

FEB 17 2011



Owens: Budget cuts could harm UM System

By **RUDI KELLER**

JEFFERSON CITY — The failure of the state to adequately fund higher education could cause the University of Missouri to lose its "best and brightest" faculty, impair future education efforts and the ability to attract research grants, interim UM President Steve Owens said Wednesday.



Steve Owens

In testimony before the House Appropriations for Education Committee, Owens described the challenges the university system faces as it tries to maintain its mission and facilities. The student population at the four campuses is growing rapidly while the state is giving it less money than it did a decade ago.

"By adding 17,000 students with no additional support, MU is doing more with less," Owens said. "This cannot continue."

Already the university is seeing a decline in the grant awards to two campuses, Owens said. With salaries at the bottom of the 35 Association of American Universities public institutions, the danger is already apparent.

The potential loss of top faculty is "one of my biggest concerns as I sit here in the president's spot for a few months," Owens said.

With the economy beginning to recover, some major research schools will start to add faculty, he said. That will attract the best researchers and their research grants.

"Then your best and brightest are gone and you are left with the remainder and your ability to attract that research money is gone," he said.

Owens took over the president's job when Gary Forsee resigned because of his wife's illness. While the Board of Curators searches for a replacement, Owens is the person who must present the university's view of Gov. Jay Nixon's proposal to cut 7 percent from state support for higher education campuses.

Nixon recommended giving UM \$398 million in the year that will begin July 1, down from \$427.9 million in the current year. The curators voted to increase tuition and fees an average of 5.5 percent for the coming year, a move that generated criticism from Nixon, who questioned whether the university will remain affordable for many students.

Owens was the last of the college and university presidents to appear before the House committee. He will testify Thursday morning before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Asked after his testimony if he was worried about the quality of the faculty who will remain on the system campuses if the exodus he predicts takes place, Owens said "that is not what I meant."

In his testimony, Owens pointed out that the system has cut costs by putting off \$1 billion worth of maintenance, freezing salaries, cutting programs and reorganizing University Extension.

The university needs more support, he said, citing figures from a 2008 survey that showed half of Missourians would support higher taxes to aid higher education and that an even larger share want other programs cut in order to aid colleges and universities.

In the current political climate, neither Republicans, who control the Legislature, nor Nixon are supporting tax hikes. Owens said the curators believe a targeted tax "such as on tobacco is something they will or should consider."

Rep. Mike Lair, R-Chillicothe, said there is little room in the education budgets for changes. The committee will vote Tuesday on its version of the budget for public schools and higher education, he said.

Lawmakers are straining to keep public school funding steady and any proposed increase must be accompanied by a corresponding decrease in another item.

And while the cuts hurt, he said testimony has shown colleges and universities realize the state's difficulties. "I was much more impressed this year with their internal efforts at economy," he said.

There is little chance lawmakers will consent to put any tax increase before voters, he said. "I really didn't come up here to create taxation on anybody," he said.

But "the fact that we pay 17 cents a pack" on cigarettes "is a telling argument," he said.

If an initiative were to place an increase on the ballot, Lair said, "I would vote for it."

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Missouri's universities brace for higher education budget cuts

By Jordan Shapiro

February 16, 2011 | 11:01 p.m. CST

JEFFERSON CITY — Presidents of Missouri's universities fielded questions Wednesday about how their respective schools would cope with proposed reductions to the state's higher education budget.

The House Education Appropriations Committee heard testimony about the financial state of Missouri's universities. Some university presidents said the governor's proposed 7 percent cut to higher education would put a strain on their budgets.

"The cuts present a significant challenge," said Robert Vartabedian, president of Missouri Western University.

But representatives from other institutions said they had braced for the budget reductions and the proposed cuts won't create a substantial problem.

"We have been preparing for this for the past two years," said Paul Kincaid, Missouri State University chief of staff.

Lawmakers submitted questions to the universities prior to the hearing. University presidents were asked what measures they were taking to reduce their operating budgets and how they would be affected by budget cuts of up to 15 percent.

All of the universities, who were represented at the hearing, plan to increase tuition for the upcoming academic year.

Representatives from the University of Missouri System were vocal about the need for state funds for other things, such as faculty retention and research.

Steve Owens, interim president of the UM System, said UM's low faculty salaries and increased faculty mobility across the nation could cause a decrease in the quality of education.

"Our best and brightest might be moving on," he said.

Owens also pointed out that the UM System has conducted \$371 million in research using funds from outside their appropriations. He said this same research benefits Missouri's economic development.

