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AP Associated Press

Missouri Curators OK Tuition, Fee Hikes

State Higher Education Department Must Still Approve Increases

POSTED: 10:43 am CST January 29, 2011

COLUMBIA, Mo -- Tuition at the four University of Missouri campuses will likely increase for the first time in three years after a vote Friday by the systems' Board of Curators.

Curators voted 5-3 in favor of a 5.5 percent average increase for in-state undergraduates as well as out-of-state residents, who pay more. They rejected an alternative proposal by curator Don Downing to cap the increases at 5 percent.

The tuition boost must still be approved by the state Department of Higher Education because such hikes are supposed to be no more than the federal government's annual inflation rate, which most recently was 1.5 percent. The university system plans to submit its request to the education department Tuesday, with a response expected by April.

The approved hikes vary from 4.7 percent at the St. Louis campus to 6.6 percent at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla. The Columbia campus wants a 5.8 percent increase, while the Kansas City campus is recommending a 4.8 percent increase.

The eight curators also endorsed increases in a slate of student fees, though not as much as suggested by university administrators.

Undergraduate students from Missouri who take a standard 15-credit course load now pay \$3,684 in tuition each semester, while out-of-state students pay \$6,008. A 5.5 percent increase would translate into a \$203 boost per semester for in-state students and a \$330 hike for out-of-state undergraduates. The fee increases would be on top of that.

University administrators recommended fee increases of 6.5 percent in most academic programs but double-digit percentage hikes in four disciplines, including business and journalism. Several curators suggested that nearly doubling the \$35.50 charge per credit hour in the Trulaske College of Business would draw criticism from Jefferson City lawmakers, and possibly invite greater cuts than the 7 percent recommended in Gov. Jay Nixon's proposed budget.

Curators eventually approved raising the fees by half of the original recommendation, with an equivalent increase planned in the 2012 academic year. Campus housing costs were increased by 4 percent.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

UM board approves 5.5 percent tuition increase

BY TIM BARKER tbarker@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8350 | Posted: Saturday, January 29, 2011 12:05 am

A college degree from the University of Missouri will get a little more expensive after system leaders approved a proposal Friday that could raise tuition rates 5.5 percent.

It was not, however, an easy decision by the Board of Curators, with three of eight members voting against the increase, citing fears they were asking for too much.

Within hours of the vote, Gov. Jay Nixon issued a statement criticizing the tuition hike on exactly those grounds.

"This tuition proposal is well beyond the increase in the cost of living allowed by statute," Nixon said. "Universities should look first at achieving every efficiency in their operations before taking this type of action that affects families' ability to pay for higher education."

Similar concerns also prompted sparring among curators over a proposal to increase the fees charged by some college departments — including a 97 percent increase in the per-credit-hour fee paid by undergraduates in the University of Missouri-Columbia's business college.

In the end, it took a compromise — the largest increases were cut in half — before the new fees were passed by the board in a 6-2 vote. Curators also approved increases in room and board rates.

Curator Don Downing of Webster Groves argued repeatedly during the two days of meetings in Columbia that large increases could be used against the system when legislators work on the budget later in the year.

"I think that's going to be a lightning rod when our budget comes up in appropriations," said Downing, who also had urged the board to limit the tuition increase to 5 percent.

Nixon, who earlier said he hoped state colleges would keep their increases to 4 percent, has proposed a budget that calls for a 7 percent cut in higher education spending. Downing and others said they worried that higher education foes might try to increase that number when balancing the budget.

While it's still early in the process, one key member of the Missouri House said the increase didn't appear to be raising any concerns at the Capitol. "That 5.5 percent number has been around

for a couple of days," said Rep. Mike Lair, R-Chillicothe, who chairs the House education appropriations committee.

Even with the impending 5.5 percent tuition increase — the average of the increases across the four campuses — the system still finds itself with a significant hole in its budget, considering Nixon's proposed cut. Early budget figures show a \$42 million shortfall, prompting questions about schools' ability to keep up with maintenance and repairs and to raise faculty salaries, which have been essentially frozen for two years.

Both have been cited as significant issues by system officials, who worry about mounting repair bills and the prospect of losing top instructors and researchers to competitors. Already, each of the four campuses trails all or most of their peer institutions in terms of faculty pay. Mizzou, for example, offers the lowest faculty salaries in its 35-member peer group, according to the university.

It's an issue that was addressed Friday morning by Steve Owens, the system's interim president: "It is imperative that we cut costs where we can to set aside a 2 percent pool for merit pay for our most talented faculty and staff."

The board-approved tuition increase still has one more bureaucratic hoop to jump through before it can be put in place this summer. Because it is higher than the rate of inflation, the system must get a waiver from the state's higher education commissioner. System officials said they will apply for that waiver early next week.

In his statement, Nixon said the "tuition proposal should get the scrutiny it deserves from the commissioner of higher education."

The impending increase, which follows two years of frozen tuition for state residents, did not seem to be creating much angst among Mizzou students this week.

Sara Spiess, a senior from St. Charles who plans to return to school in the fall to work on a second degree, said she wasn't surprised by the curators' action. Nor was she particularly concerned about it, noting that it would just be added to her student loans.

"It's not going to cost anything out of my pocket right now. But it might put some more stress on me when I pay off my college loans," Spiess said. "To be honest, there are a lot of schools that cost a lot more."

Others wondered whether the impending increase could knock some students out of school — something the universities say they are hoping to avoid by setting aside 20 percent of the new tuition revenue to help the neediest students.

And then there was the fatalistic view of Mike Milner, a freshman from St. Louis.

"Nobody's going to be too happy paying more to go to school," Milner said. "But there's not much you can do about it. So you might as well live with it."

Gov. Jay Nixon has recommended a budget that cuts higher education funding by 7 percent, which equates to about \$29 million for the UM System. Downing stressed that's no guarantee: The legislature will make the final decision and is going to have to make cuts somewhere.

