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## Plan aims to cut college students' costs

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — State colleges and universities would get an additional \$20 million to help keep student costs down under a budget plan the Senate Appropriations Committee adopted Monday.

Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, announced the increase during work on the higher education budget. He announced the plan at the same time he said the committee had found an extra \$20 million for public school transportation costs.

The extra money for higher education is the result of an agreement with presidents of all the state's two- and four-year colleges to take steps to cut student costs. Most institutions are raising tuition this year after a two-year freeze.

“We have an agreement for them to work with us to find cost reductions to students in out-of-pocket expenses,” Schaefer said. It could mean tuition cuts, although not necessarily, Schaefer said. Schools also can meet the spirit of the requirement by cutting student costs in other areas, such as lab fees, or by providing more direct student financial aid, he said.

The transportation funding will partially restore cuts Gov. Jay Nixon made to the spending line for school bus costs. Nixon had originally proposed spending \$97.8 million on transportation, down from an appropriated amount of \$152 million this year. That \$152 million, however, was cut severely by Nixon to balance the budget.

Part of the money is coming from a shift of funding from a \$12 million program for training rural health care workers inserted into the budget by the House. Called Preparing to Care, that money would be cut completely.

Another large source of money for the school transportation needs would be the state lottery. Lottery director May Scheve promised that she can reap \$3 in revenue for every extra \$1 set aside for advertising. The committee gave her \$4 million more to advertise, which would create a net gain of \$8 million for the transportation program.

The rest of the money, Schaefer said, came from smaller changes across the budget.

“There is a lot of \$1 million here, \$2 million there,” he said.

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## Arkansas sought MU's Deaton for president job



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University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton speaks Thursday at a rally to kick off the One Mizzou diversity initiative in the MU Student Center. Deaton was sought after by the University of Arkansas last month in its search for a new president, but he withdrew his name from consideration.

By [Janese Silvey](#)

[Monday, April 11, 2011](#)

University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton was considered a top candidate for the University of Arkansas president's job until two weeks ago, when he withdrew from consideration the day he was supposed to meet with trustees there.

Emails obtained by Arkansas Times reporter Max Brantley through an open records request confirmed the timeline of events. Brantley posted the emails to his blog late last week.

Deaton was at an Association of American Universities conference out of town today and was not available for comment. Spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken confirmed Arkansas recruited Deaton, but she stressed he never formally applied for the position.

According to the emails from UA Trustee John Ed Anthony to other trustees, it appears Deaton and his wife, Anne, visited the campus in mid-March. He was expected back on the afternoon of March 28, but Deaton called Anthony that morning and pulled his name from consideration.

That was two days after former MU basketball Coach Mike Anderson officially became a Razorback. Banken said the timing was coincidental.

Arkansas did get a glimpse of Deaton's level of confidence in Anderson's MU team, though. In one March 10 email setting up Deaton's visit that weekend, Anthony wrote that Deaton's schedule would depend on whether MU was in the championship game of the Big 12 Tournament. The only reason Deaton would not spend March 11 overnight in Fayetteville, Anthony wrote, would be if MU were in the championship game. "He'd like to return to KC after a meeting" with a trustee "if that should occur, which he said is not at all likely," Anthony wrote.

Deaton has been unsuccessfully recruited before. Last year, the University of Massachusetts also looked at him for its top job, although he never applied. Banken said.

"Bottom line: Is he wanting to leave Missouri? No. He's not actively looking for another position," she said. "He's pleased to be at the University of Missouri and is excited about his future."

Banken said it "says a lot" about Deaton that other universities are noticing him. "He's established quite a reputation among other national universities, and as a result, he will be recruited."

MU faculty members this month will have a chance to give their feedback on his performance as chancellor. Evaluation surveys are going out to faculty this month, Deaton's first formal evaluation since taking the job in 2004.

MU Faculty Council Chairwoman Leona Rubin said she was glad to hear Deaton backed out of the UA search.

"I'm glad he didn't leave," she said. "I like him. I think he's got a very humanistic approach to leadership."

That said, Rubin said she's not sure she wants to see that leadership style in the UM System president's office.

“Three years ago, I would have jumped all over the idea of Brady being president,” she said. Now, “after Gary Forsee and seeing the ability of a local business guy to interact with Jefferson City,” she thinks Deaton’s in the right job.

“I think Brady is doing a heck of a job on campus,” she said.

Deaton won’t say whether he’s interested in the UM System president’s job, a position Forsee left in January.

