Tuition increase appears likely for University of Missouri students

The Associated Press • December 10, 2010

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A tuition increase at the four University of Missouri campuses appears all but certain in the coming academic year. The question is just how much more students and their parents will have to pay.

The university’s Board of Curators discussed a possible tuition increase Thursday at the system’s St. Louis campus. A budget overview provided to the board was grim, projecting a $105 million state funding gap. The numbers included a mix of the old — a 28 percent decline in state support over the past decade coupled with a similar increase in enrollment growth — and the new — a $1 billion backlog in campus construction needs.

The bottom line: University leaders expect to seek a waiver from the state for the first time to boost tuition beyond the Consumer Price Index inflation rate, which is currently 1.28 percent. The requirement is part of a state law approved in 2007.

Nikki Krawitz, vice president of finance and administration, said the university system hopes to keep any tuition hike next year under 10 percent after two straight years without an increase. And for the first time, undergraduate tuition rates will vary among the Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis and Rolla campuses.

"We are committed to striving to keep recommended increases in the single digits," she said. "The exact level of increase is dependent in part on the level of state support."

Students who live in Missouri and take a standard 15 credit course load now pay $3,684 in tuition each semester, excluding required student fees. A 9 percent increase would translate into a $331.56 boost per semester.
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Tuition hike likely at UM

BY TIM BARKER • tbarker@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8350 | Posted: Friday, December 10, 2010 12:00 am

With state budget cuts expected to grow deeper next year, the University of Missouri system on Thursday began a seemingly inevitable march toward a tuition increase.

The UM Board of Curators, meeting at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, listened to a status report from system officials, who painted a gloomy picture about the system’s financial prospects for the school year beginning next fall.

Even in a best-case scenario, where the state would only cut 5 percent of the system’s funding, the four campuses would have to make up more than $64 million. A 15 percent cut in state appropriations, which is among the scenarios being considered, could create a shortfall of more than $100 million.

Tuition has been frozen for the past two years through an agreement with Gov. Jay Nixon, who worked to hold higher education funding fairly steady. But Nixon recently told campus officials that he can no longer offer that deal because of budget constraints, opening the way for state schools to raise tuition.

The size of the increase is the great unknown. And it appears unlikely that an increase, by itself, will solve UM’s issues.

“We have no intention of trying to close the gap with a tuition increase,” said Nikki Krawitz, the system’s vice president for finance. Even a 10 percent increase, she said, would only raise $44 million.

The board is expected to consider hard numbers in January, after getting guidance from Nixon’s early budget recommendations. The goal is to keep the increase below 10 percent.

The board also will consider decoupling its tuition increases, with each campus potentially having a different rate hike. Doing so would allow those campuses to respond to their own market conditions and competitors, said Warren Erdman, vice chairman of the board.

"It's something that's inevitable and we need to get started," Erdman said.
Curators work toward minimal tuition increase

UM System's governing board braces for grim state funding

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

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The board typically sets tuition in the spring, after the governor releases a proposed state budget for the fiscal year that starts in July. Curators want to get an earlier start because they expect to need time to seek the required waiver from the state. They now hope to set tuition rates at their late January meeting in Columbia, several weeks after Gov. Jay Nixon will unveil his budget proposals.

Any waiver request must be approved by state higher education commissioner David Russell, a longtime administrator of the University of Missouri.

Some curators wondered whether such permission to raise tuition is a legal necessity — or whether the state can cut the university's funding for failing to seek approval for heftier increases.

"I'm not ready to say we need that waiver," said curator Wayne Goode, a former state legislator. "Let's not forget, we've had a tuition freeze for two years."

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Tuition: Curators hope to set rates by end of January

CONTINUED from page 1A

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Please see TUITION, page 4A
UM curators discuss tuition increases

By Janese Silvey

Published December 9, 2010 at 2:02 p.m.

ST. LOUIS -- University of Missouri System administrators say they will try to keep a tuition increase in the single digits next year.

A formal tuition and fee recommendation won't go to the Board of Curators until next month, after the system has seen Gov. Jay Nixon's budget recommendations. To set the stage for that vote, Nikki Krawitz, vice president of finance and administration, spent part of Thursday's board meeting outlining reasons why the increase is needed.

Typically that talk starts in January and curators don't approve rates until March. The process is earlier than normal because the university expects to seek a waiver from Higher Education Commissioner David Russell to increase tuition beyond the consumer price index of 1.28 percent.

That waiver requirement is part of a state law approved in 2007 that has not yet been enforced because tuition has remained flat for two years under an agreement with the state.

Under the law, universities that increase tuition by more than CPI without the state's permission will be punished with a cut in state funding.