"Lawmakers who do not want to fund education will use whatever they can use," including course fee increases, "to make a point," he said.

Wasinger said he didn't like the idea of course fees being tacked onto tuition, saying he has heard from friends and relatives who get upset when their bills aren't what they expected. "I'm wondering if we're hiding the ball from these students by back-dooring our way into increasing revenues with these supplemental fees," he said.

Interim President Steve Owens said that's not the case. Course fees are disclosed up front. The goal, he said, is to get the fees to match the costs of specific programs so students in one school aren't paying a disproportionate amount to offset the cost of pricier schools.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

No plans for tuition increase at SEMO as other area institutions raise their fees

Monday, January 31, 2011

By M.D. Kittle ~ Southeast Missourian

With tuition rising at institutions all around it, Southeast Missouri State University is an island -- for now.

"We don't have a plan now to increase tuition," said Southeast Missouri State University provost Ronald Rosati.

Admittedly, it's early in the game. As a two-year tuition freeze seems to be melting, Missouri's universities and community colleges are beginning to propose increases, although some not as severe as originally expected.

The University of Missouri Board of Curators on Friday approved a 5.5 percent average increase for in-state undergraduates as well as out-of-state residents, who pay more. They rejected an alternative proposal by curator Don Downing to cap the increases at 5 percent. The tuition boost must still be approved by the state Department of Higher Education because such increases are supposed to be no more than the federal government's annual inflation rate, which most recently was 1.5 percent.

Gov. Jay Nixon in late 2009 reached an agreement with university and college presidents to freeze tuition in exchange for a 5.2 percent reduction in higher education funding; the funding cut could have been higher. With the decision by the state's biggest university system, that deal appears to be over.

"We wish we could continue to hold the line on tuition and fees as we have for the past two years," the system's interim president, Steve Owens, said in a release.

Three Rivers Community College's board of trustees recently approved raising tuition by \$5 per credit hour this fall for in-district and out-of-state students, to \$72 and \$144 per credit hour, respectively.

Trustees are expected next month to decide on an increase in out-of-district tuition, paid by a majority of Three Rivers students, and the rate most students enrolled at the Partnership for Higher Education in Cape Girardeau pay. The partnership is a two-year institution of higher education supported by Southeast Missouri State University, Three Rivers and Mineral Area Community College. Three Rivers president Devin Stephenson is recommending three scenarios that could boost out-of-district tuition by \$7, \$10 or \$12 per credit hour, currently at \$107.

"We did a survey of some institutions across the state, and for every dollar increase in district per credit hour, they doubled it for out-of-district students," Stephenson said. "I don't know where the board will land; they are looking further at the number."

The administrator says about 50 percent of all of Three Rivers credit hours are produced out of district. Enrollment for the spring semester is more than 3,700 students, another record headcount.

Missouri's community and technical colleges are asking their boards to hold tuition increases at 5 percent, a move influenced by the governor's pledge to keep higher education budget cuts to no more than 7 percent.

Steven Kurtz, president of Mineral Area College, said the institution's board is waiting to see where state budget numbers fall. He said a tuition increase could be less than \$5 per credit hour, depending on how things shake out.

"There's a lot of time between now and the date the governor signs the budget bill," he said. "I've learned not to count on anything until the ink dries."

In-district tuition at the community college is \$83 per credit hour, \$108 out of district. About 42 percent of students pay out-of-district tuition at Mineral Area College, and that rate will be what students in the Partnership for Higher Education's applied science degree program will pay.

As the community college continues to post record growth, with a fall enrollment of nearly 4,000 students, Kurtz said state cuts in recent years have cost students.

"Like a lot of community colleges, we're full during peak demand times," he said. "I'm sure we did not meet the need of everyone trying to register for classes."

Even if tuition remains frozen at Southeast, students will face higher fees next year to pay for much of the cost of the university's campuswide renovation plan. The bonds alone are \$59.25 million. Student general fees are set to rise \$5 per credit hour on top of a \$6 maintenance fee, to be in full force next year. Regents gave their support to a Student Government Association recommendation to phase in the \$5 fee increase over the next three years.

Undergraduate incidental fees for Missouri residents are \$184.80 per credit hour, with general fees at \$23.70 per credit hour, according to the university's 2010-2011 fee schedule.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UM curators vote to raise tuition, course fees

By Alex Keckeisen, Victoria Guida

January 28, 2011 | 6:37 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — After a contentious debate, the University of Missouri System Board of Curators approved an increase in course fees, along with a 5.5 percent average tuition increase Friday.

The decision for fee increases was a compromise after the board considered three possibilities:

- The original proposal: Not capping an increase in course fees, which would allow a 97.2 percent increase in fees at the MU Trulaske College of Business and other double-digit percentage increases.
- Capping the course fee increases at 9 percent, a motion the finance committee voted to recommend Thursday.
- Cutting all course fee increases above 12 percent in half and reconsidering the proposals later.

The third plan, developed by curator John Carnahan, was eventually approved. It passed when it became clear the original proposal would not have the necessary votes.

Carnahan said he did not want to reduce the initial fee increases, given the business school is looking to fund additional services and a new program.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said the College of Business would still try to develop the program with a smaller increase, but he preferred the original option.

The curators voted three times before finally reaching a decision.

Chairman Warren Erdman called it a "reasonable compromise."

Here's what the fee increase means for some programs:

- Health Professions: 18.6 percent increase in fees or \$10.20 more per course.
- Business: 48.7 percent increase; \$17.30 added per course.
- Engineering: 11.7 percent increase; \$7 added per course.
- Journalism: 22.5 percent increase; \$9.30 added per course.
- Other undergraduate programs: 6.5 percent increase.
- Graduate and professional (law, medicine, and veterinary medicine) programs: 6.5 percent increase.

Curator Don Downing put forward an amendment to lower the tuition increase to a 5 percent average, citing accessibility to the system's four campuses.

