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State lets MU raise its tuition

## Governor isn't happy with 5.5 percent jump.

By Janese Silvey

The state's higher education commissioner has given the University of Missouri the go-ahead to raise tuition by more than inflation.

Commissioner David Russell late last week approved the request to boost tuition and fees by an average of 5.5 percent across the four-campus system. At the Columbia campus, tuition and fees will increase an average of 5.8 percent.

"We are very happy to see that," MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said. "It shows a lot of respect for the university. It's a vote of confidence at a time we need that."

The Board of Curators voted for the tuition increases in January, but the system had to get permission from Russell to increase tuition by those amounts or else face a financial penalty from the state. A 3-year-old law says universities should cap tuition increases in accordance with the inflation rate — 1.5 percent in this case — or face a cut in state funding. Russell's decision will waive that financial penalty.

In a statement, Russell said the 5.5 percent increase is justified because UM's total tuition increase over the past three years is only slightly more than a percent above the consumer price index during that same period. That's probably because the university, like all public four-year universities in the state, agreed to freeze in-state tuition for the past two years in exchange for less-severe cuts in state funding.

The university has made budget cuts over the years and still faces a budget shortfall this coming year, Russell also noted. "The financial situation in its entirety presents evidence that there are legitimate concerns about maintaining quality in academic programs, student services and physical facilities," he said.

UM System administrators referred reporters to a statement from interim President Steve Owens. In it, Owens said the goal was to "increase tuition the least amount possible while maintaining quality and affordability. I think we struck the right balance."

Curators Chairman Warren Erdman in January expressed confidence that Russell would approve the waiver. Yesterday, he declined to comment about it.

The tuition increase is politically sensitive. Gov. Jay Nixon in January criticized the university's decision to increase tuition by "well beyond" the increase allowed by statute. He called on Russell to carefully scrutinize the increase.

"A public college education needs to be within the financial reach of all Missourians, and the freeze on tuition for the past two years has gone a long way toward that goal," a statement from Nixon's office said today. "That's one of the reasons it is disappointing that a tuition increase of this size at the" UM System "will be imposed on students and their families next school year."

Other public university boards have "moved to keep tuition as affordable as possible, and we support and commend their actions," the statement said.

Having Russell's approval lets the university move forward with making budget plans for next year without having to worry about rethinking tuition increases or a state penalty. The preliminary budget for next year shows additional money for maintenance and repairs and a 2 percent increase in the salary pool.

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## **Storytelling helps those with dementia**

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COLUMBIA, Mo., March 16 (UPI) -- TimeSlips, a drug-free, storytelling intervention, improves communication skills and has a positive effect in those with dementia, U.S. researchers say.

Lorraine Phillips, assistant professor in the Sinclair School of Nursing at the University of Missouri, says the program -- appropriate for people with mild to moderate dementia -- encourages participants to use their imaginations to create short stories as a group.

Rather than relying on factual recall, participants respond verbally to humorous images presented by facilitators who record the responses and read narratives to end stories or develop them further.

"TimeSlips provides rich, engaging opportunities for persons with dementia to interact with others while exercising their individual strengths," Phillips says in a statement. "It encourages participants to be actively involved and to experience moments of recognition, creation and celebration. Meaningful activities, such as TimeSlips, promote positive social environments that are central to person-centered care."

The storytelling program is easy and affordable for long-term care facilities to implement and allows caregivers to interact with multiple residents at a time, Phillips said.

The findings are published in the journal Nursing Research.



**MISSOURIAN**  
COLUMBIA'S MORNING NEWSPAPER

## **MU Avoids Fine for Tuition Hike**

**COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)** — The state has approved the University of Missouri's request to avoid a fine for raising tuition and required fees 5.5 percent.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reported that David Russell, Missouri's higher education commissioner, said in a letter that the increase is substantially below what the university considered necessary.

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.



## University of Missouri law school again drops in U.S. News' list

By Janese Silvey

The University of Missouri School of Law has dropped to the 107th spot in the annual U.S. News & World Report rankings, but Dean Larry Dessem isn't taking much stock in the report. "I'm disappointed but not particularly surprised," he said. "This is magazine marketing masquerading as social science."

The law school's ranking is down 14 notches from 93rd place last year. In 2010, MU tumbled from the 65th spot it held in 2009.

One concern about the magazine's rankings is the methodology changes every year. This year, for instance, the magazine looked at how many students had jobs on graduation day and, unlike previous years, didn't include those students going on to earn advanced law degrees.

