

MAR 15 2011



## University avoids fine for tuition hike

Published March 14, 2011 at 3:19 p.m.

The University of Missouri's request to avoid a penalty for raising tuition and required fees 5.5 percent has received the state's approval.

### UM System Waiver Approved

The letter from David Russell, Missouri's higher education commissioner, says the increase is "substantially below what the university considered necessary, which I believe reflects a positive response to Governor Nixon's decision to hold the budget cut for universities to 7 percent in FY12."

Public four-year institutions wanting to increase tuition and fees more than 1.5 percent must seek a waiver from the state to avoid a financial penalty. It's part of a three-year-old law that caps tuition at the consumer price index.

The UM Board of Curators in January voted to increase tuition and fees by an average of 5.5 percent — 5.8 percent at MU.

## U.S. News law school rankings are out, with revamped tiers

The National Law Journal

March 14, 2011

### MU mention page 2

The latest law school rankings from *U.S. News & World Report* are out, and the list is pretty ho hum — at least among the elite schools.

There was no movement among the top six schools, with Yale Law School, Harvard Law School and Stanford Law School maintaining their positions at the top of the list. In fact, the only changes among the top 10 were that the University of Michigan Law School moved up two spots to No. 7, and that the University of California, Berkeley School of Law moved down two spots to No. 9. The University of Virginia School of Law inched up one spot to tie for No. 9.

The real attention-getter on this year's list, which the magazine was scheduled to publish on March 15, will likely be the extension of numerical rankings beyond the top 100 and elimination of the old alphabetically listed third and fourth tiers. Instead, the rankings are now broken into two sections: the top-ranked 145 schools as determined by their numerical scores, and a second tier of 45 schools listed alphabetically but not given an overall rank.

*U.S. News* research director Robert Morse hinted in January that the magazine was considering extending the law school overall rankings to maintain consistency with its Best Colleges rankings.

The ranking of law schools by tier by the *U.S. News* has had plenty of supporters and detractors over the years. Detractors have said the tier system creates artificial distinctions between the quality of the schools at the bottom of the numerical rankings and those that would have had the highest overall scores among the alphabetically listed third tier. Others have argued that the differences between most schools are so minor that it is essentially worthless to assign them overall ranks at all.

On this year's list, Chapman University School of Law fell 11 spots to No. 104, to tie with Saint Louis University School of Law and the University of South Carolina School of Law for the top of what would

have been the third tier in the past. The City University of New York School of Law (No. 121), Florida International University College of Law (No. 132), John Marshall Law School (No. 140) and Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law (No. 143) all moved up from what had been the fourth tier to receive an overall ranking.

**At the bottom of what would have been the third tier last year are Campbell, Loyola University New Orleans School of Law and the University of New Hampshire School of Law (formerly Franklin Pierce Law Center), which tied at No. 143. The University of Missouri School of Law fell 14 spots this year to land at No. 107, which would have placed it in the third tier under the old system. It is the second straight year of bad rankings news for the school, which placed No. 65 on the U.S. News list two years ago.**

Suffolk University Law School, The University of South Dakota School of Law and the University of Toledo College of Law each dropped from the third tier to what would have been the fourth tier, but now is called the second tier.

While there were no major moves among the top 10 schools on the list, there were some major jumps and declines among the schools ranked Nos. 50 to 100. In the most dramatic change, both St. John's University School of Law and the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law dropped 23 spots, from No. 72 last year to No. 95 this year. Villanova University School of Law, which caused a stir last month when administrators disclosed that they had reported inaccurate admissions data for a number of years, plummeted 17 spots in the rankings, to No. 84. The University of Miami School of Law also dropped 17 places, to land at No. 77. Other significant declines include Syracuse University College of Law, which dropped 14 spots, to No. 100, and the University of New Mexico School of Law and the University of Kansas School of Law, each of which dropped 12 spots to tie at No. 79.

There were also a number of large leaps up the rankings. Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law (No. 79), the University of Richmond School of Law (No. 67), and Chicago-Kent College of Law (No. 61) each jumped 19 spots. Northeastern University School of Law moved up 15 spots, to land at No. 71, and DePaul University College of Law gained 14 spots, for the No. 84 position.

Movement was less pronounced among the top 50 schools, where the biggest change was the University of Colorado School of Law's nine-spot drop to No. 47. Emory University School of Law fell eight spots, to No. 30, while both The University of Georgia School of Law and the University of Wisconsin Law School fell seven spots, from No. 28 last year to tie for No. 35 this year.