"I hope we are mindful of maintaining access to all Missouri families to our University of Missouri system," Downing said.

Nikki Krawitz, UM vice president of finance and administration, said reducing the increase to 5 percent from 5.5 percent would have minimal impact, amounting to no more than \$1.30 per credit hour.

Curator Wayne Goode suggested a compromise that would allow average tuition to go "up to" 5.5 percent, instead of setting it at 5.5 percent. Krawitz said that would only prolong the budget issues, and Erdman agreed the board must act.

Ultimately, the Board of Curators accepted the administration's recommended 5.5 percent average tuition and mandatory fee increase. The expected increase at MU is 5.8 percent for resident undergraduate students. After the meeting, Interim UM President Steve Owens complimented the board's discussion.

"I thought the board did an excellent job of discussing and weighing the issues on tuition increases," Owens said.

Erdman said he did not anticipate any additional action on tuition and fees this year, but he reminded the board that the UM system still faces a \$42 million budget gap.

"We shouldn't be ignoring deferred maintenance, we shouldn't be letting positions go unfilled and our class sizes are getting too big," Erdman said. "We shouldn't be doing that. We're managing through tough economic times the best we can."

In other action, the board accepted the idea of hiring a firm to help conduct a search to replace former President Gary Forsee.

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

THE MANEATER

Curators approve 5.8% hike for tuition, fees

The Board of Curators voted 5-3 in favor of the raise on Friday.

By Jimmy Hibschi

Published Jan. 28, 2011



Sam Gause/Senior Staff Photographer

Chancellor Brady Deaton speaks to the UM System Board of Curators on Thursday at the Reynolds Alumni Center. During the meeting they discussed tuition increases for all UM System schools that will decouple tuition rates among the four campuses for 2011-12.

The ongoing discussion regarding tuition increases was put to rest Friday, as the UM System Board of Curators voted to accept the system's recommendation and raise tuition and required fees at MU by 5.8 percent.

Effective with the summer 2011 session, the board voted 5-3 in favor of raising tuition at its meeting at MU. Curators Don Downing, David Wasinger and David Bradley voted against the proposal. Across the four-campus system, tuition and required fees will raise an average of 5.5 percent.

These rate hikes come on the heels of Gov. Jay Nixon's proposal to cut system funding by 7 percent, or \$29.9 million. Even with the tuition increase that will generate \$24.1 million, Vice President of Finance and Administration Nikki Krawitz said the system will still see a \$42.4 million shortfall. And that's after an additional \$11.3 million in efficiencies were cut in next year's budget planning process.

"As we said at the meeting before, we could not bring any recommended increases that would completely close the funding gap," Krawitz said.

Specifically at MU, the cost for resident undergraduate students will rise about \$488 yearly, to a total of \$8,917. Non-resident tuition will increase by 6.5 percent, or \$42 per credit hour. This percentage, however, does not reflect the additional required fees the in-state cost includes. These numbers, if included, would lower the total percent.

For the first time, tuition is being decoupled across the system. At UM — St. Louis, the raise is 4.7 percent, and a 6.6 percent raise will be seen at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. UM — Kansas City is increasing tuition by 4.8 percent. This is to better reflect the four institution's individual markets, Board Chairman Warren Erdman said in a previous Maneater report.

"Each of those campuses offers a little different product and is in a different marketplace," Erdman said. "Each campus is different and has a different cost structure."

More controversial among the board was the decision to increase specific course fees, notably the College of Business' suggested rise from \$35.50 to \$70 per credit hour, a 97 percent increase.

After a few amendments, the board agreed in a 6-2 vote to pass a recommendation that increases fees half of the suggested increase this year. The other half will be raised next year.

This means the College of Business will increase course fees by \$17.30 per credit hour, or 48.7 percent; the School of Journalism will increase course fees \$9.30, or 22.5 percent; the School of Health Professions will increase course fees \$10.20, or 18.6 percent; and the College of Engineering will increase course fees \$7, or 11.7 percent. All remaining course fees at MU will rise 6.5 percent.

"No one's going to leave this room happy," Curator John Carnahan said.

Now that the system has increased tuition, it will have to appeal to a provision in Senate Bill 389. The bill restricts Missouri four-year institutions from raising their tuition by more than the Consumer Price Index, which is 1.5 percent this year. Although the bill has never been appealed since its enactment in 2007, Krawitz is confident it shouldn't pose a problem to the system.

The deadline for applying for this provision is Tuesday.

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

THE MANEATER

Business course fees recommended to increase, met with slight board reluctance

Posted to Live Blog: January 2011 Board of Curators meeting by Jimmy Hibsich at 2:06 p.m., Jan. 27, 2011

For the first time in Thursday's Board of Curators meeting, members responded to a UM System proposal with reluctance.

The topic in question is the special changes in supplemental course fees at MU. The System is suggesting the College of Business increases its average undergraduate fees from \$34.50 to \$70, a 97 percent increase.

"Would I vote for a tuition increase?" Curator David Wasinger said. "Probably. Would I vote for a 97 percent increase in business course fees? No."

Student representative to the board Laura Confer said she had spoken to MU business students who said this fee will reflect the classes they want to take. She said the fees are what the board should be looking at, not the percents.

"You're getting stuck on the 97 percent increase," Confer said to the opposing curators. "The outcome is much more positive than negative."

Other recommended course fee increases are for the School of Journalism, a raise from \$41.40 to \$60 (a 45 percent increase), the School of Health Professions, increasing from \$54.70 to \$75 (a 37 percent increase), the College of Engineering, raising from \$60 to \$74 (a 23 percent increase) and the College of Education will expand assessment to all courses.

Chancellor Brady Deaton said he is confident the increases would not impact enrollment.

"We need this fee to go forward," Deaton said. "The faculty has worked very hard with the students. They understand it."

Nixon is critical of increase

Statement says tuition hike deserves scrutiny.

