MU approves new student tailgate site

By Janese Silvey

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It's official: The parking lot on the southeast corner of Maryland Avenue and Rollins Street on the University of Missouri campus will become a new pre-game hotspot for MU students this football season.

Cathy Scroggs, MU's vice chancellor of student affairs, along with Missouri Student Association President Tim Noce announced that the lot will become an official student tailgate spot this year.

Noce has been working with administrators for the past year to secure a place for students to gather before games after the university closed down other student tailgating hot spots. Before last year's football season, the 800-space Reactor Field lot closed to students in reaction to fights and alcohol-related problems on the site.

The new student tailgate spot will not be open to vehicles, only pedestrians. Students will not be allowed to bring kegs, hard liquor, shared coolers or anything else that would encourage binge drinking, Noce said.
MU police officers will patrol the tailgate lot checking for identification in an attempt to deter underage drinking.

The tailgate space will be shut down at kickoff to ensure the event attracts those looking for pre-game pep, not just a place to party.
New tailgate lot opening for MU students on game days

By Walker Moskop
August 24, 2010 | 7:33 p.m. CDT

1. New student organization lot for tailgating, called “The Jungle”
2. Reactor Field; former student tailgating area, current donor lot
3. Tailgating lot for donors; formerly known as “Frat Pit”

KEY
- Parking garage
- Donor parking lots
- General public parking lots

Sources: MIZZOUGAMEDAY.COM, MU ADMISSIONS

A new tailgating area known as “The Jungle” will be in the parking lot formerly known as CG-17, Missouri Students Association President Tim Noce announced Tuesday. Only members of student organizations will be able to reserve spaces in the lot. | Chris Spurlock
**MU has designated a new space for students to tailgate during Tiger football games this fall.**

The lot at the corner of Rollins Street and Maryland Avenue will be divided into 52 reservable tailgating areas for student organizations.

The agreement between the Missouri Students Association and the university to designate a student lot for tailgating, however, came with a number of conditions:

- Reserved spaces are only available for student organizations.
- Vehicles are not allowed in the lot.
- The lot opens four hours before kickoff and will be closed at kickoff.
- Everything must be cleared from the lot three hours after the game.
- No glass, kegs, coolers over 70 quarts, hard alcohol, sharing of alcohol or excessive drinking are permitted.

"The big compromise we made was no cars involved," said Ben Hansen, director of the MSA Department of Student Activities.

Tim Noce, MSA president, said banning vehicles would prevent much of the misbehavior that occurred at former hotspots "Frat Pit" and Reactor Field. "Frat Pit" was at the northeast corner of Champions Drive and Providence Road.

One of the benefits of the pedestrian-only tailgate is that people will cut down on drinking and driving, Noce said.

Students can be dropped off on Rollins near the parking lot in a five-minute loading zone, Noce said.

In the new lot, organizations will have permits for specific spots, which Noce said would make it easier to identify the source of a problem. The spots are roughly the size of two standard parking spaces.

"Having spot reservations increases accountability," he said.
Individuals and organizations that misbehave will be dealt with immediately.

To ensure that behavioral problems are addressed, the MU Police Department will patrol the lot.

"Be prepared to show your ID," Hansen said.

Despite the restrictions, Noce believes students will embrace the new tailgating area.

“I'm confident that a lot of students will be attracted to this," he said.

After "Frat Pit" and Reactor Field were closed, "students lost ownership of school spirit,” Noce said.

Although only student organizations are authorized to reserve the 52 spots, Noce said all MU students and guests are welcome.

“Just about any student can come in and hang out,” he said.

Because of the expected influx of students to the new lot, Hansen said some people who previously parked there will have to park elsewhere.

Parking for the new tailgate area will be available at the Virginia Avenue, Turner Avenue and Conley Avenue garages.

Student organizations can begin reserving tailgating spots Monday at thejungle.missouri.edu*.

The first home game is Sept. 11 against McNeese State.
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - The debate over where students can tailgate at the University of Missouri football games has been settled.

The university and its student association announced Tuesday that the parking lot on the southeast corner of Avenue and Rollins Street on the Missouri campus will be the new student gathering spot.

The Tribune reports that the university closed some student gathering spots, including the 800-space Reactor Field lot, before last football season because of fights and alcohol-related problems.