Conversely, the University of Maryland School of Law saw the largest gain among the top 50, moving up six spots to No. 42. The University of California, Davis School of Law gained five spots to nab the No. 23 position. Indiana University Maurer School of Law — Bloomington (No. 23), Fordham University School of Law (No. 30), the University of Washington School of Law (No. 30), Washington and Lee University School of Law (No. 30), and Florida State University College of Law (No. 50), all moved up four spots.

The annual release of the *U.S. News* law school ranking prompts plenty of complaints and grumbling among administrators and other legal educators about their accuracy and usefulness. The chorus of griping is likely to be extra loud this year, since the debate over law school transparency has gone mainstream with articles about college rankings and law school data appearing recently in *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*. *U.S. News* has responded by agreeing to supply more detailed graduate employment data on its Web site.

Just last week, *U.S. News* Editor Brian Kelly wrote asking law school deans to submit accurate employment and admissions data — and that they not attempt to game the rankings. Earlier, Morse put law school administrators on notice that *U.S. News* was changing the way it calculates graduate employment, presumably because a growing number of schools failed to provide information about the number of students who had jobs at graduation. Placement success accounts for 20% of each school's overall ranking. Employment nine months after graduation counts for 70% of that figure, with employment at graduation making up another 20%, and bar passage rates accounting for the last 10%.

Diversity advocates would like to see far more changes to the rankings. The State Bar of California's Council on Access & Fairness is finalizing a proposal that *U.S. News* make diversity account for 15% of the overall rankings.

*U.S. News* compiles a separate index of law schools with the most diverse student bodies, but that measure is not part of the overall rankings.

This year, the University of Hawaii's program is listed at the top of the diversity index. It replaced Florida A&M University College of Law, which moved from first to third this year.

There were few major changes near the top of the part-time law program rankings. Georgetown University Law Center maintained its position at the top of the list.

# The New York Times

## Forget the Treadmill. Get a Dog.

*A version of this story appeared in several outlets across the country.*

By TARA PARKER-POPE

If you're looking for the latest in home exercise equipment, you may want to consider something with four legs and a wagging tail.

Several studies now show that dogs can be powerful motivators to get people moving. Not only are dog owners more likely to take regular walks, but new research shows that dog walkers are more active over all than people who don't have dogs.

One study even found that older people are more likely to take regular walks if the walking companion is canine rather than human.

**"You need to walk, and so does your dog," said Rebecca A. Johnson, director of the human-animal interaction research center at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. "It's good for both ends of the leash."**

Just last week, researchers from Michigan State University reported that among dog owners who took their pets for regular walks, 60 percent met federal criteria for regular moderate or vigorous exercise. Nearly half of dog walkers exercised an average of 30 minutes a day at least five days a week. By comparison, only about a third of those without dogs got that much regular exercise.

The researchers tracked the exercise habits of 5,900 people in Michigan, including 2,170 who owned dogs. They found that about two-thirds of dog owners took their pets for regular walks, defined as lasting at least 10 minutes.

Unlike other studies of dog ownership and walking, this one also tracked other forms of exercise, seeking to answer what the lead author, Mathew Reeves, called an obvious question: whether dog walking "adds significantly to the amount of exercise you do, or is it simply that it replaces exercise you would have done otherwise?"

The answers were encouraging, said Dr. Reeves, an associate professor of epidemiology at Michigan State. The dog walkers had higher overall levels of both moderate and vigorous physical activity than the other subjects, and they were more likely to take part in other leisure-time physical activities like sports and gardening. On average, they exercised about 30 minutes a week more than people who didn't have dogs.

Do you dance with your cat? Play Frisbee with your dog? Sing with your bird? Send us your videos showing how your pets keep you healthy.

Dr. Reeves, who owns two Labrador mixes named Cadbury and Bella, said he was not surprised.

“There is exercise that gets done in this household that wouldn’t get done otherwise,” he said. “Our dogs demand that you take them out at 10 o’clock at night, when it’s the last thing you feel like doing. They’re not going to leave you alone until they get their walk in.”

But owning a dog didn’t guarantee physical activity. Some owners in the study did not walk their dogs, and they posted far less overall exercise than dog walkers or people who didn’t have a dog.

Dog walking was highest among the young and educated, with 18-to-24-year-old owners twice as likely to walk the dog as those over 65, and college graduates more than twice as likely as those with less education. Younger dogs were more likely to be walked than older dogs; and larger dogs (45 pounds or more) were taken for longer walks than smaller dogs.