By **JANESE SILVEY**

Gov. Jay Nixon isn't happy about the decision of the University of Missouri Board of Curators to raise tuition by an average of 5.5 percent next school year.



Jay Nixon



Chris Kelly

In a statement sent after 5 p.m. yesterday, Nixon said the tuition amount is well beyond the increase allowed by statute. A three-year-old state law says universities should cap tuition increases by inflation or else face penalties from the state.

"Universities should look first at achieving every efficiency in their operations before taking this type of action that affects families' ability to pay for higher education," Nixon said in the statement. "This tuition proposal should get the scrutiny it deserves from the Commissioner of Higher Education."

Curators yesterday approved tuition and required fee rates that include an average of 5.8 percent increase at MU. The university is expected to submit the four-campus tuition rates to Commissioner David Russell on Tuesday.

The tuition increases are a done deal, board Chairman Warren Erdman said yesterday after the board meeting. He said he was optimistic Russell will approve the tuition and fee schedule in light of the fact the university is facing a 7 percent reduction in state funds and has kept in-state, undergraduate tuition flat for two years.

Administrators weren't available for comment after Nixon's statement was released.

Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, suggested that curators ignore Nixon's comments.

"The governor has failed to find ways to fund the university now for the third year in a row," he said. "The least he could do is respect the responsibility of curators to keep quality up. Access is important, but so is quality and curators would be right to ignore this as completely a political statement."

Kelly also suggested the UM System not succumb to threats of budget cuts under the waiver process. He pointed to the fact that the Board of Curators is an autonomous board not subject to state lawmakers. That's a point interim President Steve Owens also stressed at yesterday's board meeting.

Kelly also said it's not up to Russell or Nixon to withhold funding if the UM System increases tuition beyond cost of living. The General Assembly is responsible for finalizing the budget.

"Nixon can't impose a penalty," Kelly said. "He can recommend something to us, but there's no appetite in the General Assembly — either with Republicans or Democrats — for doing anything to the university. I'm checking around and can't find anybody."

That's why comments by Curator Don Downing on Thursday riled Kelly. Downing suggested that curators keep tuition increases below 5 percent and course fees below 9 percent or else give lawmakers an excuse to cut funding for higher education by more than 7 percent.

"It is clear Downing was misrepresenting the legislature when he talked," Kelly said. "He was talking about the governor. ... He may be carrying water for other people, but to blame it on lawmakers, I think, is inaccurate. Lawmakers didn't appoint him. Lawmakers haven't gone on a long binge about tuition."

Nixon appointed Downing — a friend, campaign supporter and former colleague — in 2009. Nixon also has publicly called on universities to keep tuition increases low. Downing was not at the board meeting yesterday, but called in from his law office. He did not return messages left by the Tribune.

Kelly said a curator should be "a cheerleader for the institution rather than a mole for the governor."

State Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, agreed, saying supporting the university should be curators' "first and foremost" responsibility.

Reporter Rudi Keller contributed to this report

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com



Lawmakers close ranks on higher ed

Area delegation gathers at forum.

By **RUDI KELLER**

Budget cuts imposed on higher education since Gov. Jay Nixon took office are "unacceptable," state Sen. Kurt Schaefer told area alumni yesterday.

Higher education programs have lost a larger portion of their funding than any area of state government other than the Office of Administration, Schaefer, R-Columbia, said at a forum sponsored by the Boone County Chapter of the **MU Alumni Association, the Arts and Sciences Alumni Organization and the Mizzou Legislative Network**. State Reps. Chris Kelly, Mary Still and Stephen Webber, all Columbia Democrats, also took part in the forum.

In turn, each cataloged ways they believe state government is failing the University of Missouri and other higher education institutions. After they were done, Dianne Drainer, advocacy director for the MU Alumni Association, said the words were a call to action.

"It has to be a statewide effort," she said. "They need to know we are all there."

Schaefer, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the state has serious budget problems. It will be difficult to find money for UM, he said.

But cuts in scholarships, a 5 percent cut in institution budgets this year and another 7 percent cut proposed for the coming year are too deep, he said. "To have higher education at the top of the budget cuts in this situation is unacceptable," Schaefer said.

Schaefer will get his chance to rewrite the budget after the House finishes work. "There is a lot of support from people in the House and Senate who don't want to see higher education at the top of the list," he said.

Schaefer this week endorsed an increase in taxes on cigarettes but recognized the political reality that Nixon, a Democrat, and the overwhelmingly Republican General Assembly oppose all tax increases.

Rep. Chris Kelly said politicians are using educational decline as a political plus.

"Every time you hear a politician make a speech and say, 'We were able to do it without raising taxes,' what it means is, 'We were able to substantially decrease the quality of education,'" Kelly said. Nixon used the phrase four times in his State of the State speech; House Speaker Steve Tilley, R-Perryville, and Senate President Pro Tem Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, used similar phrases in their opening-day speeches.



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"The quality of this institution is eroding because state government is comprehensively failing that institution," Kelly said.

Kelly praised Still, who filed two bills this week to increase the tax on tobacco, as someone willing to "stand at the gate and fight even if the fight is not going to be won."

Still said higher cigarette taxes don't mean political suicide. Missouri has the lowest cigarette tax among states: 17 cents per pack. Her bills would directly increase the tax 12.5 cents per pack and ask voters for \$1 more per pack.

Smoking costs the state Medicaid system \$625 million annually, she said. "We could ask smokers to pay their own way and consider this a user tax," Still said.

The state also is failing the university by making it impossible to expand professional education programs, Webber said. As examples, he said there are not enough slots for veterinary students or physical therapy students.

The lack of funds to expand professional programs will hurt the state, he said.

"If we don't think the choices we make today affect the life of tomorrow, we are mistaken," Webber said.

Reach Rudi Keller at 573-815-1709 or e-mail rkeller@columbiatribune.com.