Missouri Student Association President Tim Noce says the new tailgating lot will not be open to vehicles, no kegs or hard liquor will be allowed, and university police will check for identifications.
News conference unveils details of new tailgating space

MUPD will patrol the lot.

By Steven Dickherber
Published Aug. 24, 2010

In a news conference Tuesday, Missouri Students Association President Tim Noce announced details regarding “The Jungle,” the new designated parking lot for student tailgating. Noce first announced the dedication of the new tailgating spot near the end of July, but details on the space have been scarce.

“I believe we have found an area that can be safe and fun for students at the same time, while also putting our mark on what I think we do very well here at the university—and that’s have really good school spirit for our athletic teams,” Noce said.

“The Jungle” is located in Lot CG-17, the parking lot between Cornell Hall and Stankowski Field.

Previous student tailgating areas such as Reactor Field and Frat Pit earned a reputation for underage drinking and fighting, but Noce said new regulations in place at “The Jungle” will attempt to prevent these things from occurring.

“Our policy is no kegs, no glass, no hard alcohol,” said Ben Hansen, MSA Department of Student Activities director. “We also have a bring-your-own policy. There’s no sharing alcohol between individuals or organizations, no community coolers and no excessive drinking.”

Additionally, no cars will be allowed in the parking lot. Students will be asked to park in either the Turner Parking Garage or the Virginia Avenue Garage.

“I guess you could call it a pedestrian-only tailgate,” Noce said. “The biggest advantage to a pedestrian-only tailgate is that—specifically dealing with alcohol—you don’t have people coming in with truckloads of alcohol.”

A designated drop-off zone will be available for participants to drop off grills, food and other tailgating materials. Noce said he hopes that without vehicles, students will be limited to only the alcohol they can carry with them.

The MU Police Department will be at the lot in order to enforce the rules, and students who wish to drink must be prepared to show their IDs.

“At the end of the day, the majority of students just want a place to tailgate with their friends,” Noce said.

Parts of Stankowski Field as well as volleyball courts will be reserved for tailgaters. Students will be able to check out equipment such as volleyballs and footballs for use on the fields, but alcohol is only permitted within the parking lot perimeter.

There are 54 spaces available in the parking lot that can be reserved by student organizations. Students do not have to belong to an organization in order to participate at the tailgate.
MU mention page 2

The ripple effect of the federal court ruling against the expanded use of stem cells in research is being felt as strongly at Washington University as it is at research facilities throughout the country.

"It's a pretty disastrous event," said Dr. Steven Teitelbaum, a professor of immunology and pathology at Washington University. "You can't expect science to move forward if you take the hammer out of the toolbox."

The ruling could be a blow to a pair of research projects under way at Washington University, including one comparing the efficiency of reprogrammed adult stem cells — induced pluripotent stem cells — versus embryonic stem cells.

For now, work is continuing on both projects, while the school awaits guidance from the National Institutes of Health. The research is using stem cell lines approved during the administration of President George W. Bush.

On Monday, a U.S. District Court judge ruled that President Barack Obama's 2009 executive order that expanded embryonic stem cell research was illegal, saying the presidential order violates a ban on using federal funds to destroy embryos.

For years, private funding has been used to create embryonic stem cell lines, mostly from discarded embryos from fertility clinics in a process that destroys the embryos. Under Bush, the federal government agreed to fund embryonic stem cell research. But the Bush rules limited federally funded research to 21 cell lines already in existence by 2001.

Under Obama's executive order, federal funds could be used to conduct research on hundreds more stem cell lines that had been obtained with private funds, as long as donors of embryos signed consent forms and complied with other rules.

Researchers were unclear what the court decision would mean for their work.

The ruling will be a disappointment if it rolls back the Obama administration's expanded lineup of available stem cell lines, but will be devastating if it also knocks out the Bush-era lines, said Teitelbaum.
He argued that a total elimination of federal funding for embryonic stem cell research would put American scientists at a disadvantage compared with their counterparts in other countries.

The ruling may cause less damage to research being done at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where Michael Roberts, a professor of animal science and biochemistry, has been working in the area for six years. Roberts has been looking into the causes of preeclampsia, a disease that causes hypertension in pregnant women.

