for more than half that, and little whittling is going on there.

The argument is the same from Florida to Ohio State to Texas: that money paid to good coaches is a good investment, and that their success equates to higher ticket sales and more marketing and sponsorship opportunities and that football's profits keep smaller sports afloat.

At California, athletics director Sandy Barbour points to a football renaissance in Tedford's eight seasons with the Golden Bears. A program that won a single game the season before he arrived is positioned for its seventh consecutive trip to a bowl. Crowds at Memorial Stadium have doubled to an average of almost 61,000. Players are graduating.

"If we let him go because we're not willing to pay market, we'll pay a huge price," Barbour says, "because I don't know that we can go out and find another coach with that combination of skills and (academic) emphasis."

The ceiling goes much higher. Southern California's Pete Carroll and Florida's Urban Meyer, whose teams have won or shared four of football's last six national championships, are among a trio earning \$4 million or more, USA TODAY's study shows.

Carroll was at close to \$4.4 million in 2007, the most recent year for which the private school's tax reportings are available. Meyer, whose No. 1-ranked Gators are chasing their third national

title in four years, is making \$4 million after agreeing to a new six-year, \$24 million deal in August. His average annual raise: 23%.

Meyer tops the pay scale in the heavyweight SEC, which is saying something. Flush with revenue from new 15-year television deals with ESPN and CBS, the league boasts six of the nation's 15 best-paid head coaches and nine of the top 25. On average, its schools are paying their head coaches \$2.64 million this season (counting all but Vanderbilt's Bobby Johnson, whose numbers aren't made public by the private institution).

Big 12 coaches average almost \$2.1 million, led by Oklahoma's Bob Stoops at \$4.3 million.

Those conferences also are setting the bar for assistants' salaries, which are spiking nationwide as head coaches seek stability in their staffs and lean on schools to beef up pay and perks. Cal's Barbour calls it "the next frontier" in college athletics' spending arms race.

Of the 60-plus assistants USA TODAY found making \$300,000 or more this season, 29 are in the SEC and 15 in the Big 12. Tennessee became a pacesetter, handing its head coaching job to Lane Kiffin, who in turn recruited a who's who staff of assistants and paid them accordingly.

"I really think you have to spend money to make money," the younger Kiffin says. "When you go out, get those coaches, that's going to translate into recruiting, winning, ticket sales, your team doing better, (and) I don't think you ever ask those questions again."

He cites Alabama's rise under Nick Saban, who is making \$3.9 million this year. "When he was hired ... every article was, 'I can't believe how much we paid Nick Saban at Alabama,'" Kiffin says. "Well, guess what? Nobody writes about it anymore because they win. So when we start winning, nobody is going to write about how much we pay our assistant coaches because, in turn, we're going to make a lot more money by them being there. I don't think it's a big deal."

He smiles. "And I took a lot less so we'd have money for them."

Meanwhile, the cash-strapped UT system warily eyes the expiration of federal stimulus money and the prospect of trimming 500 jobs in two years, two-thirds of them on its Knoxville campus. Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, chairman of the system's board of trustees, expressed discomfort earlier this year, telling the Associated Press, "When your neighbor's enduring hard times is not the time to flash your Cadillac in the driveway."

The Volunteers athletics department is one of the few able to give its university a financial lift, contributing \$10.35 million to the school and university system in September and pledging an additional \$1 million a year for the next 15 years.

Still, budget figures show that while athletics salaries and benefits are expected to rise 12% this year, the money Tennessee will spend on academic salaries is projected to fall (from \$127.68 million in 2008-09 to \$127.18 million).

Sports budget backlash

At some schools outside the football-worshipping South, tolerance is wearing thinner as education budgets grow tighter.

California's faculty has taken aim at the university's subsidization of athletics — \$7.7 million a year ago, a projected \$6 million in 2009-10 — and loans atop that to cover budget deficits. Last year's shortfall was \$5.8 million. The school lent the money. Another athletics deficit of \$6.4 million is projected for this year.

Fueling emotions on the campus is the discovery that the university forgave \$31.4 million in athletics debts in 2007.

Cal's Academic Senate approved a resolution last week that, among other things, called on the chancellor to end the subsidies and draw up a plan for athletics to pay off its existing debt. The action "is not about whether or not we like athletics, nor is it about the football coach," says computer science professor Brian Barsky, who has taught at the school for 28 years. "It is about athletics living within it means."

