UM System President: More cuts coming to higher education, tuition increase likely

By Rebecca Berg
September 16, 2010 | 7:12 p.m. CDT

KANSAS CITY – Missouri universities could face a budget cut of up to $500 million next year, University of Missouri System President Gary Forsee said Thursday.

The cut would amount to approximately a 10 percent drop in funding. That could put the current in-state tuition freeze in jeopardy.

Forsee said extending the tuition freeze for Missouri's university students would "not make economic sense" in lean budgetary times.

"Going a third year without any tuition increase with our incredible enrollment growth would start to not make economic sense for the state, for the university and for the public," he said. "It would be sending a wrong message to students and parents at this time."

Forsee delivered Thursday's opening address at the Governor's Economic Development Conference in Kansas City. He highlighted the "conundrum" the state's schools face between improving graduation rates and making higher education more accessible and affordable.

"On the one hand we're saying we need more grads in the pipeline," Forsee said. "At the same time nationally and within the state, student financial aid is under pressure."

But Forsee said definitively that students need not expect an exaggerated increase in tuition and academic fees if MU's budget is cut and the tuition freeze lifted.

"That's not going to happen," he said.
The UM System has little power to dictate tuition costs. Missouri law stipulates that tuition for state schools should rise only at or below the rate of inflation. A waiver for a larger increase can only be granted by the Department of Education with input from the UM System Board of Curators.

Forsee emphasized he will not be able to make any final decisions about cuts until January, when the state publishes its draft budget for the coming year.

"Until we understand the full magnitude of the state's situation, we can't say for certain what we're going to do," he said.
UM system spokeswoman: Talks of budget cuts 'all speculation'

The Missouri legislature will not consider funding changes until 2011.

By Wes Duplantier

Published Sept. 17, 2010

Reports that the UM system's budget could be cut by as much as $500 million -- 10 percent of its total budget -- next year are speculation, a system spokeswoman said Thursday evening.

UM system spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said the university had not made any formal announcements about its budget projections or the possibility of any tuition increases for fiscal year 2012.

She confirmed UM system President Gary Forsee spoke Thursday morning at the Governor's Conference on Economic Development in Kansas City and that Forsee said the system could see cuts in the next fiscal year. Hollingshead also said Forsee's remarks were not official predictions of the system's fiscal condition.

"It's all speculation at this point," Hollingshead said. "I think we've known that there will be reductions, but we're not even in the legislative session, let alone the end of the session when budgets are set."

The state legislature adjourned its regular session in May after approving a fiscal year 2011 budget that cut higher education spending by $50 million. That amount is the maximum allowed to maintain an agreement Gov. Jay Nixon made with schools in 2007.

That agreement froze tuition at public universities at 2007 levels when the legislature agreed not to cut higher education spending by more than 5.2 percent.

State Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, said the legislature is not discussing any immediate changes to the state's higher education budget.

He said Nixon might be working on his budget proposal for the 2012 fiscal year, and the UM system might be communicating with him about those proposals but that lawmakers would not begin considering any proposals until they convene in regular session in January.
"I'm assuming that (the 10 percent figure) comes from (an) interpretation of the governor's proposed budget," he said. "I'm not aware of any discussion in the General Assembly about making cuts to higher education."
'Tornado tours' big business in Midwest

COLUMBIA, Mo., Sept. 16 (UPI) -- Tornado Alley has become a U.S. vacation destination for world tourists seeking an experience beyond just thrills, researchers say.

Researchers at the University of Missouri say most of these travelers aren't just looking for risk but are seeking a unique and unconventional opportunity to enjoy the power and beauty of nature, a university release said.

Sonja Wilhelm Stanis and Carla Barbieri, associate professors in the School of Natural Resources, surveyed the "tornado tourists" and found the pull of tornadoes on people is worldwide.

"With the help of movies like 'Twister,' storm-chasing has become an international phenomenon," Barbieri said. "While more than half of the surveyed travelers lived in North America, 11 percent came from Australia and nearly a third traveled from Europe to get a close encounter with a tornado."

Experienced meteorologists and trained storm chasers serve as guides giving three to 10 tours a season.

Using sophisticated equipment to track severe weather on the road, they shuttle tourists among tornado watch areas in a van.

Typically costing between $3,000 and $5,000, not including food and hotels, the tours last one to two weeks.