The school uses three of the stem cell lines approved by the Bush administration and has the approval to use one of the lines authorized by the Obama administration. For now, Roberts said, he has switched to nonfederal funding sources as a temporary fix to continue his research while the recent court ruling is deciphered by legal experts. And even if the worst-case scenario becomes reality, his own research should survive, he said.

"Five years ago, I would have said it was a terrible ruling," Roberts said. "But it's not catastrophic for me."

Instead, he said he could rely upon the reprogrammed adult stem cells.

The ruling is not expected to affect the work at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research in Kansas City. A spokeswoman said the private institute did not receive any federal assistance for human embryonic stem cell research.

Researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign could not be reached for comment.

The National Institutes of Health has taken the position that researchers who already have grants can continue with their work, director Dr. Francis Collins said Tuesday. However, research proposals are frozen.

The Justice Department said Tuesday that the Obama administration would appeal the ruling and would ask the U.S. Court of Appeals to lift the preliminary injunction issued Monday.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.
Judge's order puts stem-cell lab studies in limbo

By SCOTT CANON

8/25/10

At the University of Missouri, Michael Roberts has a handful of plastic dishes containing human embryonic stem cells warming in an incubator — research suddenly ineligible for new federal money.

At the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kenneth Peterson’s similar stem cell lines, or batches, are stored in liquid nitrogen — and could stay there while studies go into hiatus.

A federal judge’s order Monday that could affect hundreds of millions of dollars nationally in research gave comfort to many groups who saw it as recognizing the sanctity of human life, while tossing laboratory studies in Kansas, Missouri and across the country into limbo.

The White House pledged Tuesday to push forward with federally funded stem cell research and to appeal the order quickly, probably this week.

For now, though, the ruling by U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth appears to have reversed the Obama administration’s opening of more lines of stem cells to research with federal money. It also put in doubt the legality of using federal dollars to examine the possibilities of a more limited collection of embryonic stem cells approved for the funding by President George W. Bush’s administration.

The Obama administration last year expanded the number of stem cell lines created with private money that federally funded scientists could research, up from the 21 that Bush had allowed to 75 so far. To qualify, the government insisted on evidence that the woman or couple who donated the original embryo did so voluntarily and were told of other options, such as donating to another infertile woman.

In theory, stem cell research could solve some of the most challenging questions in medicine — suggesting promise for spinal cord injuries, Parkinson’s disease and diabetes.

At MU and KU, researchers have been using embryonic stem cells — from lines approved for federally funded research by Bush — to better understand placentas and women’s reproductive
health. With that work put out of bounds for federal grants, researchers say their options change dramatically.

“It really puts things up in the air,” said Peterson, chairman of the Human Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee at the KU Medical Center.

In Columbia, Roberts said he was not certain what he would do with experiments that have stem cells warming in incubators.

“We have to complete those experiments,” said Roberts, a biochemistry professor. “You don’t want to lose that research.”

He may ultimately be able to shift around money, channeling different funding sources to pay for some laboratory expenses and partial salaries for two people that had been covered by federal dollars from the National Institutes of Health.

Over a longer term, however, Roberts said the judge’s ruling would handicap his ability to pursue promising research. Peterson said the ruling could handcuff scientific ambition of future research at KU.

“You want to keep open the limitless possibilities until scientists really understand what is a stem cell,” Peterson said. “And the only way you do that is to study all kinds of stem cells.”

The Stowers Institute for Medical Research in Kansas City has advocated for embryonic stem cell research, but a spokeswoman said Tuesday that the organization was not actively involved with federally funded work using the controversial techniques. In the past, it has done embryonic stem cell research with private money.

Embryonic stem cells, harvested by in vitro fertilization, are seen by researchers as potentially the most intriguing source of stem cell research because they can develop into any kind of human cell. Scientists have been working with them — controversially because many people see them as coming at the sacrifice of potential human life — for about a decade.

Work with adult stem cells has been ongoing for decades, and without controversy, in such areas as bone marrow treatments. While the understanding of them is much richer, an adult stem cell can only develop to one kind of cell.

More recently, scientists have been making breakthroughs with induced pluripotent stem cells — taking an adult cell and transforming it into something that resembles embryonic stem cells.

But researchers still don’t know whether those induced pluripotent cells truly have the characteristics, and potential, of a true embryonic cell.