UM assessment: Campuses meeting goals

By **JANESE SILVEY**

No "red-light" warning signals cropped up in the first year of a new campus accountability effort, according to information University of Missouri curators heard yesterday.

The UM System has filled in the first year of a three-year accountability chart that aims to show the public how each campus fares compared with peers. The Accountability Measurement System — unveiled early last year by then-system President Gary Forsee — charts roughly 80 measures that encompass the four facets of the university's mission: teaching and learning, research, service and economic development.

Administrators are using stoplight colors to flag which measures are on target, which are progressing toward a 2012 target and which are failing. The chart also provides a peer average, showing how each campus stacks up against competitors.

The first year of data shows no red marks, only green and yellow, meaning each campus is progressing or meeting goals. In some areas, such as the ethnicity of students, faculty and staff, the system hasn't set targets but is simply keeping an eye on the numbers.

Steve Graham, vice president of academic affairs, presented a summary of the report card to the Board of Curators yesterday in Columbia. A more thorough report was included in board information.

MU already is meeting or surpassing several goals, including boosting the average ACT score of incoming freshmen, increasing the credit hours taught by full-time, tenure-tracked faculty and increasing research activities.

The Columbia campus isn't yet meeting the 2012 targets set for graduation rates. In 2010, 68 percent of all students graduated within six years, with a goal of 70 percent; and 43 percent graduated in four years, just shy of the goal of 44 percent.

MU is meeting all but one of its goals when it comes to students passing professional exams. In teacher education, 100 percent of students passed the licensing exam in 2010. In nursing, 93 percent of students passed, with a goal of 91 percent; and in engineering, 83 percent of students passed, with a goal of 81 percent. Accounting did not meet its goal of a 79 percent pass rate last year, with 75 percent passing. That was a drop from 92 percent in 2009. MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said that's likely because the pool of students taking the accountancy licensing exam is relatively small and one student can cause the percentage to fluctuate.

Forsee worked with chancellors to set the 2012 goals using past numbers, expectations and peer averages, Graham said.

When he created the system, Forsee envisioned a user-friendly chart to show lawmakers how the university is doing, even in areas where it's not meeting goals. That kind of accountability is what the legislature wants, Steve Knorr, vice president of governmental relations, told curators.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.

Campus Chatter



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Survey says: Higher ed a priority

By **JANESE SILVEY**

Missourians rank higher education third in a list of state priorities, and most would be willing to pay more taxes to invest in it.

Those findings -- from a 2008 Fleishman Hillard survey funded by the Kauffman Foundation -- were part of interim UM System President Steve Owens' remarks today.

Furthermore, the survey given to random Missourians 18 and older showed that 90 percent think the UM System contributes to the economy, 88 percent believe it provides a high-quality education and 85 percent believe the university is the state's greatest asset.

Thus, the nagging question, Owens said, is why the state hasn't adequately supported the university even though residents want to support it.

About the same time he was making his remarks at the Reynolds Alumni Center, state Rep. Mary Still was on KFRU talking about her bill to increase Missouri's 17-cent cigarette tax. Still has pitched two bills - one would increase the tax to \$1.17 a pack, which would need voter approval. The other, House Bill 343, would add 12 cents to the tax and would not have to be submitted to voters.

Gov. Jay Nixon hasn't been very interested in talking about the cigarette tax proposal. He says voters have shot it down in the past and doesn't have the "luxury of betting on a pot of gold at the end of any rainbow."

Bottom line, Missourians, according to this survey, want to fund higher education but the state hasn't given them a chance.

THE MANEATER

Deaton addresses MU's health initiatives during Chancellor's Report

Posted to Live Blog: January 2011 Board of Curators meeting by Jimmy Hibsich at 10:31 a.m., Jan. 28, 2011

Like the other three UM System campus chancellors, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton detailed MU's health initiatives during his Chancellor's Report.

Deaton highlighted programs such as the Master of Public Health, which is the second program of its stature in Missouri and the only at a public university in the state. He said it is vital to national and international security.

"We drew on the major strengths that we, as a large university, had," Deaton said.

The School of Medicine has hired 134 new medical faculty members since July 2009, and MU trains more Missouri physicians than any other university in the nation.

The Sinclair School of Nursing saw a 112 increase in enrollment this fall, and is ranked first in the nation for scholarly productivity among public Association of American Universities.

A new graduate certificate will equip social workers with the education they need to help the nation's armed forces personnel, veterans and their families. MU is only one of 25 universities across the nation offered a program like this.

The Nutrition and Exercise Physiology has a new "MUNCH" center, which includes a research metabolic kitchen, a food choice behavior lab and a teaching kitchen.



Move will put \$4M in budget

Initiative funds to return to MU.

By **JANESE SILVEY**

Provost Brian Foster has decided it is to the University of Missouri's advantage if he contributes some allocated funds back to the general operating budget.

Foster is returning \$4 million from the Mizzou Advantage initiative to the campus. It is money he said has been saved over time because the program hasn't had to use its entire annual budget.

That means Mizzou Advantage isn't going away, rather some of the components of the project are being put on hold, such as hiring new faculty, a plan for new graduate assistant awards and professional development programs.

Foster unveiled Mizzou Advantage with much fanfare at a May community forum that attracted about 150 faculty members and citizens. There, he promised that by focusing on key areas — health, food, energy, media and technology — MU's reputation was going to get a shot in the arm.

Although the program had a \$6 million budget, funding was being phased in gradually. And even with an annual \$4 million budget, not all of the funding was spent, allowing for the savings, he said.

Foster did use Mizzou Advantage funding to hire facilitators for each of the academic areas — positions that will continue — and doled out nearly \$1 million in grants for campus projects that promoted collaboration in those areas. He also set aside money to bring keynote speakers to campus. Furthermore, he still has plans to award another \$1 million for projects next month.

Of the \$4 million being returned, Foster said \$2 million will be used to plug a campus shortfall in financial aid felt when enrollment increased last fall. The other half will fill budget holes expected to occur in fiscal year 2012, which starts July 1.