According to U.S. News & World Report, 33.8 percent of 2009 MU law graduates were employed on graduation day. The university's internal placement survey from that same class showed 92 percent of those seeking a job had one within nine months of graduation. The date is key: Graduates wanting certain jobs must first pass the bar exam, which isn't taken until after graduation.

"Public employers and nonprofit employers in Missouri will not hire someone before he or she has passed the bar," Dessem said.

This year, U.S. News & World Report surveyed the top law firms in the country for the report. The magazine sent the surveys to 750 attorneys, 14 percent of whom responded. MU ranked 58th in that section.

U.S. News & World Report editor Brian Kelly recently acknowledged the rankings could be based on erroneous data. "As you know, there have been some serious questions raised about the reliability of employment data reported by some schools of law to the American Bar Association and other sources," Kelly wrote in a letter sent to Dessem and other deans. He said it's not in anyone's interest "to have less than accurate data being put out by our law schools."

The rankings, Dessem said, "are becoming increasingly discredited, and they're even less relevant if they don't get good data."

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## Few comment at UM president search forum

Fifty-five people showed up yesterday at a forum aimed to get input about the next University of Missouri System president — but hardly anyone spoke.

It was the largest and quietest forum the system has held to date, said Betsy Rodriguez, vice president for human resources. UM administrators are hosting seven public forums across the state asking residents for input about the presidential search, and yesterday's event at Reynolds Alumni Center on the MU campus was the fifth.

Rodriguez said she was surprised but not worried by the lack of input in Columbia.

"It's good news, in a way," she said. "It means people are basically or relatively happy with the way things are going."

The UM System is on the hunt for a new leader after Gary Forsee resigned in January.

Forsee and his predecessor, Elson Floyd, made "real progress" toward building support for the university system, and the next president needs to continue that, Columbia resident John Clark said. He suggested sharing departments and programs among the four campuses and getting rid of the notion that MU is the main campus.

But Tom Atkins, a former curator, said the next president should understand that each campus is unique and that MU is the flagship university.

A successful university president should understand the importance of general education and research, even if it's not obvious how those tie to specific jobs, said Stefani Engelstein, associate professor of German.

Engelstein clarified her comments after the forum: Curators Chairman Warren Erdman used them as a springboard to promote the UM System's Advancing Missouri campaign, an effort designed mostly around programs that do relate to specific jobs, such as nursing and engineering.

But courses in the humanities and social sciences are just as important to a student's overall education, Engelstein said. And students cannot go on to become researchers developing advanced technologies if they don't learn basic research skills first, even if they don't lead to jobs or economic development, she said.

Two others also commented: One said a president should understand the relevance of MU Extension, and a student said the system's leader should listen to students.

The comments mirrored what administrators have heard at other forums, Rodriguez said.

A technical glitch might have been to blame for the lack of comments at the Columbia forum. University administrators have been presenting a series of slides about the system at each of the forums but weren't able to do so yesterday because they couldn't get the projector to work. Those slides might have helped spark discussion, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said.

Deaton said he recognized a number of businessmen in the audience who are familiar with the university. Some, he said, attended because "they were interested in what others had to say."

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# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## **LETTER: Engineers deserve applause for heroic efforts in Japan**

By Scott Kovaleski

March 15, 2011 | 4:48 p.m. CDT

In the wake of the terrible earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the emergency at the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant has captured the world's attention.

**This week, MU Engineers' Week is the perfect time to reflect on the importance of engineering to society and on the sacrifices currently being engaged by the engineers at the troubled Fukushima plant, as well as all of the other engineers working to ensure the safety and well being of the public.**

As many of you know, the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami in Japan caused the immediate shutdown of the nuclear reactors, as they were designed to do. Those reactors continue to generate significant heat after shutdown, and continued cooling is required. The tsunami swept away external power, but on-site backup power was provided by diesel generators (two, so one can back up the other) for such an occurrence.

Unfortunately, the diesel generators' fuel supply was also damaged, and they could no longer function. Yet the designed additional backup included batteries after the diesel generator supplies ran out, which kept the reactors cool until the batteries were exhausted and the site was completely blacked out. Some core damage resulted before portable diesel generators restored power.

Unfortunately, the heat generated by the nuclear reactors required venting of its containment and a small radiation release, which was needed to prevent an explosion that releases large amounts of radiation. In the reactor building, hydrogen from the venting can build up and lead to a hydrogen explosion.