Curator Wayne Goode said he's not convinced the UM System Board of Curators needs to go through that waiver process, though, because the board has constitutional authority that makes it autonomous of the state. Asking the state for permission to increase tuition, he said, sets a bad precedent, and he urged the university to challenge the statute.

Curator Warren Erdman said the board's authority to set tuition isn't the question; rather, it's whether the state has the power to reduce the university's state appropriation if the board bypasses the waiver process. He said he thinks lawmakers do have that authority.

He suggested, though, that the university ask for a tuition waiver up to a certain amount but not officially set the rate until March. That would allow curators to have a better idea of how much state funding the system can expect in 2012.

Tuition rates are expected to vary among all four campuses next year for the first time. Erdman said the idea makes sense because the campuses have different focuses and needs.

Additional tuition revenues won't solve all of the UM System's money woes, though. The system is expecting at least a 5 percent reduction in state resources. On top of that, the UM System is budgeting for a 2 percent increase in merit salary and wages and a 5 percent increase in benefit costs. Although
it's not the case on other UM campuses, MU's faculty salaries remain last among peers and Association of American University institutions.

At the same time tuition has remained flat, the university has seen a decrease in state appropriations and an increase in enrollments, Krawitz said, outlining her justifications for a tuition waiver. During that time, campuses also have improved retention and graduation rates, she said.

“The balance is the need for resources to sustain quality of education and research against student accessibility and affordability,” Krawitz said.

Although it varies by campus, MU sets aside 20 percent of any tuition increase for scholarships, most of which are awarded to needy students, Chancellor Brady Deaton said.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
WikiLeaks' releases raise critical questions

Carol Stark

— Several times over the years, I've received plain brown packets in the mail. They lack an address, or a clue as from where they have come.

But inside the envelope is the gift of information. It’s just waiting to be unwrapped and revealed to the public.

That can only happen if the material can be verified, prosecuted and substantiated.

Even then, it has to be turned into a report that has relevance to the public.

Reporters get plenty of mail sent in by anonymous sources.

But, in 33 years, I remember only a handful of times when “secret” documents passed my way opened the door to a story that someone wanted to keep hidden.

Clearly they weren’t meant for the public, nor were they something we would ever have received except that a disgruntled or concerned government employee decided to pass the information along.

But more often, “secrets” are discovered through the sometimes tedious process of filing open records requests.

That’s when reporters come across details that substantiate hunches that can then be turned into stories.

It may not sound all that exciting, but it’s that kind of access that’s vital to all reporters. And, it’s important that Sunshine Laws exist that keep the flow of information open.

By now many of you are familiar with WikiLeaks. The whistle-blower website is releasing more than 250,000 classified documents. The cables are internal, written communications between
U.S. embassies around the world to each other and to the U.S. State Department.

WikiLeaks described the leak as "the largest set of confidential documents ever to be released into the public domain (giving) an unprecedented insight into U.S. Government foreign activities."

Julian Assange is the Australian founder and chief manipulator of WikiLeaks. He may or may not escape the wrath of the U.S. government.

But what about the American press that disseminated materials marked classified?

The New York Times got the documents, redacted some information and then sent it to the State Department for consideration.

The Times made the case that the documents were on the Internet from WikiLeaks already.

The debate is on in the news business. Earlier this week the University of Missouri School of Journalism sent out a blip citing quotes from two expert sources.

Christina Veils, the Enoch H. Crowder professor of law at the MU School of Law and a free speech law expert, says that while the government would probably have a legal case against the source of the information leaks, legal precedent for disseminating the information is on the side of journalists.

"The bar that the Pentagon Papers case set for press injunction is so high that it would be extremely difficult for the government to meet it," Wells said. "There also is very little basis for criminally prosecuting publishers of such information. Journalism publishing has evolved so much with the Internet that it would be impossible to stop the spread of information, even if the government legally could."

Charles Davis, an associate professor of journalism studies at the School of Journalism and freedom of information expert, believes that while previous WikiLeaks disclosures were handled poorly, the organization made a positive effort to work through the proper professional channels in this instance.

"After WikiLeaks' first massive data dump of Afghanistan war documents, it rightly received a great deal of criticism from the journalism community," Davis said.

"The newly released documents on the site are redacted in many key places and Wiki-Leaks worked with journalism stalwarts like The New York Times," he said.

Almost every syndicated columnist has taken on the topic during the past week.

Dan Thomasson, with Scripps Howard, puts Wiki-Leaks into a different category than the Pentagon Papers.