The University of Missouri System is facing a \$42 million budget shortfall, which takes into consideration recent increases in tuition and also a proposed spending plan that includes raises and more money for building repairs. That's in light of Gov. Jay Nixon's proposed state budget that includes a 7 percent cut to higher education, about \$29 million for UM.

At MU, the state cut amounts to about \$12.7 million, said spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken. A 6.5 percent tuition increase and 1.1 percent increase in required fees will offset that by generating \$13 million, she said.

But MU still is looking at a \$17 million shortfall when increases in expenses, including raises, are taken into consideration, she said.

"So in order to fill that void, we are looking very closely at the remainder of the budget," she said.

Foster said in an e-mail sent Thursday to deans and chairs that returning the money won't hurt the initiative.

"The project is moving forward in very positive ways," he wrote, "providing the basis for building MU's competitiveness and stature as the fiscal environment improves."

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.

Funds for repairs lacking at Kansas and Missouri universities

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

MU MENTION PAGE 2

The “Frankenstein Room” at Kansas State University — so called for its dangerously outdated hand-flip switches — has been tamed, somewhat.

But the school’s central electrical room needs serious work and remains one piece of a monster problem threatening universities across the nation: deferred maintenance.

“This issue has been out there on the horizon for the past several years, but it is resonating more loudly on campuses across the country the past few months,” said Dan Hurley of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Most recently, the Kansas Board of Regents issued its biannual report on the still-to-be-done repairs to the six campuses it controls. The backlog of needed work reached \$876 million for 2010, \$51 million more than 2008 and \$213 million more than 2006.

The report attributes the rise primarily to “the increased age of the physical plant and the continued underfunding of both deferred and annual maintenance.”

The numbers are staggering.

The four-campus University of Missouri system’s to-do list adds up to about \$1 billion, said Bob Simmons, interim vice chancellor of administrative services at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Of that total, \$215 million is at UMKC, which spends less than \$8 million a year on maintenance and repairs.

“We’re trying to play a catch-up game you can’t win. ... If you are not getting catch-up funds, you fall behind,” Simmons said.

Last winter, after underground steam lines went without being replaced too long, two main lines failed, costing \$3.8 million.

In Kansas, the cuts in state funding keep maintenance crews from making upgrades and repairs on aging buildings. The result is buckling, blistering and leaky roofs, water-stained walls and floors, and rotting pipes, said Ed Heptig, K-State director of campus facilities.

“And those are just the things students and faculty can see,” he said.

Behind the walls and underground, problems can be even more extensive.

“You spend money to fix one or two major things, then other areas are let go because there’s not enough money,” Heptig said. “We limp by with patches and paint until money comes in to really fix the problem.”

Hurley said the problem is the worst at schools in the Northeast and the South, where many buildings are 200 years old.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s campus paper reported a maintenance backlog of more than \$2 billion, up from \$1.4 billion in 2008. At the University of North Carolina, the needed fixes would cost \$3 billion.

K-State has some of the regents system’s oldest buildings and the worst backlog — \$314.3 million, up from \$290.6 million in 2008.

The current number for KU: about \$229 million.

Last week, the Kansas House Appropriations Committee approved a bill to reduce university employee pay by 7.5 percent and require the saved dollars to go to repairs.

The bill would reduce school employees’ final six paychecks of the 2011 fiscal year. Regents called the measure unfair.

On a tour of campuses in Missouri, the state’s commissioner of higher education, David Russell, found elevators not up to code and laboratories grossly outdated.

“It was pervasive,” he said of the labs built in the 1960s and 1970s, back when money was being tossed at science departments to compete in the space race.

“I’ve had deans tell me that as freshmen and sophomores they sat at the very same wooden tables still in these labs today.”

Outdated labs, he said, don’t bode well with the national call for universities to produce more graduates ready to succeed in the rapidly advancing technology-based job market.

At the Columbia campus, the total deferred maintenance and replacement needs are \$589 million.

Had the recession not held down construction costs, according to the Kansas regents report, the dollar amount of the backlog might have climbed even higher.

Bruce Shubert, vice president for administration and finance, said K-State will spend about \$25.7 million in state allocations and stimulus money from 2009 through 2011 just keeping buildings safe and making some fixes.

Although that may seem like a lot of money, Shubert said, "national industry recommendations are that colleges and universities spend 2 to 4 percent of their plant value a year on maintenance and repair. At K-State, that would be about \$30 million."

"I understand that the state can't just print money. So we just continue to do the best we can with what we have."

A R I Z O N A

Daily Sun

Professor taking knee replacements from bionic to biological

MARá ROSE WILLIAMS McClatchy Newspapers (MCT) | Posted: Sunday, January 30, 2011 5:00 am

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- It pained James Cook to watch his grandfather hobble on arthritic, achy knees.

The elderly man had undergone several surgeries, including one of the first knee replacements in the late 1960s. Ultimately his joints reduced him to crutches and, in his last years, to a wheelchair. Cook said he vowed at age 8 to become a doctor or a scientist and fix it so that "no one would ever have to suffer through what my grandpa did."

He is getting close. The professor of veterinary medicine at the University of Missouri said he thought he and team members were on the brink of changing the way the human knee was replaced. The goal, Cook said, "is to put metal and plastic joints out of business."

He wants to take the joint replacement process from bionics to biological. The concept? Biological cartilage, specifically grown from stem cells outside the body and then shaped for insertion into the knee.

Cook, 45, has performed the procedure successfully in dogs. The research, the result of 11 years of work, recently was written up in the medical journal *The Lancet*. "If we continue to prove the safety and efficacy of this biologic joint replacement strategy, then we can get FDA approval for use of this technology for joint replacements in people," he said.

Cook is collaborating with a tissue regeneration research team led by professor Jeremy Mao at Columbia University, as well as a lab at Clemson University.

