UM budget has funds for raises

By Janese Silvey

ROLLA — The University of Missouri System’s salary freeze is one step closer to thawing.

Administrators have presented a preliminary budget for the coming year that sets aside money for a 2 percent increase in the salary pool, even though the system is facing a larger budget hole than previously thought.

The Board of Curators got a sneak peek at the proposed budget plan yesterday, but the final budget won’t be approved until later this spring. It takes into consideration the 5.5 percent, on average, increase in tuition and fees curators recently approved for the four-campus system. MU tuition and fees are expected to rise 5.8 percent.

For months, administrators have been saying the UM System still is looking at a $42 million shortfall, even with those increases. But that number only took into account finances on the four campuses that charge tuition — not the system-level functions or MUEXtension, said Nikki Krawitz, vice president of finance and administration. With those additional operations, the budget shortfall is more like $53.2 million, she said.

Administrators since last year have said they consider the merit-based raises mandatory, as well as setting aside additional dollars to maintain and repair campus buildings. But something is going to have to give, Krawitz said. She warned that the system might not be able to allocate all of the money for buildings maintenance and repair that’s needed, especially if it comes down to deciding between employees and facilities.

“Our people are probably hurting worse than our buildings,” she said.

Later in yesterday’s meeting, Curator Warren Erdman called university salaries “embarrassingly low.”

The budget still hinges on what happens during the legislative session. Although the UM System is prepared to deal with the 7 percent, or $29 million, cut in state funding Gov. Jay Nixon recommended, that plan still needs final approval from lawmakers. Steve Knorr, vice president of governmental relations, is cautiously optimistic that will materialize. As of February, state revenues were up more than expected, he said.

“We’re moving in the right direction,” Knorr said.
The 2012 UM System budget also is anticipating increases in revenues other than state dollars. Those include:

- An increase of 11 percent, or $8.3 million, in gifts;
- A 5 percent increase, or $18.6 million, in grants and contracts;
- A 39 percent increase — $37.8 million — in endowments and investments; and
- A 5 percent, or $55 million, increase in sales and services, including a $37.9 million spike in patient care revenues and a $17.6 million increase in housing, dining and bookstore revenues.

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UM Health gets improved marks

An inspection finds better conditions.

University Hospital’s sterile processing department underwent “an almost total employee and management personnel change” after state and federal inspections that flagged the hospital for a variety of infection control deficiencies. A follow-up, unannounced inspection last month by the Food and Drug Administration verified that a variety of improvements have been in the hospital’s sterile processing department, including the purchase of new equipment.

The report, released today on University of Missouri Health Care’s website, said the FDA inspector found “no objectionable conditions” and “no evidence of reprocessing single-use devices” during a Feb. 10 inspection. The report noted the hospital implemented “a number of voluntary corrections following the 2008 inspection” by another FDA inspector, who found “substantial reprocessing of single-use devices.”

Hospital officials disagreed with many of the findings from the 2008 inspection, as well as with conclusions of a November 2010 inspection by the Department of Health and Senior Services on behalf of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS.

The 2008 FDA inspection found evidence of “rusty” surgical instruments and orthopedic implant devices. The 2010 CMS inspection noted residue and debris on sterile instruments, dirty floors and widespread dust problems. The report concluded the hospital was not in compliance with infection control standards and was in danger of losing eligibility for Medicare reimbursement.

Hospital officials responded by hiring an additional 25 housekeepers. Hospital administrators told an FDA inspector last month that the sterile processing department has been renovated with new equipment and changes in employees and management. “A number of management positions had been filled by individuals previously employed at Boone Hospital Center in Columbia,” the report stated.

Among other changes that were made after the 2008 and 2010 inspections, the hospital: Required sterile processing technicians to obtain certification; adopted a new policy on single-use surgical devices; replaced four washer/decontaminators, four steam sterilizers and two hydrogen peroxide gas sterilizers; and removed of single-use devices and other “questionable devices.”

The latest report noted that the 2008 inspection said there was spotting and residue on some sterilized instruments and devices “possibly tied to debris in the washer and washer filters.”
Hospital officials were not required to submit a plan of correction for the 2008 inspection — which did not generate a report until nearly 18 months later — but they did develop a voluntary action plan. Officials did not respond this morning to a request for the cost of the changes in the sterile processing department or to explain whether the personnel changes were tied to the FDA and CMS inspections.