The researchers asked owners who didn’t walk their pets to explain why. About 40 percent said their dogs ran free in a yard, so they didn’t need walks; 11 percent hired dog walkers.

Nine percent said they didn’t have time to walk their dogs, while another 9 percent said their dogs were too ill behaved to take on a walk. Age of the dog or dog owner also had an effect: 9 percent said the dog was too old to go for walks, while 8 percent said the owner was too old.

“There is still a lot more dog walking that could be done among dog owners,” Dr. Reeves said.

And the question remains whether owning a dog encourages regular activity or whether active, healthy people are simply more likely to acquire dogs as walking companions.

A 2008 study in Western Australia addressed the question when it followed 773 adults who didn’t have dogs. After a year, 92 people, or 12 percent of the group, had acquired a dog. Getting a dog increased average walking by about 30 minutes a week, compared with those who didn’t own dogs.

But on closer analysis, the new dog owners had been laggards before getting a dog, walking about 24 percent less than other people without dogs.

The researchers found that one of the motivations for getting a dog was a desire to get more exercise. Before getting a dog, the new dog owners had clocked about 89 minutes of weekly walking, but dog ownership boosted that number to 130 minutes a week.

A study of 41,500 California residents also looked at walking among dog and cat owners as well as those who didn’t have pets. Dog owners were about 60 percent more likely to walk for leisure

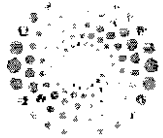
than people who owned a cat or no pet at all. That translated to an extra 19 minutes a week of walking compared with people without dogs.

A study last year from the University of Missouri showed that for getting exercise, dogs are better walking companions than humans. In a 12-week study of 54 older adults at an assisted-living home, some people selected a friend or spouse as a walking companion, while others took a bus daily to a local animal shelter, where they were assigned a dog to walk.

To the surprise of the researchers, the dog walkers showed a much greater improvement in fitness. Walking speed among the dog walkers increased by 28 percent, compared with just 4 percent among the human walkers.

Dr. Johnson, the study's lead author, said that human walkers often complained about the heat and talked each other out of exercise, but that people who were paired with dogs didn't make those excuses.

"They help themselves by helping the dog," said Dr. Johnson, co-author of the new book "Walk a Hound, Lose a Pound," to be published in May by Purdue University Press. "If we're committed to a dog, it enables us to commit to physical activity ourselves."



**REUTERS**



## **ANALYSIS-Nuclear plant's steel shell faces unprecedented test**

14 Mar 2011 23:44

Source: reuters // Reuters

\* Steel containment unit sits around nuclear core

\* Design not tested since Three Mile Island

By Elaine Lies and Scott DiSavino

### **MU mention page 2**

TOKYO/NEW YORK. March 14 (Reuters) - Japan is counting on four to eight inches of super strong steel to prevent the crisis at its stricken nuclear plant from becoming a radioactive disaster.

The steel containment vessel, 60 feet high and 16 feet wide, is the most critical line of defense protecting the outside world from the nuclear core. Most experts are confident the unit can hold, even in the event of a full-scale meltdown.

Still, the design has been tested only once: at the Three Mile accident in 1979. Conditions are far worse at the Fukushima plant on Japan's northeastern coast, rocked by a massive earthquake and tsunami.

"Will the steel liner hold? That is the million dollar question," said Michael Marriott, head of Nuclear Information and Resource Service, an environmental group based in Takoma Park, Maryland.

"If they can't cool the rods at some point relatively soon -- maybe just over 24 hours -- the temperatures will be hot enough to melt steel."



Beyond that steel shell, only a larger concrete-and-steel containment dome stands between a potentially lethal radioactive mix and the public. Up to 185,000 people have already been evacuated to a 20-kilometer radius.

## KEEPING COOL

Workers at TEPCO are scrambling to keep the uranium fuel rods covered with seawater at reactor No. 2. The fuel in the two other reactors at Daiichi are already being kept cool by seawater pumped in from the Pacific Ocean.

Operator Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) <9501.T> said fuel rods at the No. 2 reactor had been fully exposed when water levels keeping them cool suddenly dropped.

U.S. government nuclear officials, who asked not to be named, said in the worst-case scenario a full-scale meltdown could produce temperatures above 2000 degrees F that might breach the steel, though that is not their working premise.