In his ruling, the judge concluded that two researchers have demonstrated a strong likelihood of success in their argument that the Obama administration’s government guidelines violate the intent of a law about federal funding of embryo destruction.
“The unambiguous intent of Congress,” Lambert wrote, “is to prohibit the expenditure of federal funds on ‘research in which a human embryo or embryos are destroyed.’”

Say that the law is unambiguous, the judge added, and “the question before the court is whether (embryonic stem cell) research is research in which a human embryo is destroyed. The court concludes that it is.”

Federal law explicitly forbids using taxpayer dollars to destroy a human embryo — and culling stem cells from an embryo does destroy the embryo. Once created, these lines of stem cells can reproduce indefinitely in lab dishes.

The judge’s ruling drew praise from the Alliance Defense Fund, a group of Christian attorneys and co-counsel in the lawsuit.

“The American people should not be forced to pay for experiments — prohibited by federal law — that destroy human life,” said Steven Aden, the ADF’s senior legal counsel. “The court is simply enforcing an existing law passed by Congress that prevents Americans from paying another penny for needless research on human embryos.”

Lisa Hughes, president of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research, called the judge’s ruling “a blow to the hopes of millions of patients and their families suffering from fatal and chronic diseases and disorders.”
Teachers sue over contract

Breach alleged in MoVIP cuts.

By Catherine Martin

Monday, August 23, 2010

Fourteen Missouri teachers, including three from Columbia, filed a lawsuit Wednesday against entities including University of Missouri curators and the State Board of Education alleging a breach of contract regarding jobs cut when the state eliminated funding for the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program.

“We accepted the position with the understanding that we’d be teaching for at least a year,” Elizabeth Lower, a teacher from Mexico, Mo., said. “Then with very little notice at all we were out of a job. Most of us had given up some secure position to do this.”

Lower said she gave up a teaching position in Mexico to work for MoVIP, which offers virtual classes for students across the state. “It was a new type of teaching that I’d never had the opportunity to experience,” she said.

She and about 45 other teachers who started jobs with MoVIP last August were out of work by November, despite a contract that they claim guaranteed them their positions for at least a year.

Because teaching jobs are generally open just once a year, many of the MoVIP teachers were not able to find another job right away or at all.

“That’s really part of the problem in the case,” said David Brown, the Columbia attorney representing the teachers. “They took these jobs in the fall and were fired almost immediately when there weren’t going to be any jobs for them to find until this fall.”

The layoffs were the result of Gov. Jay Nixon’s decision to eliminate the program during the state’s budget crisis. MoVIP remains open as a tuition-based program. Lower claimed MoVIP did not hire any of the teachers back for the tuition-based program but instead contracted teachers from the company providing the curriculum.

Lower said that she, along with seven or eight other teachers, sought the help of a lawyer after they decided they were being treated unjustly. Brown said he is working to achieve class action status. The suit seeks damages based on two claims — salary loss and misrepresentation.
Brown said the total damages sought will depend on how many teachers choose to participate. Each teacher lost a half a year’s salary, which represented about $20,000 per teacher, Brown said.

The suit makes claims against four entities, including the state and eMINTS, a national program based on the MU campus that extended the MoVIP contracts.

“There is someone somewhere in the state government who was aware of all the facts that we are alleging, who knew about the funding problem and the fact that teachers were being offered unstable jobs without state funding,” Brown said of the decision to include the state in the suit.

Brown said none of the defendants has filed a response. “We’re still open to any kind of settlement,” he said.

Calls to MoVIP for comment today were referred to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, but DESE’s spokeswoman was not available for comment.

Reach Catherine Martin at 573-815-1711 or e-mail cmartin@columbiatribune.com.
JEFFERSON CITY • Fourteen teachers have filed a lawsuit over state budget cuts that cost them their jobs with Missouri's virtual schools program.

According to the lawsuit, cuts last year to the virtual schools program led teachers to be laid off despite contracts guaranteeing them jobs for longer, and officials did not make the impending financial difficulties known.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education declined to comment on the lawsuit Tuesday, and the attorney general's office said it had not yet received a copy of it.