The scope of the Feb. 10 inspection was limited to identifying whether the hospital was still reprocessing single-use devices.

The FDA and CMS inspections were initiated as the result of complaints filed by Sam Backues, a former sterile processing technician. His complaint to the FDA on May 1, 2008, claimed that the department routinely reprocessed single-use devices. His complaint last fall that led to the CMS inspection focused on continuing problems with the hospital’s sterilization process.

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UM curators hear update on safety

By Janene Silvey

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

ROLLA — The vice chancellor of the University of Missouri Health Care system today assured the UM Board of Curators that the Columbia hospital isn’t putting patients at risk.

The hospital has undergone investigations from three agencies in the past three years, which isn’t unusual, Hal Williamson said. One flagged a concern about single-use instruments being reused, a finding hospital leaders disagreed with, he said. Williamson did acknowledge that in some cases disposable scissors used to remove stitches were accidentally used again because they resemble permanent surgical scissors. The hospital is changing vendors to correct that, he said.

Inspectors also cited housekeeping concerns, and Williamson said more housekeepers were hired to address those. Also, the hospital will increase internal handwashing inspections from 300 a month to 500 a month, Williamson said, noting the last report showed 94 percent compliance.

He showed a chart that indicated infections have declined in several areas since 2002. Patient safety is “very important to us,” he said, “even if we didn’t have a reviewer come in.”

Williamson said the health system is setting up a website to publicly release all finalized inspections.

“I have been concerned about reports coming out of the hospital, and I was very comforted” by Williamson’s “attitude and ‘we’ll fix it’ approach,” Curators Chairman Warren Erdman said.
Curators discuss presidential search criteria

Academics are not a priority.

By Janese Silvey

ROLLA — They’re placing a “help wanted” ad in a national higher education journal, but University of Missouri curators say they also will rely on each other and fellow Missourians to nominate presidential candidates who fit the bill.

On order is a future president who has business know-how, is politically connected and already has an understanding of the Midwest. Those are the themes that have emerged from a round of public forums and a meeting of an advisory committee tasked with assisting in the process. Although some have said an academic background would be nice, it’s not emerging as a priority.

During the Board of Curators’ presidential search committee meeting yesterday, Chairman Warren Erdman said he doesn’t even want to ask for candidates to have a specific level of education. When Donald Cupps — who’s been appointed as a curator but has yet to be confirmed by the Senate — asked from the audience what type of education the university is specifying in its ad, Erdman said “at least an undergraduate degree.” But he is concerned about being specific.

“I think it limits rather than advances,” he said. “It could have a chilling effect.”

If the UM System doesn’t specify an advanced degree, though, it appears as if the university is looking for someone outside of the higher education community, warned Jan Greenwood of the consulting firm Greenwood/Asher & Associates. She suggested, instead, the university advertise that it’s specifically interested in “a track record of accomplishments.”

Greenwood suspects the right candidate’s name will surface soon, if it hasn’t already. Most people who ultimately become hired as university leaders start out as someone who emerged as a possible contender early in the process, even if that person doesn’t apply until later in the search, she said.

“The more highly qualified people come into the pool” later, Greenwood said, but typically they are “candidates recruited in the first two weeks of a search.”

The UM System is about a third of the way into a process to find a president to succeed Gary Forsee, who resigned in January. Administrators earlier this month held seven public forums around the state asking residents for what characteristics the next leader should have.
Curators approved a list of qualifications based on that input yesterday, and some had strong feelings about a few items on the wish list. Curators Judith Haggard said the last qualification listed — that the person has an appreciation of Missouri — is a must. She said she’s watched presidents come to the university from outside of the Midwest who don’t understand the culture, and they don’t last long.

Greenwood suggested curators and administrators look within their alumni associations to see if anyone matches the list of criteria. All nominations will be sent to the consulting firm for follow-ups.

“I think Missourians are going to rise to the occasion,” Erdman said. “And I think we’re going to get a lot of nominees.”

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Police investigate indecent exposures

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

University of Missouri police are searching for suspects of similar descriptions involved in a pair of indecent exposure incidents last week.

A black man believed to be of college age, with a slender build and eyeglasses, reportedly was seen at 2:44 a.m. Friday masturbating against a wall along the eastside sidewalk of Stankowski Field, said Capt. Brian Weimer of the University of Missouri Police Department. The suspect was wearing a gray shirt.

A suspect of similar build was seen around 4:40 p.m. Sunday masturbating while sitting in a bright red sedan with a green top and spoiler. The vehicle was parked near Hitt and Paquin streets.