Many lawmakers acknowledged that the proposed budget cuts would be necessary, but Rep. Mary Still, D-Columbia, said she thinks there are other options.

"There are many avenues for raising revenue, and a cigarette tax would be one of the easiest," Still said.

Still said she believes the state's first priority is education and increasing the general revenue could mean reduced cuts for higher education.

Representatives of Missouri's universities said they have taken steps to reduce their budgets. A spokesperson for Missouri Southern State University said they have fewer administrators now than they did 12 years ago, when enrollment was higher.

Other institutions have put building repairs and projects on hold. Carolyn Mahoney, Lincoln University president, said a 7 percent budget cut would cause facility maintenance to take a backseat.

Owens said the UM System has been able to do "more with less" with declining appropriations from the state.

A primary source of budget reductions for the universities has been the elimination of academic degree programs.

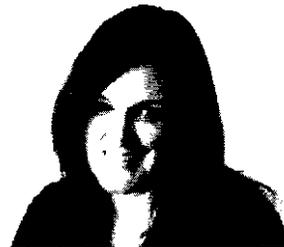
Scholarship programs have also taken a hit. Lincoln University has cut its scholarship budget by 19 percent, Mahoney said.

Despite efforts to reduce operating budgets, the UM System will raise its tuition 5.5 percent, to an average of \$8,400 per student (not including room and board). Missouri's other public universities face the same fate.



Campus Chatter

Janeese Silvey



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The N-word

By **JANESE SILVEY**

Published 11/11/14 12:00 PM

We've had some conversations around here lately about the "N" word -- when to call it the "N" word and when to spell it out.

In a [story](#) about Huck Finn last week, in one instance I spelled it out. After all, the plan isn't to replace "the N-word" with "slave," the plan is to replace the spelled-out version. Had Twain, after all, written "the N-word" all 219 times, we wouldn't be having this conversation.

In today's [story](#), I stated the graffiti included the "N-word," but my editors spelled it out -- likely for the same reason I opted to last week. Benjamin Elliott didn't spray "the N-word" on the statue, he sprayed THE N word. I'm now told the Tribune will likely continue to spell out the word when it more accurately describes the situation.

But a concerned citizen, rightly, just called me to challenge why we used it in its entirety. It's a nasty word, regardless of whether Huck Finn is using it in a piece of fiction or Benjamin Elliott is using it today. For many of us, it's hard to read, difficult to hear and darn-near impossible to say.

Not for everyone, though.

Benjamin Elliott is from Rolla. I, too, am from Rolla, although mostly raised in an even smaller, even less diverse community nearby. People use the word there. My own relatives, I am sad to say, have used the word (they know by now not to use it in front of me unless they want to fight).

To me, that's the 500-pound gorilla in the debate about diversity on campus. Administrators promote a united Mizzou made up of savvy city kids and blacks and international students and LGBTQ students and students from all sorts of religions. They seem to skip over a huge chunk of students coming from rural Missouri, small towns like Rolla and Kearney (where one of last year's cotton-ball pranksters was from). These are friendly communities, don't get me wrong, so long as you're white.

Before you misinterpret, I am not saying everyone from a small town is racist, by any means. But I can share numerous examples of how these communities aren't exactly embracing of minority groups. (In

Kearney, I almost got booted out of town on a rail when I ran a feature story on a lesbian couple who adopted three minority children. In St. James, another town near Rolla, the newspaper got scolded for using clip art that portrayed a black person in an ad. I've got more stories if you want to hear them.)

For most of the kids from these towns -- myself included some 15 years ago -- we go to college and meet all sorts of new people and expand our horizons and viewpoints. We start to question our parents' beliefs and learn to form our own through education and interaction.

For others, though, being ignorant and racist and showing it off by using the forbidden "N-word" is almost like a badge of honor, something that separates them from the "liberal" masses. They don't slap a confederate flag sticker on the back of their vehicle because they're uneducated about what it means -- as was indicated during a not-so-well-attended Black History Month lunchtime discussion today -- they display it as sign of rebellion.

Until the university somehow figures out a way to get these types of students to feel part of Mizzou -- be it through diversity course requirements or mandatory programming that forces them to get to know people from different backgrounds -- I'm not sure campus is going to be able to erase racism among its student population. I do not proclaim they have the answer, but I do challenge us to at least acknowledge there are students on campus who have lived in sheltered environments where being racist is ingrained in their families and communities.

