

APR 22 2011



## Senate approves \$23.2 billion state budget

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — A precariously balanced \$23.2 billion state budget that relies on more than \$300 million in federal aid passed the Missouri Senate yesterday after lawmakers defeated attempts to scuttle several federal spending items.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, said he was pleased the Senate was able to add \$20 million to the budget to mitigate Gov. Jay Nixon's proposed cuts in higher education spending. The Senate spending plan also gives school districts \$20 million more than Nixon proposed for transporting students.

Schaefer said his biggest disappointment was that he was unable to add more for both public schools and higher education. "It will take better times to show our commitment to education," Schaefer said.

The budget now goes to a conference committee to work out differences with the House. The differences include issues on the revenue side of the budget — the House expects \$50 million from a tax amnesty proposal while the Senate expects only \$20 million — and spending lines, such as how much more it will cost the state to operate the Medicaid program next year.

Under the Senate's proposed budget, the University of Missouri would receive \$407.6 million in the coming year, about \$9.3 million more than Nixon recommended. Both figures represent a cut from this year's funding, with the Senate plan cutting 4.8 percent compared to Nixon's 7 percent cut.

The budget is balanced using about \$300 million of federal funds that are unlikely to be available next year, Schaefer said. But he resisted efforts to impose additional cuts. It is too early for firm estimates of state revenues for the budget year that begins in July 2012, he said.

"It is my opinion we are better off waiting until we have more accurate information about what that gap is," Schaefer said during the debate.

The Senate defeated attempts to cut \$37 million in federal funding for improvements to the Union Pacific railroad line that Amtrak uses for its Kansas City-St. Louis passenger trains. It also defeated, on a voice vote, an attempt to eliminate \$60 million in federal funding for health care technology initiatives that include digital patient records for Medicaid patients.

Sen. Jim Lembke, R-St. Louis, sought to make the cut. He and a group of supporters are seeking to cut \$250 million from federally funded state spending as a statement that Missouri will not help run up the federal deficit.

But they did not block consideration of the operating budget for the coming year to force the point. And Sen. Brian Nieves, R-Washington, said that could come later on the reappropriations bill that is the prime target for federal budget cutters.

“At the end of the day, if we lose, we lose,” Nieves said of yesterday’s attempts to cut federal spending items. “I am not trying to hold this over anybody’s head.”

The House will study Senate changes to the budget over the Easter weekend and ask for a conference committee to work out the differences when lawmakers resume work Tuesday, House Budget Committee Chairman Ryan Silvey said.

He declined to name specific items that could offer difficulties and declined to endorse Schaefer’s increases for higher education and public schools. The differences should be relatively easy to reconcile, Silvey said, once agreement is reached on items where the Senate altered House methods for providing some funds.

For example, the House and Senate both included \$30 million expected from the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority for scholarships into the budget. Nixon also expects the money but did not include it in his formal budget.

The House deposited the money into a fund created when MOHELA was providing help to pay for college buildings. The Senate doesn’t want to use that fund because there are buildings in that plan that have not been constructed, and a deposit into the account could create an expectation the buildings will be constructed, Schaefer said.

Lawmakers must complete work on state spending by May 6.

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

## **Study: Religion still matters in voting**

Published: April 21, 2011 at 6:11 PM

COLUMBIA, Mo., April 21 (UPI) -- Religious beliefs still influence how people vote, even though church attendance in Western democracies has declined, a U.S. study shows.

Chris Raymond, a political science instructor at the University of Missouri, says his study contradicts the view of many political experts that voters around the world are "floating without party loyalties" and that religion does not influence voters.

Raymond said his study suggests religion still has a large impact on how people vote and helps define many of the party issue platforms important to people, a UM release said Thursday.

In the study, Raymond studied voting in the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany.

The three countries were selected because they each represented a different trend in voting based on religious beliefs: People in Germany are perceived to be moving away from religious voting; the United States is experiencing a rise in religious voting; and religious voting in the United Kingdom has held steady, Raymond said.

"The literature indicated that these countries had become more secular, and scholars have said that religious voting 'no longer mattered,' but this study shows that is not the case," Raymond said. "Regardless of the trends, religiosity remains on par with class issues as far as why people vote."

Each country has specific political issues that may encourage voting affiliated with religious beliefs, Raymond said, citing abortion rights in the United States, state funding of churches in the United Kingdom and issues related to Muslim integration in Germany as primary examples.