Though the suspects described in both incidents share a similar description, officers are not concluding they are searching for the same person, Weimer said.

Surveillance video of the area is under examination.

Anyone with information should contact Detective Michael Laughlin at 884-2605 or CrimeStoppers at 875-8477.
Chancellor Brady Deaton spoke at the Board of Curators meeting Tuesday morning about MU’s part in advancement within science, technology, engineering and math courses.

“We need to know the strengths of our campuses in undertaking this challenge,” Deaton said.

Deaton said that STEM undergraduate enrollment has increased by 50 percent and graduate enrollment by about 45 percent. Undergraduate enrollment was about 14,000 in fall 2010. Almost 24,000 STEM students have graduated from the university and Deaton said he wants to further increase these numbers.

Deaton said by securing funds through various federal agencies to stimulate STEM courses and student involvement within major research courses, further growth will be possible.

“We want students to be involved in meaningful research of our institution and fortunately federal agencies as well as private collaborators have enabled us to undertake these efforts,” Deaton said.

Deaton commended the competitive nature of schools and programs on MU’s campus and the unique challenges they take on. One of these programs is MU’s Fellows Program, which works with biomedicine.

“Since the inception of this Fellow’s Program since 2007 Mizzou’s biodesign fellowship has led to the creation of three businesses, 23 invention disclosures, eight provisional patents and four pending patents,” Deaton said.

Deaton said the university would like to extended the efforts of strengthening STEM courses starting from kindergarten. He said it is possible to do this by creating more teachers and sponsoring programs that stimulate STEM programs.

One such program sponsored by the physics department offers courses to younger students to get them interested. Since it has been implemented more than 80 ninth grade teachers have reported increased student interest in STEM courses Deaton said.

A smart teacher recruitment program has also been implemented by MU. It looks at those qualified in the fields of math and science, but lack a teaching degree, and prepares them for classrooms. Since the program has started the graduating rates of math and science teachers has doubled and Deaton said the university hopes to double rates again in the next few years.
MU curators decline comment on extension for Anderson

By MIKE DeARMOND

COLUMBIA | **Steve Owens, the interim University of Missouri system president, revealed nothing Tuesday about what he called “any hypothetical contract negotiations” regarding current MU basketball coach Mike Anderson.**

“I think it is safe to say that we are all big fans of Mike Anderson,” Owens said on a conference call Tuesday morning from the MU Board of Curators meeting in Rolla, Mo. “We appreciate very much what he does on the court and particularly off the court. But any hypothetical contract negotiations, we don’t confirm either their existence or their status.”

Jimmy Sexton, Anderson’s agent, was a little more open Tuesday during a Memphis radio interview.

“We’ve been in discussions with them for several weeks now,” Sexton said. “Those are ongoing discussions. Nothing is imminent this second. So I can’t speak to it. But there should be some resolution to that in the next few days.”

So, for yet another day, the will-he-stay-or-will-he-go-to-Arkansas debate played out without much substance. On Monday, reports indicated that Anderson would remain at Missouri in exchange for a two-year extension and an increase to $2 million a year to his current seven-year contract.

But in Arkansas, reports on Twitter maintained there was a better chance Anderson would wind up at Arkansas, where for 17 years he was an assistant coach to Nolan Richardson.

Mike Irwin of KFSM-TV in Fayetteville — whose earlier report of Arkansas’ having made an offer to Anderson was refuted — posted Tuesday afternoon that “Sources tell 5NEWS that Mike Anderson will likely be named the new head basketball coach at the University of Arkansas.”

The post went on to say “The question is, when?” and that sources told the TV station there had been no direct contact between Anderson and anyone representing the University of Arkansas.

Some in Missouri hoped the MU Board of Curators — meeting in closed executive session over two days in Rolla — would announce approval of a contract extension for Anderson.
But Owens, who cut his teeth as a contract negotiator as the attorney for Tigers’ basketball coaching legend Norm Stewart, wouldn’t even say whether a vote had or had not been taken.

The $2 million per season, which has been widely reported to be the top price Missouri is willing to offer, would place Anderson within a circle of the 12 highest-paid coaches in college basketball.