Does seeing the word force us to come to terms with its origin and, perhaps, serve as a teachable moment? Curtis Taylor -- an active student at Mizzou who happens to be black -- suggested during today's lunch discussion that perhaps MU acted too quickly to cover up the graffiti this weekend instead of keeping it up and forcing other students to look at it.

Would having the N-word spelled out in all of its nastiness better help youngsters realize just how ugly it is? Or is it worth it to keep up a painful reminder to minority students that racism is alive and well on their campus? I honestly don't know.



The Star's Editorial | Celebrating Black History Month

In the midst of Black History Month, recent events on campuses are worth noting.

First there was the discovery of a recording of a speech Martin Luther King Jr. gave at Kansas State University just months before his death in 1968. A Wichita man had secured the tape from a radio station. In January, the university aired the recording to a packed audience at an event titled, "The Dreamer Speaks Again."

Similarly, a King speech at Bethel College in Newton, Kan., resurfaced and was shared last year. In that 1960 speech, King urged his audience to not settle for the status quo if it is wrong.

At the University of Missouri-Columbia, officials demonstrated how to handle the wrongs that still exist. Officials acted swiftly and appropriately two years in a row in the wake of racial incidents. Last year two students were caught and punished for scattering cotton balls during Black History Month on the lawn of the Gaines/Oldham Black Cultural Center. This month a student was arrested and charged with painting a racial slur on a sculpture outside a residence hall near the center.

Meanwhile, students at another important institution, the Kansas City Art Institute, are fortunate to soon have Jacqueline Chanda as the new president. She is scheduled to start July 1 as the art institute's first African-American president, joining other African-American university leaders in Missouri and Kansas.

Until the civil rights movement, blacks had been excluded from many U.S. colleges and universities. Today universities are leading the way in deepening the meaning of celebrating Black History Month.

THE MANEATER

Deaton hands down temporary suspension for graffiti suspect

Police are investigating a similar graffiti message left near campus Saturday.

By Jimmy Hibsich and Kelsey Maffett

Published Feb. 15, 2011

**Editor's note: Several student organizations, including the Legion of Black Collegians, the Missouri Students Association and Four Front, met Saturday evening in response to the discovery of an offensive graffiti message found on campus earlier that morning. The attached PDF, available for download, is a summary of that meeting written by MSA President Eric Woods.*

Chancellor Brady Deaton temporarily suspended freshman Ben Elliott on Monday, two days after the MU Police Department arrested the student on suspicion of writing a racially-charged graffiti message outside Hatch Hall.

Elliott's arrest on Saturday evening came about 12 hours after a Hatch Hall employee notified the police of the graffiti painted on a statue outside of the residence hall.

Elliott was arrested on suspicion of second-degree property damage, which is typically a class B misdemeanor. However, given the incident's classification as a hate crime, the charge became a class D felony because of the Missouri Hate Crimes Statute.

"We won't divulge how the arrest was made," MUPD Capt. Brian Weimer said. "That's something that has to come out later."

After being released from Boone County Jail on \$4,500 bond, Elliott has returned to his home in Rolla.

Columbia Police Department spokeswoman Jill Wieneke said police are investigating another incident of graffiti discovered Saturday evening near campus.

"There was an anti-Jewish remark spray-painted on a car on Ross Street," Wieneke said. "It was the same color paint, the same time frame as the other incident, and it was extremely close to campus."

The resident reported the graffiti just before 9 a.m. Saturday. Wieneke said his neighbor's car, which was parked right next to his, was also spray-painted, but it was not race-related.

The words "Nigger Month" were spray-painted on a statue outside of Hatch Hall on Saturday morning and were washed off by Residential Life employees by about 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

Elliott's temporary suspension means he must go through the student conduct judicial process. After this process is completed, the suspension will be lifted, to be replaced by a final sanction.

Missouri Students Association President Eric Woods met with representatives from the Legion of Black Collegians, Four Front and Residential Life, among others, shortly following Saturday's incident to discuss future steps MU should take.

"The group's discussion was very positive," Woods stated in a report. "It was decided by the collective that a reactionary response to the incident was undesirable. Many felt that the angry nature of the outcry which occurred in response to last year's 'Cotton Ball Incident' was counter-productive in terms of addressing the real issues at hand."

Although acknowledging the anger and disappointment associated with this crime, the group stressed the importance of responding to the incident with unity. It also said a greater appreciation of diversity and community should be engrained into MU's culture.