"The Pentagon Papers were historical documents produced by an outside think tank and probably never should have been classified."
This dumping of unexpurgated classified material on the Internet is unprecedented in its irresponsibility, verging on villainy,” he wrote in his column last week.

There are many arguments that could be made about the right or wrong of Wiki-Leaks.

Ultimately the age of the Internet should give us pause to remember that there is very little that is really “secret” these days.

The more formidable question is how will government respond? By shoring up its breach? Or, has WikiLeak provided a convenient opportunity for the government to clamp down on information that in the days before WikiLeak has always been free and open to the public?

That, in my opinion, would be a much bigger threat to national security.

_Coral Stork is editor of The Joplin (Mo.) Globe. She can be reached at cstark@joplin globe.com. CNHI News Service distributes her column._
How to Avoid Becoming a Grinch This Holiday Season

By Aimee Levitt
published: Thu., Dec. 9 2010 @ 3:45PM

It's so easy to succumb to Grinch-ish-ness this time of year. It's dark, it's cold and you can't go anywhere without hearing fake-cheerful Muzaked Christmas songs. This all makes you especially vulnerable to the good sad songs, like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" or "I'll Be Home for Christmas," the ones that stab you in the heart and make you want to kill yourself.

Sometimes it's better just to harden your heart. "You're a Mean One, Mister Grinch" is nice and swingy and makes a good personal soundtrack, particularly sung by Boris Karloff: "You have all the tender sweetness of a seasick crocodile!"

But now the nursing faculty at the University of Missouri, damn them, has prescribed way to overcome Grinch-ish tendencies during the holidays, all based on research they've conducted over the past year.

COLUMBIA, Mo. - To avoid Grinch-like tendencies during this holiday season, University of Missouri health experts offer tips to promote well-being.

- "Lower your expectations," said Kellie Shuck, adjunct clinical faculty in the MU Sinclair School of Nursing. "Attempting to achieve the perfect holiday will cause stress and set people up to fail. Remember that nothing is perfect, so embrace what you have!"

- "Take 45 minutes and make an afternoon visit to an older person in your neighborhood during the holiday season," said Marilyn Rantz, Curators' Professor in the Sinclair School of Nursing. "Sometimes the simplest things - sharing a cup of coffee and some fresh holiday fruits - can be uplifting for both of you. Oranges, tangerines and other treats often spark conversation about holidays from years past when these fruits were real highlights for many families. Reminiscence
is fun for both and visits are much appreciated by older persons - not to mention the positive health benefits of the fruits!"

- "Be clear about what you can and cannot do," said Constance Brooks, adjunct associate professor in the nursing school and instructor in the Master of Public Health Program. "Determine limitations and boundaries, and focus on living one day at a time to simplify your life. Be honest each day with yourself and with others. Then, let go of any emotional attachments to specific outcomes."

"Remember simple gifts may be the most important gifts we can give," Brooks said. "In the blog, 'Thoughts from Wayne,' Wayne Mueller says these gifts can include simply doing no harm, refraining from judging ourselves and others, eliminating sarcasm and anger, and refraining from hurtful speech or actions. These gifts greatly contribute to healing ourselves and others."

- "Be thankful for your family," said Clark Peters, assistant professor in the school of Social Work. "Each year, 29,000 foster youths become adults. These young people face tremendous challenges in negotiating life on their own, and most spend the holidays without their biological or adoptive families."

These tips are based on findings from MU research conducted throughout the year. For more information, visit: http://nursing.missouri.edu/research/index.php
Education Department Rules That Virginia Tech Violated Law in Response to 2007 Shootings

By Sara Lipka

The U.S. Department of Education issued a final ruling on Thursday that Virginia Tech violated campus crime-reporting law in its response to the shootings there on April 16, 2007.

On that day a student fatally shot two others in a residence hall at approximately 7:15 a.m. The university issued a warning via e-mail at 9:26 a.m. Shortly thereafter, the same gunman began firing shots in an academic building, killing 30 more students and professors, and himself.

The Education Department determined that Virginia Tech failed to issue a "timely warning" as required under the crime-reporting law known as the Clery Act. Its campuswide e-mail, which mentioned a "shooting incident" but not any fatalities, was both too late and too vague, the department said. Also, it said, the university failed to follow its own policy for issuing timely warnings.

Virginia Tech officials responded sharply to those findings. "It appears the university is being held accountable for a new federal standard that was adopted after the April 2007 shootings," Lawrence G. Hincker, associate vice president for university relations, said in a written statement.

The reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in 2008 required colleges to issue, beyond timely warnings of specific crimes, immediate emergency notifications in the case of active threats to the health or safety of students and employees. Some drafts of the bill included a 30-minute time limit on emergency notification, but campus law-enforcement officials argued that it would generate hasty misinformation and detract resources from a university's response to an incident. The law leaves the definition of immediacy more subjective.