Figures obtained from USA Today, Forbes, ESPN and other reports place Kentucky’s John Calipari on top of that list at $4 million a year. The rest of the list: Tom Izzo ($3.4 million from Michigan State), Billy Donovan ($3.3 million from Florida), Bill Self ($3 million from Kansas), Thad Matta ($2.5 million from Ohio State), Rick Pitino ($2.25 million from Louisville), Mike Krzyzewski ($2.2 million from Duke), Rick Barnes ($2.15 million from Texas), Roy Williams ($2 million from North Carolina), Bob Huggins ($2 million from West Virginia), Ben Howland ($2 million from UCLA) and Sean Miller ($2 million from Arizona).

All but Miller have at least one Final Four coaching appearance.

Anderson has coached Missouri to three straight NCAA Tournaments. But there has been considerable fan criticism of this season’s 23-11 finish, which began with a 14-1 nonconference record and a 9-10 finish thereafter, including 8-8 in the Big 12 regular season and an opening loss to Cincinnati in the NCAA Tournament.

If Anderson does stay at Missouri and joins that elite level of coaching compensation, expectations of elite level results will undoubtedly follow.

As Sexton referenced in his Memphis radio interview, it may be another two days at least before anything is decided, much less made public.

Anderson, according to an MU official, was on his way to Tulsa, Okla., on Tuesday for an evening visitation and a Wednesday funeral for longtime friend Jim Pharr.
Agent: Anderson, Missouri seek contract extension

ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

Missouri coach Mike Anderson's agent says he is negotiating a new contract with the school amid continued reports that Arkansas is also interested in hiring the architect of the "Fastest 40 Minutes in Basketball."

Anderson's agent, Jimmy Sexton, told Memphis radio station WHBQ-AM Tuesday morning that "we've been in discussion with them for several weeks now."

Sexton added that while "nothing is imminent" he expects "some resolution ... in the next few days."

His comments came as University of Missouri curators - who must approve any changes to Anderson's existing seven-year, $10.85 million deal - met for a second day at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla. After their public session ended Tuesday morning, the group of political appointees remained behind closed doors for more than five hours discussing unspecified personnel matters.

Interim university president Steve Owens declined to discuss Anderson's contract other than to offer a general statement of support. The Columbia Daily Tribune reported that Missouri athletic director Mike Alden also attended the meeting in Rolla, which is nearly 100 miles from the flagship campus.

Alden rarely attends curator meetings outside Columbia. He too declined to discuss the status of his men's basketball coach.

Anderson, who was hired by Missouri in 2006 after four years at Alabama-Birmingham, led Missouri to a 23-11 record and its third consecutive NCAA tournament appearance - though it ended with a first-round defeat and five losses in the team's final six games.

In 2009, he parlayed a school-record 31 wins, a Big 12 Conference tournament title and an appearance in the NCAA regional final into a contract extension and $500,000 annual raise. That revised contract pays Anderson a base annual salary of $1.35 million plus another $200,000 a
year should he remain in Columbia another two years. Additional deferred compensation is available if he stays at Missouri for the duration of his seven-year deal.

He turned down an offer to coach at Georgia in 2009 for more than $2 million annually and was also mentioned as a possible candidate at Memphis.

One year later, Anderson rejected a similarly hefty raise and a job offer to coach Oregon - but not before unsettling the Tigers faithful with less-than-specific denials about his interest in other jobs.

The latest potential suitor is Arkansas, where Anderson spent 17 years as an assistant under Nolan Richardson and helped his mentor win the 1994 national championship.

Arkansas fired coach John Pelphrey on March 13. Pelphrey was 69-59 in four seasons with the Razorbacks. Several media outlets in Arkansas and Oklahoma have linked Anderson to the job. As is his custom by now, Anderson has only said that he is happy at Missouri but hasn’t struck down what he repeatedly refers to as "rumors."

Anderson’s looming contract extension could put the fundraising prowess of Alden and Missouri’s athletics department to the test. Missouri’s athletic director has previously said that the school is also putting the finishing touches on a new deal for football coach Gary Pinkel, who earns roughly $2.5 million annually in a contract that was last revised in 2008.
Taking $2 million from Mizzou puts Final Four demands on Anderson

By Mike DeArmond - Posted on 22 March 2011

UPDATE: The Missouri Board of Curators, during a conference call today, declined to address Anderson’s contract extension. Also, Anderson’s agent, Jimmy Sexton, said on a Memphis radio station that discussions with Missouri are ongoing and that a decision should come soon.