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## Together again: Women take care of dying exes

### Even years after divorce, women step up to spare their children, study finds

By Linda Carroll and Diane Mapes  
msnbc.com contributors  
updated 2 hours 20 minutes ago

When Terry DeMeo moved back to Florida four-and-a-half years ago, she never dreamed she'd be moving back into her ex-husband's life.

"We went through a bitter divorce 25 years ago after he left me with a nursing baby and a toddler," said DeMeo, a 63-year-old personal and professional development coach from Miami. "It was very traumatic for me and I was angry for two full decades. But when I came back and saw him, it was hard to stay angry."

It wasn't Cupid that was responsible for DeMeo's change of heart. It was cancer — in particular, the neuro-endocrine cancer that had left her ex-husband, Bruce J. Winick, nearly blind and in dire need of help. Despite their combative past, DeMeo set aside her bitterness and offered her ex whatever assistance she could, a decision she calls "one of the most profound and wisest things I've ever done."

DeMeo is one of a growing number of divorced women to come to the aid of a severely ill or dying ex-husband, according to reports by hospice workers and other [health](#) care providers.

**But while divorced women caring for former spouses may be becoming more commonplace, the reasons behind the trend are as complex as the machinations of love itself, according to a new, small study released by the University of Missouri.**

The study, which focused on 10 divorced women who had become caregivers for their ex-husbands, found that the women were spurred by a host of motivations, including altruism, guilt, and, perhaps most important, the need to protect their children.

According to DeMeo, her children's feelings were definitely part of her motivation for participating in her former husband's care.

"My one daughter was living with him and was very concerned about him and if I talked to her and tried to offer support from a place of bitterness, it had no authenticity," she said. "When I dropped my

'weapons,' they were relieved. They loved their dad and had always had a relationship with him. Now he could come here for Christmas dinner and there was no tension."

### **Keeping the kids out of it**

Some women in the study said they worried that if they didn't take care of their exes, their kids would have to take on the job.

"It wasn't that their children were incapable," said study co-author Christine Proulx, an assistant professor of human development and family studies at the University of Missouri. "But their children were at the peaks of their careers and involved with their own families. In many cases the women were trying to ward off a sandwich-generation situation for their kids."

Sometimes it was the grown children who reached out to their moms.

One of the women interviewed for the study described a frantic phone call from her daughter, who said "Mom, Dad's really, really sick. I think there's something really the matter with him."

The call prompted "Anne" to check in on her ex, who turned out to be gravely ill. She told her daughter, "Something's gotta be done. He can't be staying by himself anymore."

Other women said they stepped up simply because they knew no one else would.

"Although it's objectively easy for someone to say that formal caregivers could have stepped in, that was not seen as an option by these women," said Proulx.

### **Specialized care**

In DeMeo's case, the specialized help she provided couldn't have come from a traditional caregiver.

In addition to driving her ex to appointments (where she took notes and asked questions on his behalf), she helped research his disease, combing through records and studies and second opinions in an effort to help him battle it.

"He was very concerned with beating the disease and because of his eyesight problems, he needed help," she said. "We had done legal cases together 30 years earlier and it was like rekindling that. It was like in the old days when we were tilting at windmills as civil rights lawyers."

Eventually, though, his condition deteriorated and DeMeo's role changed.

"He wouldn't entertain the possibility that he wasn't going to be around, so I tried to help the kids understand that," she said. "He wasn't able to say goodbye; he wasn't able to have those conversations. So I had those conversations for him and tried to help them make sense out of it."

After a "heroic battle," DeMeo's former husband died last August at age 65.

### **The moral thing?**

Other reasons women said they cared for their exes included trying to avoid feeling guilty and feelings of altruism, said Proulx, who said a common refrain was "Everyone deserves to be cared for at the end of their lives by someone who cares for them. I hope that when my turn comes I can die the way I want to."

Dr. Karolynn Siegel, professor of sociomedical sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, said the various motivations didn't surprise her.

Still, Siegel said, "What's interesting is that this is not a social obligation. People do not expect these women to care for their exes, though some clearly felt a moral compunction or desire to do it."

Siegel said in addition to the moral responsibility, some of the women may have wanted to set a good example for their children.

"You want to be a role model for your children of what a spouse should do," she said. "This is someone you raised a family with — and there are certain moral obligations."

DeMeo said while some people applauded her decision and others questioned it — telling her she was "just taking care of him again" — for her it was not just the moral thing, but the healthy thing to do.