Stanis and Barbieri found that most of the amateur storm chasers were happy with their experiences. One-third of the tourists experienced a tornado, while 50 percent spotted funnel clouds and more than 95 percent reported seeing a significant atmospheric event.
Sorority women on alert

Facebook bully targets sisters.

By Janese Silvey

Thursday, September 16, 2010

University of Missouri women, especially freshman sorority members, are being warned about a potential cyber bully who allegedly used Facebook to threaten a student last week.

The victim, a freshman who recently joined Zeta Tau Alpha, told Columbia police that she accepted a “friend” request on Facebook from a woman named Michele Jensen who claimed to be an alumna of the sorority, said Officer Jill Wieneke, a spokeswoman for the police department.

“After ‘friending’ her, the victim received threats that ‘Michele’ had photos of her in compromising positions and if she told anyone, ‘Michelle’ would post them on the Internet,” Wieneke said.

Jensen then instructed the victim to meet her online through Yahoo Messenger at a certain time or else the photos would be posted, Wieneke said. Instead, the victim contacted police. Officers responded to the call from the Zeta Tau Alpha house at 912 Richmond Ave. just after noon on Friday, and the investigation continues.

Jensen also allegedly threatened to post information about the victim around campus, said Michelle Hanko, a spokeswoman with MU’s Panhellenic Association.

“That person claiming to be Michele Jensen started sending new messages saying she would post things on campus about her that weren’t true,” Hanko said. “The new member freaked out about it and let us know.”

The association has since learned that members of other sororities also accepted friend requests from a Michele Jensen, although no one else has reported any threats, Hanko said.

There are more than 100 people by the name of Michele Jensen using Facebook, but only one has listed MU as her school. That person appears to have just joined Facebook and is using a photo of Lady Gaga as her profile picture. The Tribune attempted to contact that person through the social network, but the e-mail message was not returned.
The Panhellenic Council met Monday night, and leaders urged sororities to warn their members not to accept friend requests from people they do not know.

The council does not have specific guidelines for sorority members using Facebook because it has not experienced problems with the social network in the past, Hanko said.

“Mostly we suggest, in general, to watch out who you’re friending, who can see your photos and where you live and go to school,” she said. “You never know who’s out there. You need to be leery — not only Panhellenic women, but women in general on campus.”

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
MU student receives writing prize

Maureen Stanton, an assistant professor in the Department of English at MU, talks to Minh Nguyen Wednesday about the National College Award that Nguyen has won from the Norman Mailer Center and Writers Colony in partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English.

By Janese Silvey

Thursday, September 16, 2010

A University of Missouri student snagged a prestigious writing award that includes a $10,000 gift and a monthlong writing fellowship next summer.

Minh Phuong Nguyen, a 24-year-old pursuing a master’s in creative nonfiction, received the National College Award from the Norman Mailer Center and Writers Colony in partnership with
the National Council of Teachers of English. One high school student and one community college student also received the award in their respective categories.

Nguyen was shocked to learn of the award yesterday: “I should tell my mom.”

Nguyen submitted the first chapter of a book expected to be completed in a couple of years that tracks the family’s journey from Vietnam to America. It includes Nguyen’s father’s experiences in the Vietnam War and his attempted escape from the country only to be captured and sent to prison. He escaped from prison several times until Nguyen’s mother finally burned his arrest warrants, and the family fled to America in 1991.

“Wow, it’s a really good story,” Nguyen said after summarizing the book.

Nguyen earned degrees in English and nutritional sciences in May and had hoped to pursue a master’s in science. An autoimmunity disorder that claimed some use of Nguyen’s hands prevented that career path, though, so Maureen Stanton, an assistant professor in the Department of English, encouraged Nguyen to continue studies in writing.

Nguyen “brings everything to a story,” Stanton said. The “writing is layered and complex, lyrical. It’s compelling and moving without being overly sentimental or dramatic.”

Nguyen combines hard work with that talent, Stanton said, “going the extra mile.” Nguyen isn’t sure what to do with the prize money: “I was going to pay back loans, but that’s boring, so I’ll think of something else.”

The four-week fellowship will be at the Norman Mailer Writers Colony in Provincetown, Mass., in July.

During an award gala in New York next month, the Norman Mailer Writers Colony also will present awards to professionals including Rolling Stone Publisher Jann Wenner, Turkish novelist and 2006 Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk and longtime journalist Ruth Gruber.