The meeting resulted in a number of recommendations on how MU can properly respond to the incident. Ideas ranged from creating a "One Mizzou" banner, which would be ideally hung in the Student Center and signed by a number of students, to online diversity training for all incoming freshmen.

"By showing a commitment to the values of diversity and community, the university can help reduce the power of those who carry out acts of intolerance," the report stated. "By promoting these values early in the academic careers of students, and keeping them present and visible throughout, all members of the Mizzou community should be more willing to embrace diversity among their peers."

The report ended with the conclusion that MU should enact strict, zero-tolerance policies for hateful and offensive acts, such as this.

"We need their attention so they can understand, 'Yeah, the first time it might have just been an incident,' but the second time in two years? We just can't stand for it," LBC President Lisa White said.

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

THE MANEATER

Letter to the Editor:

Racism at MU deplorable, disinherit

By Ashley Price, Graduate student, Ashley.Price@mizzou.edu

Published Feb. 15, 2011

I write this letter with great sadness as a concerned student who has been at this University since 2005, having received my undergraduate degree here and choosing to stay for my graduate degree. I am disheartened and truly angry that, once again, our university has become a place that showcases individuals' hate and ignorance for its minority students. As a university that pretends to pride itself on diversity and respect, little of this has been shown to students from marginalized communities during my time at the university. It feels that this university environment shows a lack of respect and care for students that do not fit the Caucasian Christian American ideal.

A place of education should absolutely be a safe space that fosters knowledge of more than just books, but of life, which in today's transnational society means diversity. The cotton ball incident followed a series of false promises and fake intentions. Nowhere has this been clearer than the fact that many have ignored or found frivolous reasons to not enact a diversity class immediately, as it is clearly needed. This university is far from a safe space; instead it has become a place for individuals to fuel hateful rhetoric and insensitive images with little fundamental change.

As a sophomore I watched someone walk into Greek Life in black face and be punished behind closed doors. As a graduate student I saw cotton thrown on the Black Culture Center, and now again we see racial slurs spray painted on a dorm statue. This is disturbing beyond the fact that I pay thousands and thousands of dollars a year to receive an education at a university that seems not to deal with systemic ignorance. However, this is what I have come to expect, and honestly I am not surprised that a university with a terrible retention rate of minority professors and students would be a place that fosters this behavior. With this I say I don't want another unemotional email claiming this will not be tolerated, when clearly this behavior has and will continue unless actual action is taken and change is made.

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

THE MANEATER

Letter to the Editor:

Singing kumbaya won't solve problems

By Bryan Like, Senior, President of NAACP Collegiate Chapter, unit 4731,
BryanLike@mizzou.edu

Published Feb. 15, 2011

So it seems that this time of the year has become a tradition for all the bigots to hide in the shadows and spew their hatred on our campus. Last year we dealt with the infamous cotton ball incident and now we have someone who wants to utilize a spray can of paint to show how he or she feels. I for one can say that I don't want to parade around and talk about the unity of the University of Missouri. I do not want to stand on the steps of Jesse Hall singing kumbaya and lighting candles for unity. I do not want to pacify this situation. What came out of the cotton ball incident besides a Columbia judicial verdict? What came out of Mizzou alumni Terrence Williams having racist words written outside his dorm room? What is the university doing to prevent these issues?

It is apparent that we have racist students here at the University of Missouri. When a Black History Month display can't stand alone in College Avenue residence hall without an invisible racist vandalizing it, we have a problem. When students have to take down their dry erase boards in Hatch, like Mr. Williams back in 2009, because students write vulgar racist statements on it towards them, we have a problem. The NAACP, along with many students and organizations, will stand firm to see that change is implemented in the residential halls and on this campus in general to insure that we are striving to educate our students. If Mizzou is really taking a stance on racism, then Mizzou will take its "zero tolerance attitude" for these actions and make measures to educate and scare any undercover racist from making statements such as this one.

Just like the cotton ball incident was not just littering, this spray paint is not just vandalism. This is a direct attack on the black students of the University of Missouri, and we will not stand by and take this type of treatment from anyone, seen or not seen.

THE MANEATER

Column:

Blaming MU for graffiti isn't the answer

By Alex Pesek

Published Feb. 15, 2011

As a columnist with a 12 p.m. Sunday deadline and a general lack of originality when coming up with topics, waking up Saturday to the news of the graffiti incident gave me a clear reason to write, but also a sinking feeling.