Pumping seawater into the core and over the rods may not be as simple as it sounds. Water is pumped in from the ocean via a pipe into the cooling system, but operators must release an almost equal amount of radioactive gas into the next containment structure to equalize the pressure.

That gas will contain radioactive particles and hydrogen, which can explode when mixed with oxygen. Experts believe that caused the blasts at the outer shells of the reactors at Units 1 and 3 at the Daiichi plant.

Experts do not believe the situation will reach the catastrophic scale of the 1986 explosion at the Soviet Chernobyl plant in Ukraine. Chernobyl, the world's worst civilian nuclear disaster, was blamed for thousands of deaths due to radiation-linked illnesses. [nLDE72B0AY]

Yet conditions are far from stable. On Tuesday morning, another explosion was heard at Unit 2. Officials said it too appeared to be caused by a build-up of hydrogen.

**"The primary containment building, the steel vessel surrounding the reactor, can cope with a full core meltdown," said Professor Mark Prelas, Professor of Nuclear Engineering at the University of Missouri.**

**"That is what it's designed to do. There is no risk of a nuclear explosion here. This is nothing like a Chernobyl event when they had no containment structure around the core and a fire."**

## DISASTER SCALE

Concern over conditions at the No. 2 reactor were heightened on Monday after Japan's nuclear safety agency failed to give it a classification on the accepted international scale for nuclear

events. Units 1 and 3 were rated at a 4 on the 7-step scale; Unit 2 was conspicuous by its absence.

France's nuclear safety authority said the accident could be classified as a level 5 or 6 on the scale, putting it on par with the 1979 U.S. Three Mile Island meltdown.



## Winter appears near end

### **Today's storm may be the last.**

Today's unexpected snowfall should be the last accumulation of the season, ending what has become the second-snowiest winter on record in Columbia.

"This is probably the last of it, especially the last one that will pile up like this," said Tony Lupo, chairman and professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Missouri's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. "We might see snow that falls but doesn't pile up, but this is pretty much it."

Not counting the snow still falling this morning, Lupo said Columbia has seen about 48 inches of snow this winter. The record was set in 1977-78, when Old Man Winter dumped 55.5 inches in the area, he said.

The overnight snow and continued snowfall today surprised even weather experts.

"This storm that we're getting now wasn't quite expected to occur, and it wasn't expected to drop as much snow as it did," Lupo said. "We drew in a little more cold air than we thought, and boom — we get quite a bit."

Drivers mostly handled the unexpected weather well. On Highway 63 this morning, drivers were taking things slow, traveling about 40 to 50 miles per hour, said Sgt. Brian Leer of the Boone County Sheriff's Department. Deputies responded to a "few slide-offs here and there," he said.

Columbia police also responded to several vehicle slide-offs this morning, Officer Latisha Stroer said. Joint Communications reported 31 crashes this morning total, one with injuries.

There's good news on the horizon: Once today's snow melts, residents can look forward to a pleasant spring, Lupo said. "We're expecting a stormier spring more to our north and east," he said.

"We shouldn't have too bad of a spring in terms of precipitation and severe weather. It's normal for us to get severe weather, and we will get some, but we won't get as much as we typically do."

The upcoming weather pattern is affected by La Niña, the same atmospheric phenomenon that spawned this winter's snowstorms. La Niña occurs when cooler-than-normal water temperatures develop in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. That's expected to lead to an increase in thunderstorm

activity in some neighboring states, including Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois. Tornado Alley — defined as north Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas — could see a calm season. If predictions of a drier-than-normal spring and summer are accurate, the super-cell storms that spawn tornadoes are less likely to occur, Lupo said.

Summer is expected to be dry.

“That’s something to be a little concerned about,” Lupo said. “A dry summer is not good for agricultural interests. But it all depends on how much rain we get and the timing.”

It’s too early to make any forecasts for next winter, but Lupo warned the most recent two could be part of a longer trend.

“The last two winters, as a combined unit, have been the coldest two winters we’ve seen in 30 years,” he said. “That may very well continue at least for the next year or two.”

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## COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

# UM presidential search committee hears feedback at Columbia forum

By [Alex Keckeisen](#), [Victoria Guida](#)

March 14, 2011 | 6:19 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — **The UM System Board of Curators** held a public forum in Columbia on Monday to gauge opinion on the qualifications of the next system president.

About 50 people filled the room in Reynolds Alumni Center, where Presidential Search Committee Chairman Warren Erdman led the forum. Erdman has been a vocal advocate of gaining public input in the search for the next system president since Gary Forsee stepped down in January.