Students from kindergarten through high school can take Internet-based courses through the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program. Gov. Jay Nixon announced that he was halting funding for the school's second semester last year as part of $204 million in state budget cuts prompted by falling state revenue.
State lawmakers budgeted enough money for the 2010-2011 academic year to enroll students who are too sick to safely attend classes. But the budget cuts mean that for many students to participate in the virtual schools program, their families or school districts must pay tuition.

The teachers' lawsuit was filed last week in Boone County in central Missouri, and names the state of Missouri, the State Board of Education, the curators of the University of Missouri and a nonprofit business unit of the university that ran the school. The lawsuit also seeks class action status.

Missouri's virtual schools program grew from a $5.2 million program with more than 2,000 students in the 2007-2008 school year to a $5.8 million program with about 2,500 students in the following year.
JEFFERSON CITY — Fourteen teachers are suing over state budget cuts that cost them their jobs with Missouri’s virtual schools program.

A lawsuit filed in Boone County asserts several dozen teachers were laid off last year despite having contracts guaranteeing them jobs for longer. The teachers worked for an online public school that covers all grades.

The layoffs came after state funds were cut for the virtual schools’ second semester last year.

The lawsuit names the state of Missouri, the State Board of Education, the curators of the University of Missouri System and a nonprofit business unit of the university that ran the school.

A spokeswoman for the Department Elementary and Secondary Education declined to comment Tuesday, and a spokeswoman for the attorney general’s office said it had not yet received a copy of the lawsuit.
Palliative care sees progress

Despite director’s exit, program is on an upswing.

By T.J. Greaney

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

After four years, those at the Missouri Palliative Care Program believe it is beginning to turn a corner and reach mainstream acceptance.

Buoyed by a mounting pile of literature in medical journals showing palliative care leads to higher patient satisfaction and, in many cases, extends the lives of patients, the program is riding a tide of good news.

“This is an exciting time for palliative medicine,” said Paul Tatum, a physician certified in palliative and hospice medicine. “It is being recognized as not just end-of-life care; it’s not just care of the dying. It’s good, excellent medicine that helps people.”

Palliative care is treatment for people with “life-limiting” illnesses including cancer, Alzheimer’s and renal disease. Proponents say the care puts patients in control of their treatment, allowing them to set goals and focus on comfort and physical function rather than aggressive or invasive treatments.

The University of Missouri began its program in 2006, and it has grown to treat about 70 to 80 new patients each year on an outpatient basis and about 300 in-hospital patients each year. The staff includes a handful of dedicated physicians, nurses and social workers aided by a group of “Compassionate Companions” volunteers who spend long hours with dying patients and assemble gift baskets for them.

But the Missouri Palliative Care Program is also enduring a major loss. Earlier this month, founding director Clay Anderson left to accept a position as director of the hospice and palliative care program at North Kansas City Hospital.

Anderson, a popular figure, made the decision to leave after what he described as years of underfunding and feeling his program was low on the MU Health Care administration’s list of priorities.

“My priorities and their priorities as an institution just were not matching in quality or pace,” Anderson said. He also expressed a long-held frustration that he could not succeed in getting
staff across the health system to refer patients to his program earlier in their illnesses so he could help them craft long-term plans.

"It was a tough four years, but it was a great four years," he said. "I'm a fan, and I'll continue to be a fan, of everything University Hospital does. But it came to a time where I had to answer my own calling."

Steve Zweig, a geriatrician and director of the MU Interdisciplinary Center on Aging, has taken over as director on an interim basis. He said he has recently been granted funding for two new long-requested positions — a social worker and nurse — and there might also be funds available for new physician positions soon. "I think the most important message is, we're not folding up our tent and leaving," Zweig said.

Zweig said he believes the program is beginning to succeed institutionally, in getting more nurses and physicians across the health system to feel comfortable having conversations about end-of-life choices.

“What we’re trying to do is not just have a small group of people provide a lot of services to a lot of people,” he said. “We want to expand the education and training of everybody in our system, so they can feel empowered to accept some of the roles of palliative care in the care of their patients.”

During the transition, the program will rely heavily on longtime stalwarts including Julieanne Hagedorn, a resource nurse who serves inpatients at University Hospital; Tatum, a physician who also serves as vice chairman of the Missouri End of Life Coalition; and Mary Cunningham, a clinical nurse specialist who runs the outpatient palliative care clinic at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center.