"It was absolutely a good thing for his sake and for my sake and for the kids' sake," she said. "It was simply destructive to hold onto that bitterness, that outrage. I'd had children with the man. I'm sure it helped me more than it helped him."

Other women found it offered them a time for reflection and, finally, closure.

One woman in the study, referred to as "Sheila," noted that in the final weeks of her ex's life, the two former spouses said "everything we needed to say."

"It's like you take two ends of a ribbon and you tie it in a bow," she said. "That 20 years he and I had were tied up with a bow in that last three weeks we had together."



## The Star's editorial | University of Missouri tuition increase is justified

**Missouri's commissioner of higher education did the right thing when he approved tuition increases for the University of Missouri system.**

When evaluating the request from the system's Board of Curators, David R. Russell had to weigh the hardships the increases would present for students and families with Missouri's need to maintain a competitive research university system. Even with the increases, the four-campus system will have to cut \$42 million in the coming fiscal year.

The increases will be the first in three years. They vary across the four-campus system, with the University of Missouri-Kansas City planning for a 4.8 percent rise in tuition and required fees, up to \$8,666 a year. The average increase for the system will be 5.5 percent.

When considered over a three-year period, the total tuition increase for the system is just over 1 percent above the rate of inflation. But during that same period, state funding for its public universities was slashed by 12.2 percent.

Over the past decade, combined state aid and tuition income for the University of Missouri system has grown more slowly than the rate of inflation.

Tuition increases inevitably provoke finger-pointing. Gov. Jay Nixon called the size of the University of Missouri system increase "disappointing" and contrary to the goal of making a public university education "within the financial reach of all Missourians."

Nixon's reaction is understandable. One of his signature achievements since taking office has been to stop the skyrocketing tuition increases that made Missouri's public universities the most expensive in the region for nearly a decade.

For two years, Nixon shielded colleges and universities from draconian budget cuts in exchange for their pledge to hold tuition and mandatory fees steady.

But Nixon's criticism overlooks the extensive budget-cutting measures that have gone on within the University of Missouri system, especially during the last three years under the leadership of recently retired president Gary Forsee.

In the 2010 fiscal year, for example, the system found \$61.5 million in cost controls. Nearly a third of that came from a more competitive contracting system. An additional \$13 million came from a hiring freeze and the elimination of jobs.

Over recent years, the university system saved millions of dollars through energy efficiencies. It improved business processes, restructured debt and required employees to pick up 1.3 percent of their retirement costs.

Those are positive, lasting improvements. But on the flip side, the system has deferred hundreds of millions of dollars in building maintenance. Average faculty salaries rank in the bottom third of comparable universities.

The underlying problem is Missouri's long-term failure to adequately invest in its public colleges and universities.

This year the four-campus system is receiving \$415 million in state aid. That is \$14 million less than the state contributed in 2001, and the system is serving many more students. Enrollment has increased by a third over the decade.

College costs will continue to be a challenge in Missouri. Meeting the challenge requires action on many fronts.

- Schools must continue searching for efficiencies and cost controls. Perks and outlandish salaries won't pass muster.
- Universities must continue to make financial aid available to low-income families. Currently, the four campuses cover an average of 89 percent of tuition and required fees for students coming from impoverished families.
- Families who are able should be conscientious about saving for their children's college educations. A good way to do so is through the Most 529 Plan offered by the Missouri treasurer's office. It is consumer-friendly and offers significant tax advantages.

At the end of the day, however, the Missouri legislature needs to recognize that the state can't maintain a first-rate research university system without a much more significant public investment.



**MU, REDI try to lure NASA**

## **A new lab site would develop technologies.**

By Andrew Denney

Columbia business leaders and University of Missouri researchers are working to put the city at the forefront of economic development in space by attempting to attract a NASA national laboratory to town.

If Columbia is chosen to receive the \$15 million-per-year grant being made available through NASA to establish a new national laboratory, it would be a research facility with a "venture capitalist" bent, said Rob Duncan, MU vice chancellor for research and an ex-officio board member of Regional Economic Development Inc.

A proposal Duncan helped write with fellow MU researchers was submitted to NASA on April 1, and Duncan said the city that will receive the funding could be determined as early as May. He said funding for the laboratory could be distributed as early as July 1.

Duncan said the selling points for bringing the lab here include Missouri's low cost of living, loyal workforce and relatively stable budgetary health. In focusing on Columbia specifically, Duncan said collaboration between the university and the city makes it an ideal locale for a national lab.