“The breadth and reach of the University of Missouri is very wide and very broad. It touches not only our four campuses but our entire economy,” Erdman said. “We welcome the input of the people of Missouri, and today we are inviting you to share your thoughts.”

Former curator Tom Atkins — one of five who spoke — pushed for candidates that understand the complexities of the four-campus system.

“The person that we’re looking for has to be someone who can see the differences in the campuses and the value of the campuses,” Atkins said. “They are all extremely important, and you have to be able to balance your feelings about all four campuses.”

Few students were in attendance, though MU senior Paul Rolfe said he wanted the next president to be responsive to student feedback.

Chancellor Brady Deaton, student curator Laura Confer and newly-appointed curator Craig Van Matre were also present to receive input.

The findings from the seven public forums will be brought before the Board of Curators at its March 21 meeting in Rolla. After that, the committee will begin a search for individual candidates with the help of a hired search firm.

### **Greenwood/Ascher & Associates chosen as search firm**

UM System officials announced March 7 that Greenwood/Ascher & Associates was selected as the search firm to aid the presidential search committee.

The firm has previously worked with the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the Missouri University of Science & Technology and has completed more than 1,000 searches for higher education institutions, health centers, intercollegiate athletics departments, and nonprofit and for-profit organizations, according to a UM System news release.

Erdman said Jan Greenwood, president of Greenwood/Ascher, has been participating in the public forums so far.

"(Commitment) doesn't get any higher than that, when the owner of a firm is coming to take part in your public forums," Erdman said.

The firm will use its database of candidates to find attractive candidates, receive recommendations, conduct background searches and compile information on candidates for the committee to consider, he said.

"The firm will be deeply involved," Erdman said.

Erdman also said the fees paid to Greenwood/Ascher — \$120,000 — are "very favorable" and below market for what it would normally cost to retain the firm.

"We're very lucky to retain this firm," Erdman said. "They have a lot of experience with Missouri, a lot of experience with the University of Missouri, and they're one of the premier search firms in the field nationwide."

Greenwood was not present at the Columbia forum but is expected to attend the forum Tuesday in Rolla.

# THE MANEATER

## Deaton, curators speak out on search for next UM president

*Five members of the public spoke at the forum.*

By Jimmy Hibs

Published March 15, 2011

About 50 people braved unexpected snow Monday to hear top university officials discuss the search for the next university president and to give some feedback of their own.

The public forum, held in the Reynolds Alumni Center, was the fifth meeting in a series of seven held across Missouri in an effort to gain public opinion on the UM System presidential search.

“Our objective today is to open it up and allow the members of the public to come forward and offer their input as we develop the qualifications for the 23rd president of the University of Missouri System,” Search Committee Chairman Warren Erdman said.

Erdman then detailed the importance of finding the perfect successor to former UM System President Gary Forsee, who resigned in January.

“The breadth and reach of the University of Missouri is very broad and very wide,” Erdman said. “It touches not only our four campuses but our entire economy. For that reason, the selection of the 23rd president of the University of Missouri will be a far-reaching and very important undertaking. We welcome the input of all the people of Missouri, and today, we’re inviting you in to share your thoughts on this matter.”

Chancellor Brady Deaton began by outlining the importance of the presidential position.

“Each chancellor of the campus has their own unique role to play within the four-campus System with each campus having its own somewhat distinct mission,” Deaton said. “The role of the president is to link the pieces together. You think of a string of pearls that you need to connect with the proper string that attaches them and makes them a functional whole that adds to the overall beauty of what a university is and serves the people in a very effective way.”

And with that, he opened the floor for public comment. Only five people utilized this opportunity, and MU alumnus John Clark began these comments by stressing his belief the president focuses the majority of his or her time “building a System.”

Monday's forum was the fifth of seven public forums the search committee is holding to determine qualities the public finds important the next System president embodies.

"It's not clear to me that more than two ounces of energy have really been spent on building a System," Clark said. "We've managed to go along with the four campuses and so forth, but as a System, we haven't. My guess is that unless the new president has that as his or her fundamental focus, the System will disintegrate in the next 10 years. There are massive political forces that have been pulling at the System for some time."

Among the suggestions he offered moving the focus away from MU as the "flagship" campus and having multi-campus departments.

Only one student spoke at Monday's forum.