People and personalities are particularly important in palliative care, where nurses and physicians spend countless hours counseling patients and their families to help them craft “goals of care.” Patients not only fill out “advanced care directives,” on what medical treatment they do and do not want, but patients also talk about what they hope to achieve in the time they have left. Some want to focus on pain management, others want to stay active as long as possible and still others want to lengthen their lives no matter how physically taxing the treatment.

The discussion is fraught with emotion.

“The primary diagnostic tool I use when I see people is to listen to what they have to say,” Cunningham said. “The bulk of my work is about engaging people and allowing people to talk … and that takes time.”

Reach T.J. Greaney at 573-815-1719 or e-mail tjgreaney@columbiatribune.com.
MU breaks records for overall, minority enrollment

University officials expect enrollment to drop in coming years.

By Jared Grafman
Published Aug. 24, 2010

The first of thousands of freshman students rush through the columns to symbolize their entrance into MU on Sunday night on Francis Quadrangle. At 6,160 students, the class of 2014 has 978 more students than the previous largest freshmen class, the class of 2012.

MU broke enrollment records for first-time freshmen, minority freshmen, undergraduate students and total enrollment as of the first day of courses for the fall 2010 semester.

"Over the past nine years we have seen a significant increase in the diversity of our campus, with total enrollment in certain minority student groups increasing by more than 77 percent," Enrollment Management Vice Provost Ann Korschgen said in an MU News Bureau release.

According to the news release, 6,160 first-time freshmen were enrolled for the first day of classes.

The opening day enrollment numbers for the class of 2014 beat out the class of 2012, the previous record class, by 978 students. There are also 257 more minority students enrolled than last year's record minority numbers for opening day enrollment.

Reasons for freshmen choosing MU vary from athletics and scholarships to a good community and academic programs.

Freshman Michael English said he chose MU because of its journalism program.

"I'm going into journalism and since Mizzou is the first journalism school in the world, as well as one of the top J schools overall, I chose Mizzou," English said.

For some students, such as Mallory Lumpe, available scholarships played an important role in picking MU.

"I came here for the meteorology program," Lumpe said. "CAFNR has a lot of scholarships because it's a small program."

Other students settled with MU because of the campus and community.

"Once I went to tour the campus, I fell in love with it," freshman Lainie Barron said. "I moved away from the Midwest a few years ago and I wanted to move back to it for college."
The news release stated there were increases in Bright Flight and Curators scholarships given to students this year. 512 students enrolled in the Bright Flight program compared to 474 last year and 511 students are Curator's Scholars, 81 more students than last year.

The average ACT score for this year's freshmen class remained at 25.6, according to the news release. That is four points above the state average and higher than the national average of 21.1.

Korschgen said the university has expanded housing options as well as increased the number of courses offered to freshmen to manage the boosted enrollment rate.

There is no cap on freshmen enrollment at MU, nor has there been a cap in previous years.

"At this point, there is no cap," Korschgen said. "In fact, we anticipate a decline in first-time college student enrollment starting next fall when there is a drop in the number of high school graduates in Missouri."

Despite predictions of a decreased enrollment rate beginning next year, this year's total enrollment is at a university record of 32,009 students.

"Not only is our enrollment increasing; the quality and diversity of our students are increasing as well," Korschgen said in the news release. "This demonstrates to us that Mizzou continues to be the top choice for scholars throughout the state."

Korschgen said the official number of freshmen enrolled would be established during the fourth week of classes.
Textbook act expands students' options

The legislation allows students to view their text requirements in advance in order to save money.

By Rexly Penaflorida II
Published Aug. 24, 2010

One month after the Higher Education Opportunity Act took effect, University Bookstore is already feeling the legislation's impact.

The legislation was drafted to supply college students with a list of books that were required when registering for classes. This list allows students to search for books earlier and purchase them cheaper via the Internet and local bookstores.

"Even prior to HEOA and the Missouri Textbook Transparency Act (House Bill 2048) University Bookstores began implementing multiple strategies to reduce the cost of course materials," Student Auxiliary Services spokeswoman Michelle Froese said in an e-mail.

The strategies include promoting on-time textbook orders to faculty. If faculty members turn in their textbook adoptions to the bookstore on time, students can save money, especially for those faculty members who use the same book every year.