“I’m thrilled for Minh,” Stanton said. “I’m confident in a couple of years Minh will have a book out in the world.”

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
Barrier could improve student safety

City plans wall for walkers on College Avenue.

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, September 16, 2010

While consultants were visiting Columbia last year to study safety issues along College Avenue, a student was struck by a car as he attempted to cross the road near Bouchelle Avenue.

After successfully reaching the mid-street left-turn lane, he walked across one southbound lane between stopped cars only to get hit in the other lane as he tried to reach the safety of the sidewalk. The consultants from Crawford, Bunte, Brammeier reported witnesses to the accident said the pedestrian did not look for oncoming traffic before stepping from between the stopped cars. The victim told University of Missouri police he didn’t cross at Rollins Street, where there is a signal, because it was too far away.

After years of discussing how to prevent such accidents, Columbia is preparing a grant application that would pay for a concrete barrier, 3 to 4 feet high, that would extend 1,150 feet from just south of University Avenue past Bouchelle Avenue.

The barrier would have two openings, each 15 to 25 feet wide, which would funnel pedestrian traffic to specific locations rather than continue to allow haphazard crossings.

The project would cost about $425,000 and would be funded with federal transportation money that the Missouri Department of Transportation is trying to spend quickly, city planner Mitch Skov told the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission last night. The state has $2.6 million available for MoDOT District 5, which includes Boone County, and $7 million to distribute statewide. But the application must be made by Sept. 30 or the city will lose its chance for the money, Skov said.

The city also intends to ask for a grant to help pay for a $175,000 project to rehabilitate and upgrade the pedestrian bridges at College Avenue and Broadway by Stephens College.

Those improvements would include making the bridges more compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and open them up officially to general pedestrian traffic. But the barrier near MU on College would be the city’s top priority, Skov said.
“There is a good chance this will get funded,” he said.

The grants, if awarded, would pay 80 percent of the cost of each project.

From June 2005 to September 2009, there were 11 pedestrians struck by cars from University Avenue to Rollins Street, according to the consultants’ report. Of those, eight pedestrians were struck while attempting to cross at either University or Rollins, where there are traffic lights.

And crossing in mid-block can be safer because pedestrians do not have to deal with turning cars, Skov said today.

But the Columbia Fire Department has concerns about the barriers. If a fire broke out in a building in the East Campus neighborhood, trucks could no longer turn left from College Avenue, Battalion Chief Steve Sapp said. And units responding from the south would not be able to turn left to reach university buildings that include labs with volatile materials.

But the fire department also wants to reduce the number of pedestrian accidents in that area, he said.

“We are not opposed to anything that will improve safety,” he said. “We want to make sure pedestrians can get across there because if they can’t then, unfortunately, we get involved.”

Reach Rudi Keller at 573-815-1709 or e-mail rkeller@columbiatribune.com.
Faculty Council sees results of UM system survey

Survey results could change employee benefits.

By Stephanie Ebbs

Published Sept. 17, 2010

Faculty Council reviewed results of a survey conducted in the spring semester among UM system faculty members Thursday. Betsy Rodriguez, UM system vice president of Human Resources, presented the survey, which asked faculty for feedback on topics such as the university’s retirement plan and offering domestic partner benefits.

Department of Plant Sciences professor Bill Wiebold said he was satisfied with the survey.

“As a faculty member, everything’s kind of data-driven, and you like to be asked,” Wiebold said.

Wiebold said he couldn’t remember faculty being asked about their benefits in the 20 years he has been at MU, which was the motivation for the survey.

“We kept talking about, ‘Somebody wanted this, and somebody wanted that,’ but we didn’t have any data,” Rodriguez said.

Along with the numerical data, there are written comments from many faculty members that have to be accounted for.

The survey covered the entire UM system. Of those eligible for benefits, 37 percent, or 3,048 employees, responded to the survey.

Rodriguez said much of the data was similar across the campuses, with the greatest changes coming between age demographics.

The faculty was asked about whether they would prefer an increase in base pay or increase in benefits, and overall, the highest priority was base pay. An increase in benefits would likely decrease take-home pay proportionally.