This caused the Japanese reactor building to collapse, but the containment around the reactor and reactor pressure vessel held as they were designed to. Then a decision was made to pump in seawater for cooling, which is a drastic but necessary step to ensure public safety.

In the process, engineers and reactor operators worked heroically around the clock to maintain barriers between the radioactive core and the already disaster-shocked public. These individuals worked while their houses were being swept away, perhaps without knowing if their families were safe, all for the common good. In addition, scores of engineers of all kinds were behind the design of the plant safety systems that averted an even larger disaster.

Engineers can easily forget how important our profession is to society, and we can forget how serious the practice of engineering can be. There are no television shows dedicated to the heroic efforts of engineers. Many people just wave us off, saying they just can't understand "what we do." But as the efforts of our fellow engineers in Japan show, we work selflessly, we keep people safe, and we do good.

Please join me in keeping these heroic engineers in our thoughts this week, as we celebrate engineers here at MU.

**Scott Kovaleski is an associate professor in the electrical and computer engineering department at MU.**

## Fans agree: Mizzou has its man in Mike Anderson

By BLAIR KERKHOFF



**On NCAA Tournament eve for Missouri, the question from Tigers is a simple one.**

Are you with us?

The answer, Mike Anderson keeps saying, is “yes,” and if that proves to be his final response this time, years may pass before he’ll have to field a similar question.

To Arkansas, the school with the vacancy, Anderson represents a much better time. A 17-year assistant under Nolan Richardson, Anderson cut the nets with the 1994 national championship team.

The Razorbacks were never better than with Anderson helping Richardson, and, frankly, this type of hire makes perfect sense: longtime assistant, link to past glory, presumably a more lucrative contract, done deal.

But it’s not. Those who closely follow Anderson and his program say the coach’s assurances are true and he is staying put. If they’re right Anderson will have run the spectrum of coaching quests.

Two years ago, schools in the Southeast — Alabama, Georgia and Memphis — appealed to the Birmingham native's roots.

Last year, Oregon flashed the cash and new facilities.

Now, it's the mothership calling. That's the gamut, right? Turn down this one, and all that remains is an invitation from a blueblood program. Billy Gillispie showed us the perils of that move with an experience at Kentucky so distasteful it's taken two years of knocking around gyms as a guest for him to return to the job market.

But the fascination here isn't Anderson's will-he-or-won't-he moment, it's the fan reaction during these high-alert times. With every Anderson job dalliance, the loyalists add another protective layer against potential disappointment.

So it seemed at the weekly Tiger Club gathering. Tuesdays at noon the heart and stomachs of Missouri fans convene at the Westport Flea Market, and on this day guest speakers Steven St. John and Nate Bukaty, co-hosts of WHB's "Border Patrol," fielded plenty of Anderson questions.

I didn't hear what I thought I would.

Yes, Tigers fans are weary of the uncertainty fueled by Anderson's non-denial denials.

They wish the Tigers weren't heading into the postseason having lost four of five. They miss the defensive approach of last year's team, were embarrassed by the effort against Texas A&M in the Big 12 tournament, and wonder if any guard is as interested in playing defense as shooting.

But, and this was the surprise, nobody was ready to have the screen door hit Anderson on the way out.

On this point they agreed.

They like how he runs his program and has recruited Kansas City kids (if only he hadn't allowed a certain Grandview lad to escape to Colorado), and deeply desire more success against Kansas.

But on the whole this group understands that in Anderson they have a coach who not only is taking his Tigers to a third straight NCAA Tournament, but he has succeeded there. His 4-2 NCAA record over the last two years is the best in the Big 12. That's three more NCAA victories than the Razorbacks since 1999.

Fans get that nearly the entire team returns next season and likely will add a power forward in Otto Porter, who will bring the Tigers some much needed post toughness.

They like how Anderson represents the program, and the Andersons seem to like Columbia.

And it's not always a bad thing for other schools to think your coach is worth hiring away.

If only Anderson hadn't gone on so long with Oregon last year. Fans were knocked back by that one. Was his interest genuine? Was Anderson playing money and mind games with Mizzou less than a year after receiving a contract bump?

That experience prompted Sunday's "I'm a Missouri Tiger" statement from Anderson a week after calling the Columbia Tribune to announce he was happy and planning to retire at Missouri.

Being Missouri, you have to show 'em, and the fan base may not fully buy in until Arkansas introduces its next coach, and somebody else is calling the hogs.

Anderson is saying that will be the case, and the burger eaters at the Flea Market approve.