"This is probably a pretty basic comment, but I would ask that the next president pay attention to the students and listen to their voices," senior Paul Rolfe said. "Young people are going to be dealing with some even bigger problems in the future, so I think it could do a lot of mitigate those problems -- to have responsible leadership. On our campus, Brady Deaton does a great job listening to voices, and I hope we could continue this with the next president of the UM System."

Erdman responded to this comment saying that Forsee was very attentive to students' needs, meeting with them upon his selection as president. He ensured Rolfe his concerns will be asked of potential presidential candidates.

All of the comments from the meeting were recorded and will be submitted to the presidential search committee at its meeting next week in Rolla. At that meeting, the committee will select the final qualifications for the position and post it on the website. The public will then be able to submit nominations for the position.





## UM System's site gets an overhaul

### **More interactivity built in for users.**

The University of Missouri System has unveiled a new website aimed to help residents better grasp just how the system affects the entire state.

#### *CHECK IT OUT*

Visit the UM System's new website at [www.umsystem.edu](http://www.umsystem.edu)

The interactive website was a year in the making and is part of UM's Advancing Missouri campaign. That effort is in response to a survey conducted a few years ago.

"We learned that citizens throughout the state, to some extent, don't understand the breadth and impact the university has throughout the entire state," spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said. "We knew we needed to do something to begin to communicate the university's wonderful programs and projects and just the reach of the university in general."

The website — [www.umsystem.edu](http://www.umsystem.edu) — is rich in data and resources. Unlike the previous Web design set up mostly for employees, it now caters to residents, parents, investors and others. An "At Your Service" link lets website visitors identify themselves to more easily locate the information they want.

Most of the information was on the previous site but not as easy to locate. For instance, the university's government relations office tracks every year how many students, alumni and UM employees live in every county in the state, but that information used to be difficult to find. Now, it's embedded within an interactive map on the front page of the website.

The UM System also is taking advantage of a new Facebook feature that lets users of the social network comment on the university site. Visitors can also "like" a feature story or information on the UM site, which then shares that link with their Facebook friends.

"That helps spread what an individual likes on our site throughout their social network and their friends and family," said Michael Hill, Web coordinator.

The website will be updated with new stories and focuses regularly. Right now, front-page feature stories focus on the university's health care accomplishments. After next week's Board of Curators meeting in Rolla, expect to see stories highlighting Missouri's competitiveness, Hollingshead said.

The goal, Hill said, is to add to the site “so that it becomes a comprehensive source of what’s going on throughout the system.”

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# THE MANEATER

## Deferred campus renovations at mercy of state funding

*This is the second article in a two-part series of reports on academic buildings in need of renovations.*

By Allison Prang

Published March 15, 2011

Campus Facilities estimates its total costs for deferred renovation and maintenance on campus could reach \$1 billion in 10 years. And, much like a myriad of other public universities across the country, the UM System is burdened with a financial situation that limits the university's options in taking on these backlogged projects.

The UM System has submitted an Appropriations Request for Operations for fiscal year 2012, but the state legislature will not address those issues until near the end of session.

Mark Schwartz, chief of staff for House Budget Committee Chairman Ryan Silvey, said budgetary planning pertaining to higher education appropriations for deferred maintenance should reach the floor in April.

“There aren’t very many options available to the schools when they have needs like that,” said Paul Wagner, deputy commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education. “University of Missouri, for example, has done some bonding to address some maintenance needs, but you can’t really address them all through bonding.”

Wagner said they are not likely to change either.

“The state’s financial picture is such that it’s really hard to imagine that the state’s going to have a lot of money soon to address deferred maintenance,” he said.

Campus Facilities spokeswoman Karlan Seville said without enough state funding, they are working with what they have.

“I guess at the moment, faculty are making the best of what they have,” she said. “We could definitely improve the learning environment to bring it up to today’s standards.”

MU has a list of buildings that need renovations and construction but has no specific order because what buildings are renovated depends on when money is received and what course of action would best comply with the university's academic mission, Seville said.

Seville said Lafferre Hall, the Fine Arts Building and Strickland Hall — all of which were classified as three of MU's most problematic campus buildings in an MDHE 2009 report — are on the list of MU's buildings in need of renovation, but the university doesn't have funding for those projects.

"We've received some funding from the state, but we've received less in recent years," she said.

The renovations for Tate and Switzler Halls on MU's campus are being funded by bonds, and many construction projects in the past have been funded by such bonds, including nine Lafferre Hall renovations.