Frankly, I don't want to write about this. I don't think I'm qualified, and I don't want to sit here and state the obvious for 600 words. To me, and to everyone who reacts to this news, it's quite clear what is right and wrong in this situation's immediate context: That some prick, probably drunk, perhaps with accomplices, got sick thrills out of vandalizing property with deeply inflammatory language, knowing all too well the public reaction and condemnation it would receive. Taking advantage of and completely disrespecting the language and identities of racial communities for cheap pranks is clearly bullshit. I think we all agree on that.

If my summation of this event seems incomplete, don't be offended; I'm not trying to glaze over the extent to which this graffiti is offensive or wrong, as the NAACP and Legion of Black Collegians have already made extensive public statements on the matter. I can't say much in addition.

To me, the most honest indicator of our political, racial, social or cultural climate is our collective reaction when something offensive or inflammatory like this happens. While individual events such as these clearly show we as a society have room to grow, I don't think they always accurately portray systemic racism. Who we blame, who we condemn and our language when doing those two things reveals a more developed image of our general attitude toward racism.

When considering those things, I support organizations like LBC with hesitation. LBC is certainly in the position to make public statements on the matter, and its prompt and strong reactions are commendable and a sign of their unity. However, while they do not explicitly say this incident is the fault of MU, they do not seem to eliminate that possibility either.

One tweet from their page almost seems to express that MU brought the incident upon itself. Another tweet, while ambiguous, applies "racial" to all of MU.

MU clearly has the potential to improve by establishing consistent and strong standards when it comes to any diversity issues, as progress regarding diversity course requirements and zero-tolerance policies has been gradual yet unclear. However, I am unsure what MU can do to stop stupid individuals from doing stupid shit.

Clearly MU, Residential Life and all of the university muckity mucks have reacted promptly in condemnation of the action and now have an opportunity to set the tone of how hate crimes are punished in its dealing with this criminal. But to say MU is to blame is unfair.

I do not want to suggest that prevention methods are futile and not worth our time. While individual actions are most often unpredictable, we need to establish consistent standards when it comes to the marginalization of any minority communities, and the LBC is not the only one responsible for this.

We determine the health of our community; we set the tone for the environment in which we live. We are responsible for eliminating oppression, and we are responsible for being vocal advocates. University policy is a step in the right direction, but not the magic solution. Take your anger toward MU or whomever you believe to be responsible for this situation and replace it with productive activism.

Our responses to these events should not be temporary. Expressing our outrage is natural and expected, but we cannot assume our sensationalized responses do enough to heal any wounds. Racism in reality is more subversive, more invisible and more commonplace than we potentially accept, and our education on the matter should be a concern to anyone who thinks this situation was fucked up.

Demand answers, demand appropriate handling, but don't pretend blaming people is your only responsibility.

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

THE MANEATER

Editorial:

There's no place at MU for Hatch graffiti culprit

Published Feb. 15, 2011

Odds are, the deplorable, hateful vandalism on the statue outside Hatch Hall this weekend was intended to be an attention-grabbing and even revoltingly humorous act. Turns out nobody is laughing.

We cannot yet point the finger at a specific person, as the suspect in custody has the right of innocence before being proven guilty. However, even in the chance that the current suspect is not the perpetrator, the fact that this incident happened on MU soil still needs to be addressed.

We can't even say that it's been a year since the cotton ball incident — it's been a little more than 11 months. That in itself is sad, but we can't let these acts define who we collectively are as MU students. Instead of letting this act be applied to MU's reputation, we should focus on the reactions of our fellow students and act together to ensure that we learn from this hate crime.

For a moment, let's focus on how student leaders and student organizations, like the Legion of Black Collegians, the Missouri Students Association and Four Front, have stepped up to condemn this incident. Let's focus on how the residents of Hatch gathered to show their opposition to the hateful vandalism. Let's look at how quickly Residential Life removed the blasphemy from MU property.

Yet, there's only so much the MU administration and students can do. After the cotton ball incident, we had town hall meetings, we had public condemnation. We had displays of unity, diversity and understanding. But look where we are now. The n-word was prominently sprawled across a statue less than a year later, and, though no connection has been proven, there was anti-Semitic vandalism discovered near campus on the same night. It's truly sad, and it's left many students feeling that any progress that might have been made last year in the wake of the cotton ball incident outside the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center was for nothing.

Despite students and administrators efforts, as a public university with a student population in the tens of thousands, MU is a portrait of American society: both the good and the bad. The problem is a societal one — racism still exists in today's world. It's not just a fight your parents had to be a part of, it's a fight we're still involved in.