Few do. Only 25 of 120 programs in the NCAA's Bowl Subdivision made more than they spent in 2007-08, the most recent year covered in studies by USA TODAY and the NCAA. Those analyses might undercount some expenses, particularly capital spending, critics say.

Where they were provided, USA TODAY found that the average public-school subsidy for athletics was \$8.8 million.

Those are indefensible outlays in these tight times, one analyst says. "To say it's a market (issue) is a copout," says Jane Wellman, who heads The Delta Project, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit agency that focuses on higher education spending. "There are choices at every institution about where to put subsidies, and ... institutions are allowing more of their subsidies to go to revenue-pursuing activities and away from core academic purposes."

Pointing to Cal, she says, "They approved a student tuition increase of, what, 32%? They're cutting classes. ... I think they're sacrificing quality in the university. And when they're doing that, they shouldn't be subsidizing athletics."

Even before the faculty stirred, Cal's AD says she felt pressure to phase out its annual athletics subsidy. Barbour says she also has leaned on all of Cal's 40-some head and assistant coaches to participate in the systemwide furlough program even though contract employees are exempt. And by late last month, 29 coaches and senior administrators had said they would — including Tedford, who will accept a 10% reduction in his \$225,000 base salary.

"I don't think we're exempt from shouldering some of the burden," he says.

Addressing her budget woes, Barbour has left eight athletics staff positions unfilled and eliminated four others and looked hard at travel. And she said she doesn't rule out trimming some of the school's 27 varsity sports.

Nonetheless, she defends her spending decisions.

"We compete for a living," Barbour says. "If we're going to compete on the field on Saturday, we want to have every advantage they have."

Contributing: Kelly Whiteside

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Harvard professor tells of Mormon diaries during MU lecture

By Courtney Shove

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COLUMBIA — Bitterness describes more than just the cold weather experienced by a group of Mormons on their trek across the Midwest. Their attitudes, at times, also became bitter.

Monday at MU, Harvard University professor Laurel Thatcher Ulrich introduced a chapter from her upcoming book, which will chronicle the lives of various 19th-century Mormons. In 1991, Ulrich won a Pulitzer Prize for her book, "A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812."

Her presentation, titled "Mud and Fire: Mormon Diarists Cross Iowa," was the first in the MU history department's new Lewis Atherton Lecture Series, which is named in memory of a former MU history professor. The purpose of the series is to provide biennial lectures on wide-ranging areas of American history, according to Jonathan Sperber, MU history department chairman.

"I am interested in how people keep history," Ulrich said in a nearly packed Keller Auditorium in the Geological Sciences Building. Much of her research involved sifting through about a dozen diaries kept by Mormon men and women during their trek from Nauvoo, Ill., to Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1846.

She described the diaries as "unremarkable in their tedium," but what attracted her to the mundane tasks contained in the documents was their depiction of life within the Mormon community during a difficult journey.

"Some things were worse than illness," Ulrich said in the gentle cadence of a seasoned storyteller. This group of more than 14,000 Mormons faced many travails during its 300-mile wagon trip. If it wasn't rain or blizzards, it was family discord that dampened their spirits, she said.

During the mid-1800s, plural marriage was in a state of flux, Ulrich said. Polygamy was transitioning from a secretive spiritual ritual to a more openly accepted concept within the Mormon community. She said 700 women in Nauvoo were a part of plural marriages before the group left for Iowa.

A newly developing concept, polygamy was "a strange system of marriage where one man became responsible for more than one woman," she said. At the time, women were working through this new ritual and often displayed remarkable honesty in their journal entries.

When asked by an audience member if polygamy led to a greater subjugation of women during the 19th century, she said there is "evidence that many women felt liberated" and that polygamy was almost always about fertility.

There was the thought that "every woman should have the chance to be a mother," she said. Although Ulrich didn't deny that misogyny existed within the community, she did point out that "very few men had lots of wives."

She told the story of Wilford Woodruff, who was pressured by Brigham Young to take on two young wives. Not initially inclined toward plural marriage, Woodruff eventually drafted a manifesto seeking to end Mormon polygamy.

The audience was full of attendees of all ages, some of whom were undergraduate students seeking extra credit for one of the lower-level history classes. MU history professor Michelle Morris, one of Ulrich's former graduate students, had some of her students in attendance.

MU pre-journalism student Chi Yao attended the lecture after reading about it in a mass e-mail from MU. Yao said she thought it was good to expose herself to as many different areas of learning as possible.