## MU Life Sciences Week features cancer research

A University of Kansas researcher has found certain compounds in native Missouri and Kansas flowers have the ability to inhibit cancerous tumors.

Barbara Timmermann presented her findings yesterday at the Bond Life Sciences Center during the annual Charles W. Gehrke lecture, part of Life Sciences Week at the University of Missouri.

Timmermann first discovered the compound in flowers native to Argentina, but restrictions on using foreign plants made it tough to further those studies. She then purchased similar plant materials from India that already were on the market. Costs prohibited that work, though.

Finally, she received grant funding to prospect plants in the Midwest to see whether any native flowers have similar properties. After collecting some 300 species, her research team narrowed its studies to *Physalis longifolia*, or long-leaved ground cherries — common in Kansas and Missouri.

Not only did the team find the compound they were seeking, Timmermann said they also discovered entirely new compounds potentially more potent in cancer treatment.

“We’ve filed a patent; that’s why I can talk today,” she joked. “Otherwise, I couldn’t talk about it.”

Discovering the medicinal properties of plants has been a major push in the pharmaceutical industry over the past decade. Between 1998 and 2008, half of all Food and Drug Administration-approved medications were derived from natural products, Timmermann said.

This is the 27th year for Life Sciences Week on campus, which includes not only discussions and lectures but also nearly 300 research projects by students and faculty.

“It’s going very well,” William Folk, a biochemistry professor and chairman of the event, said this morning. “We have some very important issues being discussed.”

Today, environmental and conservation representatives were on hand for a discussion about how Missouri land practices affect local waterways that lead to the Gulf of Mexico and its fisheries. On Tuesday, discussions focused on infectious diseases around the world and their impact on national security.

“These are critical issues that affect people’s lives and our livelihoods,” Folk said.

Life Sciences Week continues tomorrow with discussions on using new media to explain scientific discoveries. Jeff Toney, dean of the College of Natural, Applied and Health Sciences from Kean University, and Eric Berger, a science writer for the Houston Chronicle, will participate in a panel discussion at 9:30 a.m. in the McQuinn Atrium in the Bond Life Sciences Center. In a brown-bag lunch at noon, Keith Politte and Mike McKean of the Reynolds Journalism Institute will discuss blogging, tweeting and other forms of new media.

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# ANIMAL A PLANET

## Tibetan Terriers Could Help Humans Suffering From Early-Onset Parkinson's

04/20/2011

A genetic mutation found in Tibetan terriers is also found in a neurological disorder related to Parkinson's disease, according to researchers at the University of Missouri. They hope the discovery could lead to new therapies for human suffering from the debilitating disease.

[Read more at ScienceDaily.](#)



In Tibetan terriers, the disease is called adult-onset neuronal ceroid-lipofuscinosis (NCL) and appears around age 5. Waste material builds up within the dog's brain and eye cells, interfering with nerve cell function and causing dementia, impaired vision, loss of coordination and unwarranted aggression.

The symptoms of NCL are similar in people and dogs and can be fatal in both. The difference is that the mutation found in dogs leads to a hereditary form of Parkinson's in humans.

"Dogs and people suffer from the same diseases, and it's much easier to discover gene issues in dogs because of the unique genetics of pure-bred dogs," said Dennis O'Brien, a professor in the University of Missouri's Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. "Because we have a medical school and veterinary school near each other, we can find the genes in the dog and then find out if they cause a similar disease in people."

# MISSOURIAN

## MU researcher finds affection helps people build more successful relationships

Showing warmth, tenderness can bring people closer  
Thursday, April 21, 2011 | 6:37 p.m. CDT  
BY [Lainie Mullen](#)

COLUMBIA — Want to feel closer to your friends? Show them some love.

**Colin Hesse, assistant professor of communications at MU, has found that affection makes relationships better.**

“Affection is communicating warmth and intimacy and closeness, whether it’s saying ‘I love you’ or giving hugs or filling up your partner’s car with gas,” Hesse said.

Hesse's research takes on the topic of affection as it relates to alexithymia, the trait that hinders people from understanding and communicating emotions.

His survey of 921 undergraduates shows that people who give and receive lots of affection feel better about their relationships, have more close friends and feel closer to close friends. On the flip side, people with high levels of alexithymia have fewer close relationships and feel less close and satisfied.

“We understand (the importance of affection) on a base level because we already do it,” Hesse said. “It’s one of the main tools by which we succeed in relationships around us.”