If the laboratory is brought to Columbia, Duncan said, the beginnings would be humble: In its initial stages, it would conceivably bring 30 to 40 high-end jobs to Columbia.

But there would be potential for growth. Duncan used the example of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., which focuses on robotic exploration of the solar system. That facility started small and eventually exploded into a multibillion-dollar operation with more than 8,000 employees.

"It would be a big deal if we win this," Duncan said.

A not-for-profit organization that would serve as the funding backbone for the laboratory already has been established, with the help of REDI. Duncan said the Discovery Ridge area would be considered as a site for the laboratory. The new laboratory would distribute federal grants for projects that deal with economic development in space.

Examples of the type of products that could be developed in space include a geological mapping system that energy companies could use to determine new places to drill for oil or natural gas. That technology also could be used by insurance companies after a natural disaster to get a more accurate picture of damage costs. Also, Duncan said, there is money to be made in the study of unusual materials that are the product of cosmic radiation.

Investment in these types of technologies might seem risky, but the laboratory's main function would be minimizing those risks by conducting research on the ground before the money is spent to launch into space. Governments that invest in the projects could receive royalties from technologies developed in space.

In pointing out the possibility for payoff from some of these technologies, Duncan used the example of the laser beam, which 50 years ago was all but written off as having potential for use in attractions at county fairs. Now it is difficult to escape the use of the technology.

Duncan said being part of the next big scientific development will come through continuing study of the unknown.

"If we abandon that, we could be getting away from what could be the next multitrillion-dollar idea," Duncan said.

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## MU works to streamline online learning

By Janese Silvey

The University of Missouri is a step closer to having a new structure for online learning opportunities that would better align the courses and programs now offered to students.

A task force created late last year is finalizing a proposal that shows a reorganized system that would put MU High School, online classes and supporting departments under the helm of one e-learning administrator.

It's part of a realignment effort that began in November when administrators pulled MU Direct and the Center for Distance and Independent Study out from MU Extension and put them under direct campus control. Jim Spain, vice provost of undergraduate studies, is doubling as vice provost of e-learning on an interim basis.

The goal now, Spain said, is to find the best way to integrate distance and online learning into the main campus.

E-learning has been a complicated mesh of classes and programs for years. MU Direct has offered graduate-level online coursework mostly tailored as continuing education for teachers and nurses. There's also CDIS, which provides online classes that let students work at their own pace. There are several academic departments providing hybrid courses that blend in-class work with online features, and faculty members have been urged to use technology to come up with new ways to deliver coursework.

The electronic education landscape has been such a hodgepodge of offerings that educators don't even have universal definitions for commonly used terms such as e-learning, online classes and distance education, according to Joi Moore, an associate professor in the MU College of Education. She recently published research that argues coming up with common definitions will be critical as technology becomes more prevalent in higher education.

Moore has served as an adviser to the task force, which is led by Tom Henderson, former director of MU Extension. Henderson said Moore's research reaffirms the committee's findings. "We looked at what other institutions are doing in this area, and what we quickly found is that there's not a single approach that works," he said.

In his preliminary report, Henderson concluded there's also no perfect solution because technology is always changing. He suggests administrators implement the new business model this summer but then review it in three years to make sure it still works.

The report now goes to administrators and faculty members for review.

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## COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

# Thirteen Missouri universities receive \$250,000 grant for course redesign

## UM/MU Mention on Pg. 2

By Alex Keckeisen

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COLUMBIA — The state's 13 public four-year universities received a shared \$250,000 grant to develop courses where students can learn efficiently at reduced costs.

The Next Generation Learning Challenges grant is funded by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation.

The grant will be supplemented by \$240,000 from the state's public universities, \$100,000 from the state and \$15,000 from the Missouri Department of Higher Education, bringing the project total \$605,000.

It will allow faculty, administration and structural design staff at Missouri's universities to redesign high-enrollment courses with accelerated use of technology.

Each university will select one course to redesign from multiple proposals by faculty. These courses will then be administered in select sections to test their effectiveness.

The project is still in the planning stage. One proposal from each campus will be chosen in July. The redesign of courses will take place in Fall 2011. The pilot courses will begin in Spring 2012 in select sections and will be offered in all sections starting in Fall 2012.

“It's sharing what these individual faculty are doing, and other faculty can adopt that and teach it how they want,” said Chris Weisbrook, faculty fellow for the University of Missouri System. “When one faculty member talks to another about how they're doing things, it becomes contagious,” she said.