Virginia Tech officials contended that Thursday's ruling would further confuse what constitutes a timely warning. "It appears that a timely warning is whatever the Department of Education decides after the fact," Mr. Hincker said.

The Education Department had issued an initial ruling against Virginia Tech in January, which the university made public in May along with its response. In that response, Virginia Tech listed several shootings and stabbings on or near campuses before 2008 in which colleges either did not issue alerts or waited up to a day.

However, the Education Department contested the university's characterization of those situations and found them incomparable to the discovery of the first two victims at Virginia Tech. That "is precisely the type of event for which the timely warning requirement was intended," the department said, suggesting that such a warning should have been immediate.

The Cost of the Ruling

Thursday's ruling also dismissed Virginia Tech's challenges to several initial findings by the department. The university had disputed the accuracy of statements such as which administrators had what information when, but the department largely maintained its timeline.

Now the Education Department will decide whether to impose fines or other sanctions. Virginia Tech may no longer appeal the findings, but Mr. Hincker indicated that officials would appeal any penalties. For violations of the Clery Act, the department can impose fines of $27,500 and, in theory, suspend a university's federal-aid eligibility.

The ruling may have further costs for Virginia Tech. Still pending is a lawsuit filed by the families of two victims of the shootings there, Julia K. Pryde and Erin N. Peterson. The Education Department's findings may be introduced into that case, said Carl W. Tobias, a professor at the University of Richmond's School of Law. And in any negotiations toward a settlement, those findings may give the families more leverage, he said.

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http://chronicle.com/
Are iPad Apps Killing Newspapers? Survey Says...

Dec 9, 2010- Lucia Moses

Are iPad apps the new newspaper killer? A new survey out today showed that print newspaper subscribers who are heavy iPad users are "very likely" to cancel their print subscriptions.

The survey by the University of Missouri's Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute is one of the first deep dives into how people are consuming news content on the eight-month-old device and its potential impact on print readership.

RJI gathered responses from more than 1,600 iPad users online from September to November.

The survey showed that 58 percent of respondents who use the Apple tablet at least an hour a day for news are very likely to cancel their subscription in the next six months. One in 10 said they had already done so and have switched to reading digital newspapers on their iPad.

A potential positive finding for newspapers as they try to charge people for their digital content is, nine in 10 said they were likely to use newspapers' apps to get news, rather than using a Web browser to go to the papers' Web sites, most of which are free.

"These findings are encouraging for newspaper publishers who plan to begin charging for subscriptions on their iPad app editions early next year, but our survey also found a potential downside: iPad news apps may diminish newspaper print subscriptions in 2011," said Roger Fidler, RJI's program director for digital publishing.

In a separate survey released today, GfK MRI found about equal amounts of adults reading newspapers and magazines via apps or mobile devices. Four percent of adults reported reading a newspaper via an app in the past 30 days, compared with 3.7 percent of adults reading magazine content this way.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Tickets for bus to Insight Bowl on sale

By Sarah Tucker
December 9, 2010 | 6:06 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA – The Missouri Students Association, with donations from sponsors, has planned a bus trip to the Insight Bowl for students.

The trip, which costs $99 per person, will take two days and includes frequent stops on the way to Phoenix. The price includes a hotel stay for four nights, breakfast throughout the trip and a ticket to the game. Students can also bring up to two nonstudent guests.

"We know it’s a long trip, but we hope splitting it up like that will hopefully make for happier students," said Campus Activities Coordinator Lauren Karr.

The low cost, however, means that single rooms are not available.

"If you have two people in a room it’s $185 a person for the entire trip," Karr said. "And if there’s three people in a room, it’s $99 the entire trip."

The bus leaves at 11:30 a.m. Sunday and arrives back on campus at 8 p.m. Thursday.

Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and go on sale at the MSA Box Office in the Student Center starting Thursday. Only 100 seats are available.

Karr said she has been inundated with phone calls and e-mails since the information went out.

"Once this is full, this is who’s going," she said. "It’s a special group of people."

Jeremy Ellis, a senior communications major who works at the MSA Box Office, made sure to buy his ticket early. Ellis said he regularly attends Mizzou football games, but this is his first college road trip, and he expects to have fun.

"It’s probably going to be a good road trip," Ellis said.
For students who don't want to share a room or can't get a spot on the bus, bowl tickets are still available online.

"We have 11,000 tickets available, and we're closing in on half of our allotment," said Chad Moller, MU athletics department spokesman.