Hesse conducted the research with Kory Floyd, professor of communication at Arizona State University, and published it as “Affection Mediates the Impact of Alexithymia on Relationships” in the journal *Personality and Individual Differences*.

While the information is not wholly new, it could prove useful as it paves the way for future studies to help people with high degrees of alexithymia, he said.

Hesse said that's about 8 percent to 10 percent of people, though everyone has the trait to some degree.

With this study complete, Hesse or others can go on to study the causes of alexithymia, which is associated with eating disorders, fibromyalgia, stress, depression and autism, or he could do an experimental design study to test whether people with alexithymia can improve the quality of their relationships by giving and receiving affection.



Hesse said he could learn a thing or two from his study. "I know that I'm not the most skilled with emotion – my wife would agree with that, I'm sure."

He and his wife, Jennifer Hesse, have a 3-month-old son, Calvin.

"I would hope that he would be raised in an environment (where) he would see affection as natural and healthy and be able to communicate that with others," Hesse said.

Hesse had suggestions for ways people can explore affection in their own lives. They can try making "incremental" changes in the levels of affection they give and receive, he said. They shouldn't force it, and they should watch how others respond, he added.

"Affection is healthy. Affection is extremely healthy," he said.

Hesse could not say, though, that his own behavior has changed as a result of his studies.

"We're always better at telling other people what to do than we are at doing anything for ourselves."



## Boone County's Top Employers in 2010

By CBT Staff  
Apr 15, 2011

### MU Mention p. 2

The economic downturn had a delayed impact on some public sectors, which held steady during the actual recession but had to reduce employment last year because of funding cuts. The public school system shed 12 percent of its workforce, and the state jobs based here fell about 7 percent. The county and the Post Office also had cutbacks.

As pointed out last year in the *CBT* chart, the strength of higher education and health care helped minimize the local impact of the recession.

After years of steady losses, manufacturing jobs rose in 2010 at Hubbell, Schneider and Frito Lay/Quaker and are expected to rise significantly at 3M this year.

The numbers collected by REDI don't reflect the new jobs at the IBM Service Center, which is expected to jump into the top 30 next year.

Companies with job growth greater than 10 percent in the past year included Columbia College and VA Mortgage Center, and the biggest gainer was Joe Machens, which joined the list this year because the dealerships were consolidated.

| EMPLOYER                         | EMPLOYEES | 1 YR CHANGE | '09 RANK | 5-YR CHANGE |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| 1. University of Missouri*       | 8,630     | -85         | 1        | +988        |
| 2. University Hospital & Clinics | 4,279     | +40         | 2        | +727        |
| 3. Columbia Public Schools       | 2,140     | -286        | 3        | +117        |
| 4. Boone Hospital Center         | 1,647     | +5          | 4        | +313        |
| 5. City of Columbia              | 1,286     | -1          | 5        | +97         |
| 6. U.S. Dep. of Veterans Affairs | 1,250     | Same        | 7        | +334        |
| 7. Shelter Insurance Companies   | 1,171     | +76         | 8        | +152        |
| 8. MBS Textbook Exchange         | 1,084     | +185        | 6        | +148        |
| 9. State Farm Insurance Cos.     | 1,043     | +6*         | 5        | +38         |
| 10. Hubbel Power Systems Inc.    | 680       | -90         | 11       | +120        |
| 11. Joe Machens Dealerships      | 613       | +45         | **       | +7          |
| 12. State of Missouri**          | 557       | -54         | 10       | +104        |
| 13. Kraft Foods Columbia         | 522       | +19         | 12       | 78          |
| 14. Columbia College             | 490       | +67         | 13       | +165        |
| 15. Boyce & Bynum Pathology Labs | 369       | +4          | 15       | n/l         |
| 16. Boone County Government      | 365       | -12         | 14       | +6          |
| 17. ABC Laminates, Inc.***       | 348       | +12         | 17       | n/l         |
| 18. U.S. Postal Service          | 341       | -21         | 16       | n/l         |
| 19. Columbia Insurance Group     | 324       | -1          | 18       | +50         |
| 20. Schneider Electric Square D  | 300       | +49         | 22       | +1          |
| 21. Midway USA                   | 294       | -11         | 20       | n/l         |
| 22. Boone County National Bank   | 275       | +23         | 19       | +10         |
| 23. Watlow Inc.                  | 272       | Same        | 21       | +30         |
| 24. U.S. Dept of Agriculture     | 258       | +11         | 24       | n/l         |
| 25. MFA Inc.                     | 250       | Same        | 23       | +9          |
| 26. VA Mortgage Center           | 249       | +29         | 27       | n/l         |
| 27. Fryco-Lay Quarier            | 240       | +10         | 25       | n/l         |
| 28. CenturyLink                  | 230       | +xx         | xx       | +16         |
| 29. Anderson                     | 220       | -7          | 28       | n/l         |
| 30. 3M                           | 210       | +1          | 29       | +366        |