"As state funding for capital projects has substantially declined, it has become necessary for the University (System) to fund more of these projects with their own System Facilities revenue bonds," said Ann Toellner, UM System director for debt and cash management, in an e-mail.

Toellner said campuses apply for bonds from the UM System on an individual basis, and then the UM System decides which projects are viable. All bonds issued must be approved by the UM Board of Curators, and one bond typically covers multiple projects on a campus. In order for a bond to be issued for a certain project, there must be a viable option in the mix to pay off the bond.

David Sheahen, interim assistant vice president for management services and director of facilities planning and development for the UM System, said during the summer of 2010, the Board of Curators approved \$35 million in bond money to go to "critical repair maintenance items" for the four UM System campuses.

"However, that was a one-time response," he said. "That's not an option we can use often because we still have to pay the bond off."

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported in a July 2010 article on deferred campus maintenance that it has been about 15 years since the state of Missouri has issued bonds to pay for capital improvements.

Regardless of state funding, campuses are required to invest in their own campus facilities' needs.

A 1990s mandate stipulated campuses had to invest in facilities at 1.5 percent of the replacement value of all buildings on the campus, Sheahen said.

"It's a benchmark to reinvest in facilities, to keep them up and keep them in good repair for the programs," he said.

Since there is a lack of state funding, UM System campuses have not been able to comply with that mandate since 2002, when the mandate was relaxed to 1.25 percent and then down to 1 percent in 2006, Sheahen said.

“We had to also adjust our budgeting,” he said. “We didn’t want to give up on facilities, but we also knew our campuses were strapped for funding.”

Last year, Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, and Speaker of the House Steven Tilley proposed legislation that would have provided college campuses with more bond money to fund maintenance projects, but the bill never made it to the House floor.

The UM System filed a waiver request to the MDHE on Feb. 7 asking the commissioner to waive the penalty that he could charge for raising tuition above inflation, said Nikki Krawitz, UM System vice president for finance and administration. MDHE signed off on the waiver Monday.

The backlog of deferred maintenance on UM System campuses was one of many factors stipulated in their request justifying an increase in tuition and required fees adopted by the UM Board of Curators, she said.

Until funding comes through to combat the backlog of deferred maintenance, things have been left up to the schools, Wagner said.

“Ultimately it’s up to schools to prioritize the needs with the money that they have, and there are a lot of legitimate needs across campuses, and it’s just part of the challenge of being in a tough economic environment,” Wagner said.

## COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

# KBLA raises more than \$145,000 in face of potential cuts

By [Katie Moritz](#)

March 14, 2011 | 9:17 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — With potential federal budget cuts looming, many local broadcasting stations fear a significant impact on their bottom line. But the threat of decreased funding influenced some listeners of [KBLA/91.3 FM](#) to give more than ever before.

The local National Public Radio member station began its weeklong spring fund drive March 4. The drive ended eight hours early on March 11 because donations surpassed the station's fundraising goal of \$145,000. It was the station's most successful spring drive yet, KBLA General Manager Mike Dunn said.

"There were people who did call and say, 'We're giving more money. We're afraid that you might lose some or all of your federal money,'" Dunn said. "People are just supportive of things they value."

Although the drive ended Friday, the station received about \$2,000 in the mail Monday and will continue to receive checks for at least a week, Dunn said. He estimated the final count will total from \$155,000 to \$160,000.

The average donation during the drive was \$110, and more than 1,000 listeners donated. The largest gift from a single donor was \$2,400, Dunn said.

These donations come at an uneasy time in the public broadcasting world. Federal funding of the Corporation of Public Broadcasting, the umbrella corporation that funds NPR and the Public Broadcasting Service, has been threatened for years, but Dunn said this time, the situation is dire.

On Feb. 19, the House of Representatives passed a bill, H.R. 1, that would cut federal CPB funds. It has yet to be put to vote in the Senate.

"It's never gotten to the point before that it has this time, where it's actually passed House," Dunn said. "It's much more serious this time than ever before."

The corporation was created through the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, with the support of President Lyndon Johnson, and had its first clash with government in 1971 when the Nixon administration claimed an anti-administration bias in its programming.

KBIA stands to lose \$190,000 of its \$1.2 million annual budget if the bill is passed. Two years ago, the station lost a stipend it received from the state, Dunn said. He said he is making plans in anticipation of a significant cut, but he does not feel comfortable releasing the plans before all of KBIA's staff members know the details. He knows the plans will not include cutting back on content.

