School of Medicine growth boosts U. of Mo. payroll

Published: Monday, 15 Nov 2010 | 3:25 PM ET

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Robust growth at the University of Missouri School of Medicine has led to a $15 million increase in university payroll and 435 more employees, even though salaries have been frozen for the rest of the campus as administrators brace for another budget crunch.

Salaries for physicians and medical staff are funded through patient care, grants and external contracts, which means taxpayers and students aren't paying for the increases, said Tim Rooney, the university's budget director.

General operating revenues that fund salaries have remained flat, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported Monday.

But the University of Missouri Health System has been busy over the past couple of years. It opened the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute this summer, revamped Columbia Regional Hospital into a women's and children's hospital and absorbed Mid-Missouri Mental Health Center, and has seen patient counts climb at existing facilities.

With that growth has come the need to hire more surgeons, radiologists and anesthesiologists, who are some of the highest-paid university employees.

The university's total payroll is $570 million for 10,428 employees, not including Extension employees and hospital workers not affiliated with the School of Medicine.

Of that total, $214 million goes to 980 workers who earn more than $100,000 each, meaning that fewer than 10 percent of university employees account for nearly 40 percent of salaries.
Rooney said many of those higher salaries are paid with funds from auxiliary services such as health care, bookstore sales and housing fees. The Athletics Department generates its own revenues, so none of the athletic staff salaries are being paid with tuition or tax dollars.

The hiring of two new deans this year at salaries higher than those of their predecessors also added to the payroll increase.

The university got a boost of roughly $8 million to $10 million from a record enrollment and some increases in out-of-state and graduate tuition, Rooney said.

The addition of so many new employees without increases in in-state undergraduate tuition or state funding shows the university is working efficiently in tough times, he said.
MU student's condition improves after fall from dorm balcony

COLUMBIA | A University of Missouri student who fell from a balcony at a residential hall is recovering from his injuries.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that University Hospital said 19-year-old Richard Mehari's condition was upgraded Monday from critical to fair.

The freshman fell Saturday from the fifth-floor railing that overlooks a commons area at Law's residential hall on the university's Columbia campus. Police say he climbed on the railing and slipped off.
MU freshman's condition improves after fall

The condition of a University of Missouri freshman who tumbled from a residential hall balcony Saturday has been upgraded from critical to fair.

Richard Mehan, 19, had been in critical condition Saturday at University Hospital after the early-morning fall. MU police believe he climbed a fifth-floor railing that overlooks a fourth-floor commons area at Laws residential hall and slipped off, Capt. Brian Weimer said.

Mehan had been drinking before the incident, Weimer said.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Student injured in MU dorm fall improving

By The Associated Press
November 15, 2010 | 10:07 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — A 19-year-old freshman who fell from a dorm balcony at MU continues to improve.

Richard Mehan of Chesterfield is listed in fair condition at University Hospital where he was taken after the fall early Saturday.

Police say Mehan tumbled from a fifth-floor balcony onto a fourth-floor commons area at Laws Hall.

MU police Capt. Briau Weimer said the student had been hanging onto the outside of a railing when his hands apparently slipped.

Weimer said Mehan had been drinking.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that Mehan is a 2010 graduate of St. Louis University High School, where he played lacrosse.
Naked pranksters strike pizza shop

incident early today in which pranksters had their photo taken while standing naked on the counter of a downtown restaurant resulted in the arrests of two University of Missouri freshmen.

Columbia police were dispatched to the Domino’s Pizza shop at 416 S. Ninth St. around 12:15 a.m., police spokeswoman Officer Jessie Haden said. The store manager told police he heard the doorbell ring, turned around and saw two naked men standing on the Domino’s counter while a third person took pictures.

When the manager approached them, the men ran to a sport-utility vehicle. The manager reported the license plate number to police, and two suspects were found soon after.

Both suspects told police the incident was a prank, Haden said.

Haye Y. Sahelijo, 18, of 111 E. Stewart Road and Jonathan R. Walk, 18, of 900 College Ave, were arrested on suspicion of second-degree sexual misconduct and were released from the Boone County Jail on $500 bond each.