**Dropouts in 2010:** *Columbia Daily Tribune*, Missouri Employers Mutual

**Additions in 2010:** CenturyLink, Joe Machens Dealerships

\* Includes MU, Extension and System employees.

\*\* Excludes MU | n/l Not Listed

\*\*\* ABC has added 48 employees since the survey

Source: Regional Economic Development Inc. Full-time, benefited employees. Numbers provided by individual companies, government personnel offices and Harris Online Directory (Watlow)

# THE MANEATER

## Faculty votes to move Reading Day back to Friday

*The council also discussed closing campus to vehicles and creating a new memorial for veterans.*

By Stephanie Ebbs

Published April 21, 2011

Faculty Council voted to move Reading Day back to Friday, as opposed to Thursday, for future academic calendars at its regular meeting Thursday. The change to move Reading Day to a Thursday was put in place last year. Some council members said the move has caused issues with students' finals schedules.

"It is possible for a student to have a last test on Wednesday and a final test on Friday," Faculty Council Chairwoman Leona Rubin said. "It seems like a hardship for the student."

There was no opposition to the vote. Professor Harry Tyrer said he would always support having Reading Day on a Friday.

"I've had colleagues who teach on Tuesdays and Thursdays and have trouble getting a sufficient amount of lecture time," Tyrer said.

Faculty Council also approved a ballot to vote on changes to the general education curriculum, which will be sent to faculty members. The ballot will be distributed soon and is the result of months of discussion.

The changes include allowing departments to use any 4000-level courses to fulfill the capstone requirement and approving the diversity course requirement.

Professor Bill Wiebold brought several recommendations to the meeting. The UM System Interfaculty Council has been discussing the issue of granting benefits to domestic partners, who are currently not offered benefits through employee health care plans.

"I think it's a good thing that we continue to have those conversations," Wiebold said. "Because that's all it is, is conversation."

Wiebold said he hopes the issue of support for domestic partners will be brought up in the search for the new UM System president. Council members signed a letter from the Diversity Enhancement Committee urging the discussion of domestic partner benefits with the UM System

Board of Curators. The letter will be sent to Interim President Steve Owens and Human Resources Vice President Betsy Rodriguez.

"We think it's time to stop talking and start doing," Diversity Enhancement Committee Chairwoman Leah Cohn, who presented the letter, said. "And we think this letter urges just that."

Wiebold presented his own resolutions to Faculty Council. The first was to create a type of memorial to students that have died in recent wars around Memorial Union. Memorial Union was built as a memorial to students who died in WWI, also called, "the war to end all wars."

"The war to end all wars did not do so," Wiebold said in his resolution. "Brave Missourians have served and continued to serve in two recent wars, Iraq and Afghanistan."

The council recommended expanding the names included in the memorial to students and alumni killed in Desert Storm and other conflicts, as well as going back to the Civil War. They will continue to develop this idea before moving forward with the recommendation to Chancellor Brady Deaton.

Another resolution addressed MU's closed campus policy, which closes streets from 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Wiebold expressed concern that the hours were unusual and created a risk for pedestrians. The proposal calls to first close the section of Hitt Street between Lowry Mall and Memorial Union solely for vehicular traffic by the 2011-2012 academic year.

Pedestrian traffic wasn't the only safety concern. Bentley, chairman of the Campus Parking and Traffic committee, said that most DUI arrests that happen on campus are not faculty or students, but people speeding through campus.

Council members' concerns will be addressed in the Campus Parking and Traffic committee, and the idea will continue to be explored.

# THE MANEATER

## MU introduces new international student fee

*International student enrollment at MU has increased by 23 percent since 2005.*

By Megan Hager

Published April 22, 2011

Increasing numbers of international students at MU and the need for more staff to work with them prompted the creation of a new fee specifically for international students this week.