Another money-saving strategy is textbook rental. Froese said the program started at the Missouri University of Science and Technology Bookstore in the fall of 2007, when the staff started renting books for the math department. Over the course of four semesters, 989 books were rented for college algebra and trigonometry. The rental option was $34 per book compared to buying a new textbook at $128 each and the rental program saved the students a collective $92,966 compared to $126,592 if they all bought a new book. Froese said this fall students at MU can rent more than 200 titles.

The used book program also saves money for students. Froese said University Bookstore is ranked number one nationally in the number of used books provided.

"Over 40 percent of our textbook inventory is used — the national average is 28 percent so we feel that we're doing an excellent job," Froese said.

Despite the fact that the legislation allows students to look at other places for cheaper prices for their books, Froese said the bookstore has not noticed a decline in overall book sales because they have been proactive in carrying used books.

"Our textbook buyers scour online sellers, as well as use nine used book companies," Froese said.

English professor Scott Cairns, who often buys used books, said the HEOA is a good idea. Unlike many professors, Cairns does not use the same books every year.

"The world changes, and my courses need to keep up," Cairns said.

Cairns said he had no preference over whether or not students should buy new or used books. As long as the book is in good condition, there is no problem, he said.
Sophomore Cho Ngai also bought used books. She said she would rather go to the University Bookstore than other local bookstores for her course materials.

"It is closer and convenient for me because I don't have a car," Ngai said.

Cairns said there is another method that can save students money.

"I was a part of a co-op group when I was in college at Western Washington University and students received an immediate 30 percent discount at the bookstore," Cairns said. "Any profit earned was returned to the student activity account."

Froese said although most people are aware of the benefits of buying used books rather than new, it is important to inform faculty that when they use older editions of textbooks, it can financially benefit their students.

Although Brady Commons was a popular student space, the chronology explained that by 2001, the original master plan for the new Student Center was in its first development stages. The plan included input from student leaders across campus in addition to administrators and alumni.

In 2008, student organization and services offices relocated from Brady Commons to begin construction on the new Student Center. Student offices will return to the Student Center this winter, marking the completion of the newest student commons on campus.

University Bookstore spokeswoman Michelle Froese said student centers remain an important part of campus life and the student experience.

"Academic success is an obvious measure of student retention," Froese said. "However, we also know that there is a correlation between campus involvement and socialization that helps support a positive student experience. It's important for students to have a place to gather because it supports opportunities to socialize with friends and promotes involvement in and out of classroom activities."
New student center joins ranks of Brady Commons, Memorial Union

Memorial Union was built as MU's first student center.

By Zachary Murdock
Published Aug. 24, 2010

Last week marked the opening of the new student center, the most recent addition in the line of MU student centers throughout campus history. For nearly 90 years, MU students have had a single union building to call their student center.

According to an MU Archives article, "Meet Me at the Union," MU's first student center, Memorial Union, was constructed in the 1920s, just after World War I.

The iconic Memorial Union Tower was built as a memorial for Missouri alumni who died during World War I. It was intended to be a space for student social events and a home for student activities.

Thanks to nearly $238,000 in pledges from students and alumni, the official groundbreaking for the Union was in November 1921, the article stated. Over the course of five years, construction workers and stonemasons built the tower, which was dedicated at the 1926 Homecoming Celebration.

According to the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology's exhibit, "Memorial Union: The Transcendent Tower," after the tower's completion, work continued on the north and south wings and on A. P. Green Chapel. However, due to legal trouble and the start of the Great Depression, construction came to a halt in 1930. Work on the wings and chapel did not resume until after World War II, with the final construction on the Union completed on the south wing in 1963.

Ever since construction began in the 1920s, Memorial Union has been a place of tradition and home to many student activities. Though the Union is no longer students' primary student center, the tradition and reverence associated with the Memorial Union Tower remains a part of the MU community.

"Memorial Union itself is a monument layered with traditional symbols we have long forgotten," Arthur Mehrhoff, Museum of Art and Archaeology Coordinator, wrote for the exhibit. "Like the Old School tradition of tipping your cap when passing through the arch of the Memorial Union, our memories and stories help to remember our community and continue building the symbolism of the Memorial Union."

In 1963, just after the final completion of the Memorial Student Union, Brady Commons opened as a recreation and activities center for a student population of about 15,000. During its use, Brady Commons stood where the new student center and University Bookstore now stand.