"The work reported in *The Lancet* represents the first time that an entire articular surface of a synovial joint was regenerated," Mao said. "This was accomplished by the homing of the body's endogenous stem cells -- another first."

The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons considers knee replacements one of the most important advances of the last century. In the United States, 581,000 procedures a year are performed.

Most are done using metal or plastic replacements. Cook said he thought biological replacements would last longer, be more flexible and give the patient a better quality of life. The process involves taking a patient's own cells to create new cartilage and then mold it to a knee.

"The whole field of biological joint replacement is beginning to grow, and many doctors haven't even heard about it," said Kevin Stone, who has been doing a limited form of biological joint repair at his San Francisco clinic for a decade.

To Cook, however, "these are really treatments that patch the potholes in the joint rather than resurface the whole joint with normal cartilage and bone like ours."

"These other treatments also are not patient-specific," he added. "There are limitations for each of these treatments, which are what we are trying to address with ours."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

2 Washington U. undergrads safe in Egypt

BY KEN LEISER • kleiser@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8215 | Posted: Sunday, January 30, 2011 12:00 am

Two Washington University undergraduate students are waiting out the unrest in Egypt, where the U.S. government urges travelers to remain calm amid massive protests.

The university received "frequent updates" on Saturday from Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt, and both students were reported safe, said Mark Beirn, associate director for overseas programs at Washington University.

"They are all on lockdown being advised to observe curfews being placed on them by the programs as well as the Egyptian government," Beirn said.

The U.S. Embassy in Cairo is advising American citizens there to remain calm.

Communications with Egypt are limited because the government had intermittently disrupted Internet and cell phone service, he added.

Middlebury College at Alexandria, where one of the Washington University students is studying, has decided to arrange to bring students back to the United States, Beirn said.

But travel in and out of Egypt is extremely difficult, he added. The U.S. State Department issued a travel alert in the wake of the unrest in Egypt.

The second student is studying in Cairo through America-Mideast Educational and Training Services.

Beirn said he had been in contact with the students' families. He declined to provide the students' names without their release.

The University of Missouri-Columbia reported it had been in touch with one of its students in Egypt. A university spokesman could not provide further details.

Meantime, officials with the Illinois National Guard say 440 Illinois soldiers who are on a yearlong peacekeeping mission in Egypt have not been seriously affected by the rioting in Cairo and other major cities. The soldiers are in the Sinai Peninsula near the Egyptian-Israeli border, hundreds of miles from the unrest.

The Illinois troops aren't able to use commercial communication methods, which the Egyptian government has disrupted, but Guard officials in Springfield say they have been in contact with the soldiers. The Illinois Guard's 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery Regiment deployed to Egypt in May.

MU professor reflects on riots in Egypt

By Nicole Oran, Edward Hart

January 28, 2011 | 7:43 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — In response to the chaos in Egypt, Joseph J. Hobbs, professor and chairman of the MU department of geography, said he has mixed feelings about the outcome of the protest.

“I always thought it was a time bomb,” he said of the political climate in Egypt. However, Hobbs said he hopes for change to benefit the people.

“Egyptians may have a future in which they can express themselves,” Hobbs said. “It would be great if Egyptians could finally be heard.”

He said the country is in major need of democracy, and there is a very close connection between the government and the upper class. “They might have a vested interest in the survival of the Mubarak regime,” Hobbs said.

Hobbs first went to Egypt in 1971 with his mother and became obsessed with the culture and the people. He said his master’s thesis focused on the environment of ancient Egypt. He later spent a year studying Arabic intensively, after which he completed his doctorate fieldwork in the Eastern Desert of Egypt through the University of Texas at Austin.

In 1977, while studying abroad in Cairo, Hobbs said he curiously observed and followed the crowds in a protest in Egypt when the government had lifted subsidies on bread and other goods.

“We all got tear-gassed,” he said.

During this protest, when they began marching through the side streets, Hobbs said the protesters were confronted with police and rubber bullets. This quickly changed to live ammunition, leading to several deaths. Hobbs said that he fears the extreme magnitude that this riot could reach considering protesters are not backing down.

“I don’t expect it to just evaporate like it did in January of ‘77,” Hobbs said.

Hobbs is concerned that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's headquarters is completely engulfed in flames directly next to the Egyptian Museum.

The museum holds the artifacts of King Tut's tomb, among many other Egyptian relics and historical treasures, he said. Fire trucks have been unable to reach the headquarters due to the massive amount of people in the area, and there is fear of the museum possibly catching fire, Hobbs said.

"It would be a cultural catastrophe. It would be a loss for all Egyptians and all of us, really," Hobbs said.

Hobbs was in Egypt last October and said the political climate was the same as it has been for so many years.

"There has always been an undercurrent of resentment toward the government," Hobbs said. He had planned to go back in the spring but doesn't think that will happen now.

One repercussion of this situation could be a decrease in tourism, which is a major source of income for the country.

"This is going to be a big blow to their economy," Hobbs said.

MU student arrested on drug charges

By **ANDREW DENNEY**

An MU student has been arrested by university police on suspicion of possessing a "mass quantity" of steroids, as well as ecstasy and up to 43 grams of marijuana, according to a University of Missouri Police Department report.



Justin Brown

Justin Michael Brown, 19, was arrested Friday on suspicion of three counts of distribution of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, possession of more than 35 grams of marijuana, unlawful use of drug paraphernalia and being a minor in possession of intoxicating liquor, according to a news release from MU police.

MU police Capt. Scott Richardson said an officer heard people talking and smelled marijuana while on foot patrol Friday. Police obtained a search warrant for Room 3720 at Defoe-Graham Hall and seized more than \$4,300 in cash, vials of testosterone proplonate, vials of testosterone enanthate, pills that were revealed to be ecstasy in a field test, marijuana, several glass pipes with residue, a scale, packing material and three bottles of alcohol.