Effective this summer, MU will charge international students an extra \$80 per regular semester and \$40 per summer session to cover costs incurred by the second phase of the Student Exchange Visitor Information System. In fall 2009, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement contacted MU informing it of SEVIS II, a database that keeps track of telephone numbers, addresses and other information on all international students studying in the U.S. SEVIS II will be more rigorous than SEVIS was.

“It’s a big time reporting system,” International Center Director Jim Scott said. “If a student comes here to study and decides to change their major, telephone number or address we would have to report it immediately to the federal government. As it is now we have several weeks to comply to make the change.”

The fee, brought about after a 23 percent increase in international student enrollment since 2005, will cover the costs of hiring two counselors and two other staff members who will work with IT and data analysis. The International Center staff assessed the center would need these jobs because of the extra amount of work SEVIS II requires.

“When we first were notified of this we basically started by gathering information on the workload the current academic advisors had,” Scott said. “So we studied how much time they spent with students and how much time they used to process information about students and maintained their information compliance. We decided that they were at maximum capacity and couldn’t add more work to those counselors.”

International students are typically charged non-resident tuition, but about 70 percent of them are in graduate programs so their tuition is often covered, Scott said.

Graduate student Chu-Chun Fu said \$80 didn’t seem like much but she wishes MU would be clearer as to where the money is going.

“I mean, \$80 doesn’t seem like that much for a semester but is that money really going to the place that it’s supposed to go?” Fu said. “I think people would feel okay if it was a justified reason as to why, but just you know sending an email saying well there’s \$80 going into our pocket for X, Y and Z reason. I don’t think it’s the best way of explaining it.”

Scott said international students understood the need for federal compliance to the system so they were fine with the fee.

Fu said though she understood the change was systemic and not specific to MU, she would like to see how other universities were handling it. She said she thought the email sent to students explaining the fee was vague.

“I think the language in the letter was, ‘This policy has been approved by the appropriate university official,’” Fu said. “I think that doesn’t seem like a good enough explanation because this is a policy that affects all international students but you went through some anonymous official and said here’s our decision.”

The International Center is offering information sessions to any students with questions about the new fee. Fu added that hearing it explained in person might clear up the ambiguity of the fee.

“I think the overall community would appreciate a better understanding of where that fee is going to and how our needs are being better served,” Fu said. “I think with that people would be more accepting or open to the idea.”

Scott said MU wants to be supportive of international students on campus and imposing a fee took a lot of thought.

“It’s hard for us to impose a fee on these students,” Scott said. “We just have to do it to meet federal requirement. I would also say this: At least this fee is charged directly to students who benefit directly from the service.”

# THE MANEATER

## MSA commits \$25,000 to live tigers

*The organization will spend \$5,000 per year for five years to sponsor zoos' tiger exhibits.*

By Kelly Olejnik

Published April 22, 2011

The Missouri Students Association passed a bill Wednesday committing the organization to a five-year \$25,000 contract with the Saint Louis Zoo and the Dickerson Park Zoo to sponsor their tiger exhibits.

The bill passed during full Senate with 18 votes in favor of the bill, nine against and five abstentions.

According to the bill, the tiger sponsorship will cost a total of \$150,000 over the course of five years. MSA has pledged to pay \$5,000 each year for five years.

The contract can be reevaluated if necessary at the end of the five-year period, but MSA paying \$25,000 throughout five years is small change in the big picture, former MSA Vice President Danielle Bellis said during Wednesday's full Senate.

"If the sponsors decide to continue that is something that might happen," she said. "We didn't want to commit MSA to something permanent."

Some senators expressed concern over funding the tiger sponsorship, that with tuition increases and hiring freezes in place the money could be better spent somewhere else.

MSA President Eric Woods confirmed in an email that the money coming from MU for this sponsorship is not coming from any fund that could be used elsewhere.

The cost has been split between MSA and five other departments and organizations on campus; the Athletics Department, Division of Student Affairs, the Student Success Center, the Mizzou Alumni Association and Tigers for Tigers, Bellis said.

Like MSA, each department and organization involved has committed to sponsor the zoo's tigers for \$5,000 each year for five years, creating a total cost of \$30,000 for those organizations collectively.

The Athletics department will be working with the Saint Louis Zoo to use in-kind donations to substitute for the rest of the sponsorship's cost, Woods said.

“Athletics is partially in cash and partially in-kind, which is a huge part of the contribution,” Woods said Wednesday during full Senate.