In 1985, Brady Commons expanded to the east side of the facility, adding room for more student organizations and services, according to the New Student Center Project chronology. In its time, Brady was home to more than twenty student offices and services including the MSA/GPC Box Office, the Center for Student Involvement, the University Bookstore and The Maneater.

According to the chronology, by 1990 a space study found that Brady Commons facilities and building services were being overused to the point where food areas were so overcrowded that some students had to sit on the ground during break periods.

Although Brady Commons was a popular student space, the chronology explained that by 2001, the original master plan for the new Student Center was in its first development stages. The plan included input from student leaders across campus in addition to administrators and alumni.

In 2008, student organization and services offices relocated from Brady Commons to begin construction on the new Student Center. Student offices will return to the Student Center this winter, marking the completion of the newest student commons on campus.
University Bookstore spokeswoman Michelle Froese said student centers remain an important part of campus life and the student experience.

"Academic success is an obvious measure of student retention," Froese said. "However, we also know that there is a correlation between campus involvement and socialization that helps support a positive student experience. It's important for students to have a place to gather because it supports opportunities to socialize with friends and promotes involvement in and out of classroom activities."
Student Center opens with provisional name

The UM system Board of Curators will make the decision to rename the center after a donor.

By Jared Grafman
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Phase II of the new student center is open to students and is tentatively named the MU Student Center, but university officials say the center could eventually be christened after a donor to the project.

“We have permission to call it the MU Student Center until such time that a donor may be identified,” Student Auxiliary Services spokeswoman Michelle Froese said. “We don’t have any donors at present but if a donor came forward with an appropriate gift, or endowment then that would be a naming opportunity.”

UM system spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said there isn’t a specific minimum contribution required to name a building after a donor and a sponsor did not finance the MU Student Center.

“The center is being supported by student fees and by additional funds from campus auxiliaries such as the bookstore and Campus Dining,” Hollingshead said. “Sources of funding need to be approved and allocated before construction begins.”

According to guidelines listed in the UM system’s Collected Rules and Regulations for naming university buildings, people who make a substantial financial contribution toward the cost of the construction of a building or major facility are qualified to have the building or facility named in their honor.

The Collected Rules goes on to state the university president, with the consultation of the Board of Curators, has the authority to establish a minimum contribution required to name a facility.

Student centers at other universities and colleges have been named after alumni who have, either directly or in their honor, contributed significant amounts to the universities to help with the cost of building and maintaining the student centers.

Barnard College in New York named their student center The Diana Center, in honor of an alumna who, with her husband, made a $15 million gift for the building, according to an April 2009 news release.

According to the University of Vermont website, the school’s Dudley H. Davis Center is named after an alumnus whose family and friends contributed $7 million to the student center project.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the MU Office of Development is always looking for ways to utilize donations to help pay for student services and facilities.

“There are several opportunities for donors if they want to donate to the new student center,” Basi said. “We already have a few that have rooms or offices named following their donation. We also have an opportunity for individuals to donate between $125 and $250 to have their name inscribed at The Shack.”

Froese said there is not a standard cost for every naming opportunity on campus, and the process depends on several circumstances, but the cost to name the student center would probably be around $20 to $25 million.

“I haven’t been told that we have any prospects at this time, but that doesn’t mean there won’t be in the future,” Froese said. “Nobody has indicated from that standpoint that they have the finances to name the building, although it is a welcome opportunity.”

The MU Student Center should not be confused with its predecessor, Brady Commons.

“The old building, the one that was knocked down, was called Brady Commons,” Froese said. “It doesn’t exist anymore, so it doesn’t make sense to call the new building Brady Commons when it doesn’t actually look like it.”
If the MU Student Center found an occasion to have its name changed, it would require a vote from the Board of Curators.

"Eventually if there was an opportunity to officially name the building, the Board of Curators would have to vote on that," Froese said. "They have the decision making authority anytime a building is named in any of the UM system campuses."

There will be a grand opening for the MU Student Center in October, and every component is expected to be fully operational by November, Froese said.

"On the first week of classes, we will have some giveaways and some prize drawings to get students excited about being back at school and welcoming them into their new student center," Froese said. "We'll also have some activities during homecoming week, when we're doing the dedication."