“There is no one perfect solution,” Rodriguez said. “I’m never going to make everyone happy, but there is one way I can make everyone happy, and that’s an increase in base pay.”
Medical benefits for domestic partners were discussed, which would be a new addition. The results of the survey were inconclusive on this issue, with 34 percent of participants who strongly agreed with domestic partner coverage and 34 percent who strongly disagreed. An additional 1,260 people declined to answer.

The specific wording of the question became an issue that might have tainted the data.

The question asked, "If resources became available, should domestic partner (same-sex) benefits be a high priority?"

Rodriguez said she thinks the reason for the results were due to this wording. Also, many faculty would prefer access to currently unavailable benefits like orthodontia coverage over coverage for domestic partners.

Another issue that was discussed was the possibility of a wellness incentive program. This program would offer cash incentives for faculty and staff that consistently improved their personal health.

In the survey, 35 percent reported they were making little to no effort to their personal health.

Rodriguez said last year there was more care needed for preventable conditions among MU employees than preventative care, which is covered by their benefits.

This coverage includes screening for various conditions, something university employees are not consistent with. Weibold said he thought the program would encourage faculty, including himself, to think more about their personal health.

Although there is no plan in place yet for these changes, there will be a full public discussion of the decisions in November before they are proposed to the Board of Curators.

Rodriguez said there is some risk involved.

"Not risk to the plan, risk to the university," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said some of the objectives for the plan do not work together, and they must work within the $300 million allocated for the program.

"The hardest part is struggling with the complexity of the issues," Faculty Council Chairwoman Leona Rubin said. "We're a diverse group and trying to find a balance is hard."
MU to host celebration for street name change

By Missourian Staff
September 16, 2010 | 10:46 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — City and MU leaders will celebrate a change in campus history Friday afternoon when Maryland Avenue changes to Tiger Avenue.

Mayor Bob McDavid, MU Alumni Association President Randy Wright and Justin Yeater, MU alumni association student board president, are scheduled to speak at the event, which will be held at 3 p.m., at the Reynolds Alumni Center.

MU cheerleaders and Truman the Tiger will also be on hand during the street name change.
MU Thompson Center upgrades to larger facility

By Jing Zhao
September 16, 2010 | 7:11 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – The MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders is moving to a new, larger location.

The center plans to relocate Sept. 23, and Sept. 24 to 205 Portland St. Clinic services will not be available on those days.

MU has been renting space in the building it currently shares with Paternity Testing Corporation at 300 Portland St. Researchers for the Thompson Center also work across the street in the South Pavilion.

MU purchased the new building with a state appropriation of $5 million, and a federal appropriation of $742,500 funded construction costs. The building covers 26,000 square feet, about 10,000 square feet more than the center’s current location, allowing all faculty and staff to work in one place.

Jim Poehling, executive director of the Thompson Center, said in a news release that the new facility is designed to be family friendly and conducive to collaboration among faculty members.

Cheryl Unterschutz, senior information specialist, detailed the new building’s amenities.

“There will be a family resource room right next to the cafe area with computers available for families to use," she said. "Books and toys can also be checked out from the room.”

The new location will also feature technology such as telehealth units, which are televisions with software that allow doctors to remotely see and speak to patients and parents.
"We will have state of the art audio and video equipment to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of patients," said Steven Kanne, associate director of the Thompson Center, in an e-mail. “Telehealth allows us to expand our ability to reach outlying areas without having to be there physically."

The new building will have more rooms, including two more examination rooms and five more therapy rooms.

The center plans to reopen on Sept. 27. The public is welcome to tour the new facility during its grand opening celebration on Dec. 3.
Blog site ranks college safety

By Kiki Schmitz
September 16, 2010 | 5:18 p.m. CDT

JEFFERSON CITY — According to blog site The Daily Beast's college safety rankings, Washington University in St. Louis is the 13th most dangerous university campus in America.

Out of the 458 schools ranked, MU came in at 226.

Clark Merrefield, a reporter for The Daily Beast who co-authored the report, said he used data from the U.S. Department of Education to compile the criminal offenses that occurred on each campus. Merrefield said he included reports from 2006 to 2008 in his findings. His results were also adjusted to normalize varying enrollment sizes.

Merrefield said he consulted safety experts to allot a "subjective" point value for each crime, setting burglaries as a baseline and murders as the most serious offense.

"It's sort of hard to say how much worse is a murder than being robbed," he said.