The money each department and organization is sponsoring the tigers with will contribute directly to the care of the tigers, Bellis said during Senate on Wednesday.

“The tiger is our mascot so the conservation of tigers should be important to every Mizzou student,” she said. “This sponsorship says that Mizzou cares about tigers and it shows that we want to not only work with Columbia, but that we want to partner with areas like Saint Louis and Springfield.”

Woods said the sponsorship will draw attention to MU in a positive light, often in areas where MU has little or no presence.

“It’s a good way to reach out to students from the Springfield area,” Bellis said. “It’s also a good way for children to connect to MU through the zoo and through the tiger sponsorship.”

The sponsorship will be a form of advertising to those that visit the tiger exhibits at both zoos, Bellis said.

“People connect to tigers and people will connect to Mizzou,” she said.

# THE MANEATER

## Editorial: Tuition cap legislation opens door for loopholes

Published April 22, 2011

Rep. Jason Holsman, D-Kansas City, recently introduced Missouri House Bill 614, which, if passed, will freeze tuition for students who are already enrolled in state universities for up to five years, despite any future tuition increases. Essentially, a student enrolled at MU or any other state university will pay tuition at the same rate as their first year. Sounds nice, right? Not so much.

Proponents of HB 614 say that it will discourage students from postponing the completion of their degrees by keeping tuition low and constant. It also promises current students a fixed tuition before tuition hikes and allows prospective students to have a stronger financial plan, as they have a better idea of what they'll be paying.

For all these reasons, we were in favor of this legislation – at first. Upon further consideration, several questions emerged about the long-term affects such measures on students and higher education institutions alike.

Our first question was this: If current students have frozen tuition, does that mean future students will be paying drastically higher tuition? In the face of a pressing budget crisis like the one MU currently faces, immediate alleviation can only come by immediately raising the cost of education.

If the cost were not spread out over all students, only incoming students would bear the weight of filling the budget gap needs. Also, HB 614 excludes out-of-state students, which would offer another enrollment demographic on which to dump all the cost.

Then we realized that MU, just as any university, is still a business. In the face of a budget deficit, legislation curtailing MU's financial flexibility will not eliminate the problem. The university would easily find other ways to cover their costs.

It's happened before. As deficits increased and tuition remained stagnant in recent years, MU found other ways to distribute the costs. Degree programs were cut, and fees were raised. For example, next year, fees for the College of Business will rise 48.7 percent.

School of Journalism fees will rise 22.5 percent, School of Health Professions will increase 18.6 percent and College of Engineering fees will rise 11.7 percent. All other course fees at MU will rise 6.5 percent. These increases don't come as good news for students, even despite tuition

freezes. When the university can raise them at a whim each year to cover their costs, tuition freezes become obsolete.

Clearly, despite holding tuition for individual students, the bills still have to be paid, and it might as well come in the form of tuition. Universities in California did what they had to do a few years back to keep their doors open, hiking tuition rates to fill funding gaps, despite student riots and protests. At the end of the day, someone has to pay the bill.

So, as nice as this proposal may sound, the measure is unrealistic — universities are still free and able to find other ways to cover their debts that take money from students' pockets.

If the intentions behind HB 614 weren't solely rooted in political pandering, we appreciate them, even though the bill ultimately solves nothing. However, changing the name of the cost doesn't make it go away. Politicians may brag about supporting tuition freezes, but did they think that students wouldn't notice when massive "fees" are added to their bills? We're in college, but we aren't as stupid as lawmakers think we are.

# THE MANEATER

## Editorial: Campus closure proposal absurd, unreasonable

Published April 22, 2011

This week's Faculty Council meeting presented several ideas for the future of MU. However, there was one proposition that we found especially ridiculous, and, after years of covering student government, trust us: we know ridiculous.

Faculty members, specifically professor Bill Wiebold, proposed that, beginning next fall, the portions of Hitt, Rollins and Ninth streets that are closed between 8:15 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. be closed permanently, 24/7. If the proposal was enacted, all three portions would shut down permanently in phases.

Faculty Council's reasoning? Pedestrian safety, drunk drivers on campus and, in the spirit of One Mizzou, making the day, night and weekend campuses 'one.' We'll go ahead and tackle these points one by one.

First, the few accidents involving a vehicle-pedestrian collision in the past few years at MU's campus have occurred on College Avenue, and, on very rare occasion, on Rollins Street after a pedestrian had jaywalked.