"If we cut back on what people value the most, they're going to give less," he said. "We're going to do everything that we can to keep it there."

Washington, D.C., seems far away, but Brian Davis, underwriting coordinator for KOPN/89.5 FM, Mid-Missouri's community radio station, said the recent resignation of NPR CEO Vivian Schiller has more to do with local stations than the average listener might think.

Schiller resigned in the wake of two incidents involving NPR employees. The first was last fall, when NPR news analyst Juan Williams was fired after making comments on Fox News Channel about being afraid of seeing passengers in "Muslim garb" when riding a plane. The second occurred March 8, when a video surfaced of NPR fundraiser Ron Schiller (no relation to the CEO) criticizing conservatives and questioning NPR's need for federal funding.

NPR's board decided Vivian Schiller could no longer effectively lead the organization in the light of these events, and she subsequently stepped down.

"This situation (with Vivian Schiller) has just become first and foremost in the minds of the people who already want to take away our funding," Davis said. "The fallout could be potentially absolutely disastrous."

This string of incidents gives further reason for conservative politicians to claim NPR and other stations funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting hold a liberal bias and should not receive federal funding, Davis said.

KOPN would lose the \$66,000 it receives from the corporation annually if funding is cut. The station's yearly budget is \$200,000, with listener donations and underwriting accounting for the remainder after federal funding. The station recently lost some federal funding when Columbia's population reached 100,000, Davis said.

"Unfortunately, the reality is there is no way to know exactly right now what is going to happen," Davis said. "The truth of the matter is (Schiller's resignation is) certainly not going to help our cause."

Davis said KOPN would fundraise to make up the \$66,000 it will lose if the bill is passed. The station is developing a plan in case the cuts become a reality.



## Anderson addresses Arkansas speculation

The NCAA Tournament wasn't the only topic yesterday at Mizzou Arena, where the Missouri basketball team gathered to watch the selection show.

Reports from multiple media outlets indicated Arkansas could make a run at MU Coach Mike Anderson after firing Coach John Pelphrey yesterday.

Pursuing Anderson would be an attempt for the Razorbacks to return to the glory years they enjoyed under Nolan Richardson, for whom Anderson spent 17 years as an assistant coach. But if Anderson does consider returning to Arkansas, it won't be because his mentor is pushing the issue.

"I don't recommend anything to Mike," Richardson said in a phone interview this morning. "What I've recommended to Mike Anderson is no matter what decision he makes, if it comes to that, that he must do it for whatever reason, it's got to be for himself, his family. It's all about him. It ain't got nothing to do with Nolan Richardson."

"If you take the job, fine. If you don't take the job, fine. I'm going to still be your man, regardless. Regardless of what position, you have to make a decision on what you want to do — if it comes to that. It may not even materialize."

Anderson continued to downplay his interest in the job when asked about it last night after the announcement that his Tigers had received a No. 11 seed in the NCAA Tournament and would meet Cincinnati in their opener at 8:50 p.m. Thursday in Washington, D.C.

"It seems like this is a road we go down every single year," Anderson said. "I've already stated I'm a Missouri Tiger. We're looking forward to the NCAA Tournament. That continues to confirm that we have a tremendous program here. We do it the right way."

This was not the first time that Anderson had been asked to address speculation about Arkansas. When the subject was raised during his weekly media session March 3, he sidestepped the question, saying simply, "I'm here," before changing the subject to Missouri's upcoming game against Kansas.

But Anderson, who has led the Tigers to three straight NCAA Tournaments and compiled a 111-55 record in five seasons in Columbia, reached out to the Tribune the next day and shot down the notion that he wanted to leave.



“I plan on being at Missouri for a long time, retire here,” he said in a phone interview. “I’m happy. I think that’s the most important thing. It’s always about being happy.”

Athletic Director Mike Alden said he is taking Anderson at his word.

“Mike’s always been straightforward and forthcoming and committed to everything we’re trying to do at Mizzou, and so it doesn’t surprise me that he would come out and talk about his commitment to the program, commitment to the future of what we’re trying to do, because that’s who he is as a person,” Alden said. “So that’s just always been my working relationship with him, and it didn’t surprise me that he would come out and talk about it.”

Alden has seen Anderson turn down more lucrative offers — from Georgia in 2009 and Oregon in 2010.

But speculation will likely persist until Arkansas hires a replacement for Pelphrey, who compiled a 69-59 record in four seasons, including an 18-13 mark in this one.

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