But consider this: Every day, the small, individual interactions between students are what define us. Ostracizing the perpetrator won't make the passing comments, the sneers or the covert discrimination go away. It won't erase the memories of crimes of hate and prejudice committed on our campus, at our home, over the last year.

If we want to fix racism, we need to turn the focus back on ourselves. We need to do more to educate ourselves and our peers about how multiculturalism is a good thing. We need to step up to condemn discrimination, even in seemingly innocent forms. It's not just the hateful crimes on a grander scale — involving graffiti or cotton balls — that damage our society. More often, it's the unreported hurtful words, generalizations or stereotypes people are faced with every day.

Returning to the issue of education, we point to the proposed diversity education requirement awaiting final approval as one step in the right direction for the university. The initiative, which has always had some form of student support, has been in discussion and planning for seven years now, which, if you ask us, is too long.

Be assured of this much: There is no place at MU for the person responsible for the graffiti message. If the person behind the graffiti message is indeed an MU student, Chancellor Brady Deaton should make the executive decision to expel, not suspend, the culprit. We are 30,000 strong, and this person does not represent us.



Midcontinent quakes: It's no fault of their own

Unlike temblors on plate boundaries, these migrate from one area to next

By Monica Heger

OurAmazingPlanet
updated 2/16/2011 4:46:49 PM ET

Most of the world's earthquakes occur along the boundaries between Earth's constantly moving tectonic plates, like the San Andreas Fault in California. Small quakes along these faults are expected to occur relatively frequently, until they build up to the next big one. However, earthquakes that occur in the middle of continents, such as China's 2008 quake that killed around 70,000 people, seem to occur out of nowhere.

Now, new research from the University of Missouri suggests that inner-continental quakes such as China's may abide by a different set of rules than those that occur along plate boundaries.

Along plate boundaries, small and moderate earthquakes that rupture along a particular fault lead to a build-up of stress along that same fault line, but midcontinent faults are connected to each other in a complex network, and a large earthquake along one fault will instead put pressure on a different fault.

Mian Liu, a geologist from the University of Missouri, and his team studied data from large earthquakes — 6.5 or higher on the Richter scale — that occurred in inner-continental China over the last 2,000 years. Surprisingly, they found that the same fault segment had never ruptured more than once. Instead, the earthquakes migrated throughout the region.

"It's like a game of whack the mole. The mole doesn't come through the same hole twice," Liu told OurAmazingPlanet.

When the team analyzed the locations of the quakes and the energy each released, they found that the data indicated that the earthquakes were not migrating randomly. Instead, the faults seem to be mechanically coupled to each other, so that when one fault segment is ruptured, the energy is passed along to another fault segment, stressing it until it ruptures.

Liu said the new theory is not yet able to predict when or where the next big earthquake will occur along inner-continental fault systems, but he said it is a new way of thinking about midcontinent earthquakes. For instance, a large earthquake occurred in the New Madrid fault system in Missouri in 1811, the largest-known earthquake in the midcontinental United States. Because of that, the fault system has been the subject of much research, but Liu's theory suggests that the next big earthquake in the United States will occur along a separate fault.

The work shows that applying hazard models to continental interior fault systems that have been designed for plate boundaries is likely to be inadequate, said Eric Calais, a geophysicist at Purdue University, who also is a scientific adviser helping revamp a disaster preparedness plan for Haiti.

"When it comes to earthquakes in plate interiors, one truly has to think out of the box and be able — and willing — to abandon plate boundary concepts," he said.

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

THE MANEATER

Report: More than 30 academic buildings in need of renovation

The university needs more than \$511 million for repairs and maintenance.

By Allison Prang

Published Feb. 15, 2011

A Jan. 25 report from MU Campus Facilities states MU needs \$511 million to fund what they refer to as capital renewal, deferred maintenance and plant/program adaptation.

MU has identified over 30 academic buildings that need full building renovations, according to the report.

"At our current rate of growth, in just 10 years our total projected need will be over \$1 billion, and this is without adding a single square foot to education and general space," the report stated.

A 2009 report released from the Missouri Department of Higher Education spelled out three of MU's most problematic buildings, totaling about \$177 million worth of work. Since the report was released in 2009, the three buildings, Lafferre Hall, the Fine Arts Building and Strickland Hall, have remained the same aside from some renovations made to Lafferre in 2009.