Second, yes, drunk drivers anywhere are a problem. Most of the drunk drivers who are caught on campus aren't students or faculty, but local residents who are speeding through campus. Closing a few hundred feet of three streets on campus, though, will not solve this problem. There are plenty of streets heavily populated with student foot traffic on campus. Does this mean we should close down all of these pedestrian-frequented areas?

Third; how does a diversity initiative have anything to do with "vehicular traffic," as the resolution says? We can't find any correlation. Frankly, this is a comical attempt to tie in a student-led initiative with a completely unrelated faculty proposal.

Ultimately, if MU's administration decides to go ahead with this resolution, it would be a massive waste of space. Why even have roads if they aren't going to be used? Yes, Lowry Mall used to be a road, but how much recreational activity can be done on bare asphalt? In a budget crisis, does MU have any funds to spare to turn these areas into something better than what will become a crumbling road?

Another question: What about the bus system and Campus Facilities? We assume that they are exempt from the closed-road policy, as they are now, but the resolution doesn't define "vehicular traffic."

And what about emergency vehicles? Even though the resolution says that accommodations would have to be made but should not be a barrier, what justification would there be to slow down a fire truck, ambulance or police response to an emergency in these heavily traversed areas?

Faculty Council also failed to take into consideration that students frequently use those streets to travel around campus. Even though they're closed during the day, students who commute to, from or across campus would be greatly inconvenienced by the permanent closure of these roads.

In the end, this resolution seems misguided and poorly thought out. We would strongly encourage Faculty Council to disregard the proposal before making campus transportation a huge pain.



## **UM denies requests for information. Again.**

**(This ran in Janese Silvey's blog on line)**

By Janese Silvey

Me: "Is that the only word you know? 'No?'"

UM System: "No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. I mean, No!"

Me: "No! No! No!" Over and over! When you keep saying 'No!' it just makes me so... Sometimes you make me so ... angry."

Actually, that's an exchange in the movie *Enchanted* between Giselle (Amy Adams) and Robert (Patrick Dempsey). But it immediately pops in my head every time the UM System denies one of my open records requests.

Some background. I can't tell you how many times people tell me, "Just Sunshine request it" or "Why don't you use FOIA?" Thing is, I do. That doesn't mean I get the records though.

You probably remember the infamous \$2,000 price tag on Steve Owens' January emails I requested earlier this year.

More recently, they've flat out denied my requests.

First, I requested e-mails that went to the Board of Curators account on the Monday before Frank Haith was hired as men's basketball coach. From Twitter accounts, it appeared as though people were bombarding that email inbox with comments and concerns. The board's secretary later confirmed the email account was being inundated.

So imagine my surprise when I got the response and there were no emails about Frank Haith. Turns out, those are protected by an exemption in the law that closes information about employees even before they're actually employees.

Then I tried to request all nominations for UM System president. After all, that's got to be a pretty large pool of people who aren't applicants or candidates at this point, but rather just ideas.

Again, I was told the records are considered closed under the section of law that protects applicants. Paul Maguffee, the on-staff attorney who handles open records requests, explained

that while nominations aren't actually candidates, they could be future hires and that's the point of the law.

Missouri Press Association attorney Jean Maneke tells me it was a tricky request and there's no case law that would interpret it in this case. She rightly pointed out that university presidents don't apply like someone would apply for a job at McDonalds, rather universities seek out candidates – so that makes the word “applicant” somewhat difficult to define here.

It seems, then, that the university might have some legal standing to deny these particular requests. That doesn't mean the public shouldn't know what's being discussed behind the thick, publicly-funded doors of U Hall, though.

I have a proposed solution. How about when you e-mail the UM System, you cc me on it or forward it to me anonymously or, heck, use a carrier pigeon to drop it on the front steps of the Tribune office. If everyone thought to include the Tribune in its correspondence with system offices, the system wouldn't be able to hide behind exemptions in the open records law. Got a gripe about something? Send it to me along with the system. Nominating someone for UM president? Pass it my way and when I get enough, I'll report back out to everyone on the actual names being bantered around.

It's not a perfect solution. A perfect solution would include some stronger teeth in the open records law. But it's a start.

So, I ask that you e-mail this to friends and co-workers and the next time you're sending something to the curators or system administrators keep me in mind. I don't need your name. I just need your help in keeping the UM System accountable.

Please don't say no.