The school with the most points would thus be be considered the most dangerous. Tufts University in Boston takes the top spot this year, according to Merrefield's report.

MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer said the university has placed additional officers, emergency phones and surveillance cameras on campus in the past few years. Weimer said he feels MU is up to speed with its peers in terms of campus safety.

The MU Police Department has not seen The Beast's report, Weimer said, but it has seen the crime statistics Merrefield got from the Department of Education. The police department submitted MU's crime statistics to the Department of Education, as all U.S. colleges who participate in federal financial aid programs are required to do under the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990, also known as the Clery Act.
Merrefield said a school’s location played a large role in its safety rankings, with colleges in an urban setting, such as Washington University, having a higher crime rate.

"I think the biggest thing is geography," he said. "Safer schools tend not to be in urban areas."

Merrefield said incidents of rape were not factored into a school’s total score, but were still recorded in the report. Merrefield said rape was "a sticky data point." Some schools do a better job of encouraging students to report rapes than others, so it is likely that not all rapes are reported, he said.

Robin Hattersley Gray, executive editor of Campus Safety Magazine, said if a campus has a particularly high number of reported rapes, it might mean the school is actually providing students with a secure environment to come forward.

"It doesn't mean they're doing a bad job," Hattersley Gray said. "It could mean that they aren't in denial, or that their reporting policies are accessible to students. In that case, a higher rating would be a good thing."

Hattersley Gray said many news outlets are "hesitant" to produce similar lists ranking universities as they are "almost impossible" to compile.

"It's really comparing apples to oranges," Hattersley Gray said. "Every campus is different."
Apple Said to Negotiate With Publishers Over Digital Newsstand

By Sarah Rabil, Adam Satariano and Peter Burrows

Sept. 17 (Bloomberg) -- Apple Inc. is developing a digital newsstand for publishers that would let them sell magazines and newspapers to consumers for use on Apple devices, said two people familiar with the matter.

The newsstand, designed particularly for the iPad, would be similar to Apple's iBook store for electronic books, said the people, who declined to be identified because the negotiations are private. The newsstand would be separate from Apple's App Store, where people can buy some publications now, they said.

Apple's effort is aimed at luring more consumers to the iPad and helping publishers sell subscriptions, rather than single issues. The main hang-ups between Apple and publishers including Time Warner Inc., Conde Nast, Hearst Corp. and News Corp. are who controls data about users and how to split subscription revenue, the people said. Pricing for subscriptions also hasn't been worked out.

The new storefront could be up and running within a couple of months, although the talks are ongoing and could fall apart. Apple may wait to unveil the initiative until they are ready to announce the next iPad, possibly in early 2011, one person said.

"These are serious discussions about subscriptions and advertising within newspaper and magazine applications," said Roger Fidler, the program director for digital publishing at the Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri. "Publishers want to know who their customers are and their usage patterns while reading."

Fidler, who has been an adviser to publishers during the negotiations, said he has no inside information about the deliberations because the publishers he works with are under non-disclosure agreements.

Apple's Aims
Tom Neumayr, a spokesman for Apple; Julie Henderson, a spokeswoman for News Corp.; Dawn Bridges, a spokeswoman for Time Warner's magazine unit; and Maurie Perl, a spokeswoman for Conde Nast, declined to comment. Paul Luthringer, a spokesman for Hearst, did not return a message for comment.

To support the online newsstand, Apple is developing software to make it easier and cheaper to create digital versions of magazines and newspapers, with extras such as high-resolution videos integrated with stories, one person said. By offering tools to simplify the process, the company aims to attract publishers to the storefront, the person said.

Apple, based in Cupertino, California, is also working on server technology to keep electronic publications frequently updated, so consumers wouldn’t have to click on a publication to get the most recent news, the person said.

Publisher Resistance

One challenge is that publishers prefer to control subscriber data and revenue, said Ken Doctor, an analyst with Outsell Inc. in Burlingame, California. Apple is trying to insert itself as a middleman that doesn’t exist in other industries, said Doctor, who is not directly involved in the talks. For example, Sony Corp. doesn’t demand a cut of the revenue from television shows on its TV sets, Doctor said.

Time Warner’s Time Inc. magazine unit, which sells Sports Illustrated and People, doesn’t plan to sign on with Apple’s newsstand because of concerns the effort would sever ties between the publisher and its customers, a person familiar with the company’s discussions said.