Okay, finally, this morning, I talked to someone who said he knew Mike Anderson was going to be Missouri’s basketball coach next season. The guy I talked to got it from a person who is a part of the Missouri men’s basketball program. So it is definitely one of those I know a guy who knows a guy type of things.

Now, the guy I know is a guy I trust. He’s been a source for other information over the years and has never steered me wrong.

But the guy I know, the guy I trust, told me he didn’t get this straight from Mike Anderson. So I’m not asking you to lay aside your thinking caps and charge out into the street and proclaim: “He’s back!”

Which technically wouldn’t be correct anyway, since Mike Anderson has never left.

Has the contract been agreed to by Anderson and the MU athletic department that will have to come up with the money to fund what is reportedly a $2 million guarantee with two years being added to the five years Anderson has remaining on his old agreement? It certainly seems that way.

Has the University of Missouri system Board of Curators – which has to give its approval but doesn’t have to provide funds to fulfill the obligation – done so? I’m not getting an answer on that just yet.

Is there still a chance the University of Arkansas could still come in and top Missouri’s offer? Sure, but it is hard to see Anderson having said he wants to retire at MU, that he plans on being at MU, and then telling a guy who knows a guy I know that he is going to stay at Mizzou, and then going back on all those words.
Which brings us to the other prime talking point of this saga: What paying Mike Anderson $2 million dollars a year means for the future of Missouri basketball.

To me it dials up the pressure on Anderson. To win a Big 12 (or whatever it is going to be) regular season title. To at least get Missouri to the Final Four for the first time in school history.

Because — according to information I gleaned from figures on Forbes.com, ESPN, USA Today and other sites publishing details of coaching salaries — there are only 12 college basketball coaches making at least $2 million per season — and all but Sean Miller at Arizona have coached a team to the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament.

Here's that 12-coach list:

John Calipari ($4 million), Tom Izzo ($3.4) Billy Donovan ($3.3 million), Bill Self ($3 million), Thad Matta ($2.5 million), Rick Pitino ($2.25 million), Mike Krzyzewski ($2.2 million), Rick Barnes ($2 million), Roy Williams ($2 million), Bob Huggins ($2 million), Ben Howland ($2 million), Sean Miller ($2 million).

To justify being paid with those coaches, Mike Anderson is going to have to recruit better than he did to this year’s 23-11 team. He’s going to have to coach better than starting 14-1 and then going 9-10 thereafter, including being bounced out of the NCAA Tournament by Cincinnati in Mizzou’s opening game.

Being paid elite money brings the justified expectation of elite results.
Today: Curators dismiss questions about Anderson

by VAHE GREGORIAN | Posted: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:06 pm

Maintaining the mystery of the moment, the University of Missouri board of curators Tuesday morning declined to address the status of a contract extension for coach Mike Anderson.

"I think it is safe to say that we are all big fans of Mike Anderson," interim MU president Steve Owens in a conference call. "We appreciate very much what he does on the court and particularly off the court. But any hypothetical contract negotiations, we don't confirm either their existence or their status."

Asked why he couldn't elaborate if a vote had in fact been taken, Owens said, "That would confirm or deny whether a vote had been taken on it, wouldn't it?"

Asked why he couldn't do that. Owens playfully said, "I could if I wanted to." He declined to answer further when asked if that suggested the board was not bound by that policy.

Multiple sources have told the Post-Dispatch that MU has prepared an extension, pending curator approval, that would bump Anderson's salary from about $1.5 million to around $2 million and add two years to his contract to have it run through 2018.

Those sources have said they believe that will be enough to keep Anderson at MU.

By logic, MU athletics would not have presented it to the board - as the sources said it would be - if it didn't have reason to believe it was the right deal to keep Anderson.

Anderson also is believed to be a prime target of Arkansas, which despite an avalanche of rumor has not yet been substantiated as making an offer to Anderson, who was an assistant coach there for 17 years.

Anderson by all appearances has gone about business as usual at MU since the Tigers were ousted from the NCAA Tournament last week.

He has been seen recruiting for the Tigers and participating in his usual Monday lunch-time routine of playing pickup ball at the student rec center. Mizzou players through their social media accounts have indicated no unrest as of late Tuesday morning.
None of which means Anderson and his agent aren't also entertaining an offer from Arkansas, though it certainly suggests an effort to make it appear he is staying at MU.

Many aspects of the situation remain unclear and seemingly fluid. Repeated requests for an interview with athletics director Mike Alden have been unsuccessful, and MU has not responded to a request to speak with Anderson.