Paul Wagner, Deputy Commissioner for the Missouri Department of Higher Education, said the lack of action in fixing problems with campus buildings has to do with the state's lack of funds.

"It's certainly a lack of money at the state part," Wagner said. "State funding has not gone up in a long time."

Wagner said with schools trying to keep the cuts out of the classroom, the cuts can hit deferred campus maintenance because it is one of the things campuses can do in the short term to protect the classroom from cuts.

"There comes a time when it eventually catches up to you and that time is here," Wagner said.

The Department of Higher Education's 2009 report breaks down the funding for each building into two categories: an amount requested from the state and an amount requested from MU.

To come up with the data about the buildings for the MDHE report, Wagner said two staff members spent an entire summer visiting Missouri college campuses and finding structural problem areas, especially some of the ones that multiple schools had in common.

"The campuses already knew what their problems were," Wagner said of the report. "We've used it to try to build budget requests as far as asking for state money for deferred maintenance."

Campus Facilities Communications Manager Karlan Seville said funding for deferred maintenance projects comes from the university's general operating funds and is usually a combination of funding from the state and the university.

"We have to identify the source when we choose what building we're doing. It could be departmental funds, maintenance and repair funds, bonds or other sources," Seville said.

MU does not have a formal list of buildings in the order they are to be renovated.

"We have a list of education and general buildings needing renovation, but we fund them depending on how much money we have for a project and how the project will best support the academic mission of the university," Seville said. Seville said the building next most likely to be renovated is Gwynn Hall which was built in 1871. Switzler and Tate Halls are currently being renovated.

Continuing coverage of the situation will come as The Maneater investigates the maintenance needs of MU and its lack of funding.

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THE MANEATER

Deans protest U.S. News and World Report college rankings system

Five Big 12 schools signed a letter protesting the system, though MU was not among them.

By Ethan Colbert

Published Feb. 15, 2011

Deans from across the country, including several Big 12 Conference members, are protesting against a change in the U.S. News and World Report's ranking system for schools of education which could list some schools as failing to meet education standards when they do not respond to researchers. The report is co-sponsored by the U.S. News and World Report and National Council on Teacher Quality.

In the past when schools did not participate, they would not be listed in the report. Instead, U.S. News and World Report Editor Brian Kelly made the decision to list the non-participating schools with an "estimated" rating.

In a letter to the U.S. News and World Report, college of education deans called the change a diversion from the ethical standards of the organization which will cast doubt on the results on the entire evaluation.

"This is contrary to U.S. News practices with every other professional evaluation that it has conducted," the deans wrote, "We are concerned that such a practice is also inconsistent with professional journalistic practices and will call into question the legitimacy of U.S. News' reports."

The letter was signed by 37 different education officials from 36 education institutions including Iowa State University, The University of Kansas and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Many of the schools have mentioned boycotting the rankings all together; MU is not one of them. Jay Scribner, MU Department Chair of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, said he didn't know why MU hadn't signed on with the other schools.

Scribner said the College of Education is going to participate in the rankings at this time and the rankings will have an impact on prospective students who are looking to attend MU.

"We live in an era of lists and polls, some students would look to polls and lists to get information and decide schools," Scribner said. "If one school is ranked higher they might consider that school more than another school."

The deans also called into question the methodology of the rankings. The rankings are given on the basis of several factors, including selectivity of admissions, how well teachers are trained to teach certain subjects, syllabuses of courses and the quality of classroom management skills.

The NCTQ was quick to respond to the criticisms.

NCTQ President Kate Walsh said in a letter to the education deans that programs are certainly free to reserve the right to not participate in the rankings, but should be prepared to still be included in the rankings.

"Programs are certainly free to refuse to cooperate, but doing so frees us to render our judgment about programs that produce teachers for our country's children," Walsh said in the letter. "We feel that the review will suffer if we allow those education schools that fear our review to avoid it, as the public would be left with the ratings of a self-selected group of schools that are not afraid of what our report may say."

Scribner said he thought that because the U.S. News and World Report is a private institution, they were not accountable to make a change.

"I think that they can do whatever they want," Scribner said. "They are a private institution, the rankings have never been complete."

MaryvilleDailyForum.com

Thomson opposes vote for UM student curator

By JORDAN SHAPIRO

[Maryville Daily Forum](#)

Posted Feb 16, 2011 @ 08:01 AM

Maryville, Mo. — **As Missouri braces to lose a congressional seat, state lawmakers are forced to consider changing the current make-up of the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri.**

Current state law requires that each of the nine voting curators reside in a separate congressional district. In 2012, however, Missouri will lose one of its congressional seats.