Next Issue Media, a joint venture of publishers that includes Conde Nast, Hearst, Meredith Corp. and Time Inc., met this week and the discussions centered around the major magazine publishers not wanting to agree to the current terms from Apple, a person briefed on the conversation said.

Melissa Connerton, a spokeswoman for Next Issue Media, did not return a message seeking comment.

It’s unclear if any publishers have signed on yet, one person said.

Points of Friction

A point of friction has been whether Apple will collect 30 percent of publishing sales, like it does for music, games and other applications, said Fidler of the University of Missouri. Another issue is that Apple may not share subscriber data with publishers, another person said. Without that data, it would be difficult for a publisher to bundle print and digital subscriptions.

Publishers are also talking with Google Inc. about tailoring content for tablets using its Android operating system, people familiar with the talks said. The competition created by Android, which is being used in devices from Samsung Electronics Co. and Dell Inc., could help publishers in their negotiations with Apple, Doctor said.
Facing a drop in traditional readership, the publishers are looking to tablet devices as a new way to reach customers. U.S. consumer magazine circulation has fallen for two straight years, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations. Newspapers’ average daily circulation fell 8.7 percent in the six months through March, after declining 11 percent in the prior six months, according to the trade group.

Print + Video

To take advantage of the new platforms, News Corp., owner of the Wall Street Journal, is setting up a subscription news product specifically for tablets such as the iPad, according to a person familiar with the plans.

One person familiar with Apple’s digital platform plans says it is being designed to help large media companies showcase different kinds of content -- say, Fox News television interviews within stories from the Wall Street Journal.

In their negotiations with Apple, publishers are trying to avoid repeating the battle of digital editions sold on Amazon.com Inc.’s Kindle device.

Publishers criticized how much revenue Amazon was sharing and the retailer’s policy of owning the subscriber information. Amazon still doesn’t share information with publishers about their customers.

“The last thing these companies want is a new middleman,” Doctor said.

Apple rose $6.35, or 2.4 percent, to $276.57 yesterday on the Nasdaq Stock Market. The stock had climbed 31 percent this year before today.

--Editors: Peter Elstrom, Nick Turner

To contact the reporters on this story: Sarah Rabil in New York at srabil@bloomberg.net; Adam Satariano in San Francisco at asatariano1@bloomberg.net; Peter Burrows in San Francisco at pburrows@bloomberg.net

To contact the editors responsible for this story: Peter Elstrom at pelstrom@bloomberg.net; Tom Giles at tgiles5@bloomberg.net
Derrick Washington accused of assaulting ex-girlfriend seven times

By MIKE DeARMOND

The former girlfriend of Derrick Washington told Columbia police that he had assaulted her at least seven times in their three-year relationship, according to a probable cause statement released by the Boone County prosecutor's office.

Police arrested Washington at 3 a.m. Sunday after the former girlfriend filed a complaint. She said Washington had assaulted her in her apartment after he gave her a ride home from a Columbia nightspot. The probable cause statement said Washington hit her "multiple times in the face" and choked her.

WASHINGTON, a former Missouri running back, faces two misdemeanor counts of domestic assault. He was permanently suspended from the team but allowed to remain on scholarship after he was charged Aug. 30 with felony deviate sexual assault in another, unrelated case.

According to the probable cause statement, a friend of the former girlfriend said she received a telephone call around 1:20 a.m. Sunday from her, asking her to come to the former girlfriend's apartment. The friend told police that when she arrived the former girlfriend was in a walk-in closet in her bedroom bleeding from her nose and face. The friend told police Washington was sitting on a plastic tote in front of the closet, blocking the woman from leaving the closet.

The friend told police that Washington left after she told him she had called police.

The probable cause statement, which contained notes from two officers, said Washington was informed of his rights by a Miranda statement and then told police he had been drinking and did not recall the incident.

When police asked Washington how the former girlfriend had received her injuries, Washington said: "I did not hit her, because if I did, she would still be asleep."

Washington faces a Sept. 27 arraignment on the domestic assault charges, both Class A misdemeanors. He has a Sept. 22 arraignment on the deviate sexual charge, a Class C felony.

Attorneys representing Washington declined comment on Thursday. Authorities in Boone County also did not comment.