Brown is being held in Boone County Jail with bond set at \$75,000.

MU police seize drugs, cash from room in Defoe-Graham Hall

By Benjamin Zack

January 29, 2011 | 4:35 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — MU police seized marijuana, ecstasy, steroids and thousands of dollars in cash from a student's room Friday while serving a search warrant.

Justin Michael Brown, a 19-year-old MU freshman, was arrested, according to an MU police news release, on suspicion of:

- Three counts of possession and distribution of a controlled substance.
- Possession of alcohol as a minor.
- Unlawful use of drug paraphernalia, possession of false identification.
- Distribution, delivery and manufacture of a controlled substance near a school zone.

“An officer was on foot in the area south of the Nursing School (Thursday),” Capt. Scott Richardson of the MU Police Department said Saturday. “He heard some individuals talking and smelled the aroma of marijuana.”

Friday morning, MU police served a search warrant on room 3720 Defoe-Graham Hall. During the search, officers seized 43 grams of marijuana, ecstasy pills, two types of steroids in several vials, \$4,390 in cash, a digital scale, packaging materials, several glass pipes and three bottles of alcohol.

“Officers also seized some computers and cell phones,” Richardson said.

Brown was being held at Boone County Jail as of 2 p.m. Saturday on \$75,000 bond and is not allowed on the MU grounds, according to online court records.

Police said the investigation is ongoing.

Good equipment and proper technique take some of the pain out of shoveling snow

By **CAROLINE DOHACK-MCCRARY**

That snow piled up on your driveway has got to go somewhere, and it's got to get there before you can leave the house. We don't know how to make it a fun task, but we do know how to take some of the backache out of it.

"There are definitely tools, and there are definitely techniques," said **Giuli Krug, a clinical assistant professor with the department of occupational therapy at the University of Missouri's School of Health Professions.**

The first thing to do is re-examine your equipment. If you're still moving snow with a giant metal shovel, it might be time to switch to a more ergonomically designed model.

Look for a shovel with a bend in the handle.

"What that does is help keep the load close to you, which is important. The further away the load or the weight or the work is, the more stress it puts on your back," Krug said.

The bend in the handle also allows you to work without bending at the waist.

A shovel with a plastic blade is lighter than one with a metal blade and thus easier to handle. Those who often find themselves overdoing it might benefit from a shovel with a smaller blade, which prevents them from lifting too much snow at once. Think of it as using a smaller dinner plate to keep from overeating.

A shovel with bigger grips on the handle also helps. "That puts less stress on your hand joints," Krug said.

Before you head out to shovel, it helps to warm up with some simple stretches.

"When you go out with cold muscles and try to lift, you set yourself up for injury," Krug said.

She recommends a runner's stretch for your hamstrings, a few shoulder stretches and even some hand stretches before you get started. Adequate hydration also is crucial.

"Your muscles need water; otherwise you're going to cramp up. Even if you might not feel like it, you are sweating when you are shoveling," Krug said.

So, make it a point to sip some water several times a day.

From here, smart snow removal is all about technique.

First, position your hands about 10 inches apart on the shovel handle. Krug said keeping your hands a good distance apart helps lessen the load of the snow.

Try pushing as much snow as you can to the sides of your driveway. Pushing requires less effort than lifting.

"If you do lift, you're lifting with your legs and not your back. Bend your knees and pull in your stomach. That's going to protect your back as well," Krug said.

You'll also protect your back if you avoid twisting motions as you shovel. To avoid having to twist, face the direction you're trying to move the snow as you shovel.

As you lift, try to move smaller loads. "So many of us try to lift the bigger loads to get it done" faster, Krug said. Unfortunately, those large loads put more strain on our backs.

You can further lessen your workload by shoveling in phases.

"If you're getting a lot of snow, don't wait until the snow is done. Get out there every couple of inches and shovel," Krug said.

Reach Caroline Dohack-McCrary at 573-815-1727 or e-mail cedohack@columbiatribune.com



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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

MU student center revives The Shack

11:00 PM, Jan. 30, 2011

Columbia -- A venerable University of Missouri campus hangout that closed more than 25 years ago is back in business.

Best known for its role in Missouri alumnus Mort Walker's "Beetle Bailey" cartoon strip, The Shack was a campus institution from the 1920s until its closing in 1984. A fire destroyed the building several years later.

The Shack has now been revived as part of the university's gleaming new student center. A restaurant known as Mort's, named for the cartoonist, includes a seating area with original furnishings from The Shack, the Columbia Missourian reported. In addition to the preserved table and three booths, wall panels from the old hangout are part of the new restaurant's ceiling.

One of the main movers behind The Shack's rebirth was Michelle Froese, a Student Auxiliary Services employee who picked up on its nostalgic importance among alumni.

"I wanted to find a way to make alumni feel that they could connect with their own student experience in the brand new student center," she said.

Her efforts have already started to pay off. Froese said she recently ran into a graduate who was waiting for Mort's to open just so he could eat a "Shack Burger" as he passed through town. The trademark burger with its special sauce is a staple of the new restaurant's menu.

Joe Franke, owner of The Shack when it closed, stashed away some of the wood carved with students' initials when he sold the property on Conley Avenue to the university, which built the Reynolds Alumni Center at the location. Franke figured the old place was something people would want to preserve.

"It's never going to die," he said with a laugh.

Froese said customers will be allowed to carve their initials into the new wooden panels, but the original booths will remain intact. Signs on the wood will ensure students do not confuse the originals with the new ones.

Not all of the old Shack menu has survived its 21st century reinvention. Gone are liver sausage and bologna sandwiches, replaced by chicken strips, onion rings and turkey burgers.

Alan Petersen, a Campus Dining Services manager, now holds the secret to the sauce.

He started making test batches when Franke gave him the recipe about three years ago.

Pool tables, a jukebox and shuffleboard are also back at the new campus eatery. But unlike the glory days, the new Shack won't be selling beer.