Missouri will lose a congressional district because, according to the 2010 Census, Missouri's population had not grown as rapidly as the rest of the nation's.

Two proposals have emerged to compensate for the lost seat.

One would simply allow two curators to reside in the same congressional district. The other approach would make the ninth member of the board a student with full voting privileges. The current student curator, a tenth member, does not have voting powers under current law.

The voting-student approach is opposed by the chair of the House Higher Education Committee — Rep. Mike Thomson, Maryville — who has filed a bill to allow more than one curator to be from the same congressional district. Thomson's bill also includes a provision stating that no more than two members can be from the same district.

"Students have the responsibility to go to school and not worry about making these big decisions," Thomson said.

Student Laura Confer, the current non-voting member of the board, disagreed.

"Students are the constituency of the university and would represent the interests of the whole student body instead of a member representing their own district," she said.

Thomson also fears that allowing a student to vote on the Board of Curators could create a slippery slope in terms of the governing panel's constitution.

"If they allow a student, why not allow a member of the faculty. ... Before we know it we will have a 25-member board," Thomson said.

Rep. Mary Still, Columbia, has filed an opposing measure that would give a UM System student the power to vote on the Board of Curators. Her bill retains the selection mechanism already in place for non-voting members. Still's proposal would also prohibit the student member from voting on the hiring and firing of teaching faculty and staff.

The House Higher Education Committee is expected to take action on Thomson's bill by the end of the week.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

City to appeal parts of Hinkson Creek cleanup plan

By Pavan Vangipuram

February 16, 2011 | 10:24 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — The City of Columbia plans to file an administrative appeal to contest portions of the Hinkson Creek cleanup recommendations.

The recommendations, called a total maximum daily load, specify that the city, county and MU must reduce the amount of stormwater entering Hinkson creek by 39.6 percent.

In a release Wednesday, Gov. Jay Nixon stated he will be coming to Columbia on Thursday to present Boone County Public Works with a \$713,000 grant "to improve the water quality in Hinkson Creek."

During a Columbia City Council work session Wednesday, Public Works Director John Glascock said the city's interpretation of the limits specifies a 3 to 5 year implementation schedule in addition to stipulating that 100 percent of sampling sites in Hinkson Creek show full support of invertebrate communities.

Glascock called those targets "unattainable" and said the city plans to negotiate the implementation schedule with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

"One of the things we're always cognizant of is: If we don't meet these two things, we could be sued by anybody," Glascock said. "We've got to be ready for that."

City Manager Bill Watkins agreed, citing a need for greater clarification of the total maximum daily load.

Glascock said the city would continue to examine methods to reduce stormwater flow into the creek.

The council examined the results of a feasibility study conducted via a grant provided by Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

The study identified 19 "hot spots" where the city could make improvements in stormwater collection and detention. The hot spots comprise 255 acres, or 1.7 percent of the total area identified in the total maximum daily load as causing stormwater runoff.

A presentation by Environmental Services Manager Steve Hunt showed the addition of stormwater detention basins in the 19 hot spots. Several were located on private property, which the city would have to purchase before implementing its plan.

The total costs for reducing runoff in all 19 sites was estimated at \$1.1 million. This figure does not take into account the costs of purchasing property.

"We don't want the impression that you can take this project and extrapolate the costs for the whole watershed," Hunt said of the feasibility study.

Hunt also said his presentation was not a binding plan. Instead it presents one of several options for fulfilling the total maximum daily load.

Glascock said the city was trying not to buy houses to implement its stormwater reduction plans.

In his presentation, Glascock indicated a priority to restore floodplains in the city. He said he wanted to do it "as naturally as possible."

"We need to restore areas that protect the creek," Glascock said. "If you do engineering solutions, you'll have a lot of maintenance costs in 15 years. It may be cheap upfront, but it'll cost you down the line."

The results of the study did not change the city's cost estimate for implementing the total maximum daily load.

"Our range for \$30 million to \$300 million is still there," Glascock said of the cost estimates of implementation. "It's basically \$1.1 million to do these 19 sites. And if you extrapolate that for all the acres necessary, it comes to \$140 million, plus land costs."

In addition to appealing the total maximum daily load, Public Works recommended the city start a macro-invertebrate monitoring program this year. Glascock said a lack of funding in the stormwater utility could impede such a monitoring program.

"The stormwater utility is broke," Glascock said.