COLUMBIA, MO (AP) - The University of Missouri has been awarded a $5.3 million federal grant to study future training for military medical personnel.

The 2-year grant from the U.S. Department of Defense will fund research by the university's Combat Casualty Training Consortium. The consortium is 1 of 2 groups researching combat medic training.

The grant will allow the Missouri group to analyze existing training and recommend how combat trauma care can be improved.
MU team to study how to best train new combat medics

November 4, 2011 By Mike Lear

The University of Missouri has been awarded a $5.3 million Department of Defense grant to head up a study of how combat medics are trained.

The University has established a Combat Casualty Training Consortium (MU CCTC). It is one of two groups in the US formed to look at current training and make recommendations for how it should be conducted in the future.

The primary investigator of MU’s team is Doctor Stephen Barnes, MD. He is also the chief of the division of acute care surgery at the University’s School of Medicine. He says the group will focus on determining what works best and proposing a standardized method to the Department of Defense. Right now, the Doctor says there are variances in training based on a facility’s available resources and expertise, and in which branch of the military it is taking place.

The DOD has requested the study. It wants three main focus areas studied: hemorrhage control, airway management and emergency medical skills. Within each of those areas are smaller subgroups, where Doctor Barnes says the group will look at specific combat lifesaving procedures and determine how to teach those to a new medic.

One of the biggest issues to be considered is how training for a combat environment should be handled: what is the best way to introduce it, in what environment and what would best mimic what a wounded soldier looks like? Doctor Barnes thinks it is often forgotten that combat medics must work in the field or in tents where conditions are dirty, resources are limited, and often he or she is being fired upon.

With that in mind, about half his team is made up of senior medics who have been deployed multiple times and have experience performing lifesaving procedures during battle. That includes Barnes, who in the Air Force was assigned to a joint DOD training program in Cincinnati; the Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills. He provided critical and surgical care to troops in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The grant covers two years of work and Barnes says its schedule is aggressive. It met for two days this week.
Mizzou still awaits word from the SEC

BY VAHE GREGORIAN vgregorian@post-dispatch.com | 314-340-8199 | Posted: Friday, November 4, 2011 12:00 am

Accidentally or not, the Southeastern Conference on Oct. 27 flashed an extensive announcement on its website that Mizzou would be joining it in 2012.

The next day, the Big 12 left Mizzou off a list of expected members next year as the league announced West Virginia coming aboard.

The intentional and direct delivery of the news appeared days away, especially when MU chancellor Brady Deaton canceled a scheduled nine-day trip to India that was to begin Tuesday.

Yet, Thursday came and went with still no clarification of a timetable by Mizzou, and there is little likelihood of it being today. The Mizzou football team will be leaving for Waco, Texas, and the SEC is engrossed in playing host for top-ranked LSU's visit to No. 2 Alabama.

Mizzou's move remains a foregone conclusion, but a highly-placed college athletics source spoke for many when he said, simply, "What's the hold-up?"

Few know with precision, and they're not telling.

But the crux is Mizzou wanting to leave for 2012 with no legal complications and minimal exit fees, and that cause may be helped by the conference indicating it plans to be without Missouri and interim Big 12 commissioner Chuck Neinas' spoken stance that it would be "viable" without Mizzou.

Yet, the withdrawal perhaps is complicated by the Big East intending to jam West Virginia for 27 months after notice, per Big East bylaws.

If West Virginia can't go in 2012, and it's now suing the Big East as part of the effort, the Big 12 would be left with nine schools if MU were gone.

The Big 12 has said it needs 10 to supply inventory for its television contracts, thus leading to possible legal entanglements with MU that MU and the SEC likely would want unsnarled before proceeding.

The hold-up might end as promptly as early next week. Or, of course, the devil in the details might muck it up longer.
University of Missouri’s move to SEC will deliver a blow to Kansas City

If the University of Missouri leaves the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference, it will deal a grievous blow to Kansas City.

As I write this column, MU hasn’t formally announced that it will join the SEC. But all signs, including a prematurely posted SEC news release, suggest Mizzou’s departure is imminent.

And if MU leaves the Big 12, Kansas City will suffer significant political and economic damage.

Let’s start with the political fallout. In a mid-October letter to University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton, Mayor Sly James asserted that “Kansas City gains a lot from its affiliation with the University of Missouri.” He cautioned that the city would “stand to lose a lot” if MU left the Big 12.

James noted that Kansas City was slated to host the Big 12 basketball tournament through 2014. He argued that the tournament was “an economic engine for our region, generating more than $14 million a year” and that it was “imperative for that money to remain in the Show-Me State.”

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce weighed in next after its board of directors unanimously urged MU to stay in the Big 12.

The chamber’s president and chief executive officer, Jim Heeter, said in a letter to Deaton: “Departure by MU from the Big 12 would have an adverse impact on Kansas City companies large and small whose businesses are affected by collegiate athletics.”

If MU rejects that display of mayoral, civic and business muscle and flies the Big 12 coop, Kansas City will be revealed as the state of Missouri’s political Lilliput.

And while the political damage from Mizzou’s Big 12 exit will be temporary, the economic damage will be lasting and painful.
Why would the Big 12 allow its basketball tournament to be played in a state that doesn't include a university conference member? Kansas City likely wouldn't host the Big 12 basketball tournament in 2013 and 2014.

It's mighty tough to contemplate a local economic impact loss of almost $30 million just so MU can compete against the likes of Auburn and Florida. And it's downright depressing to think about future Big 12 tournaments being played in Des Moines rather than Kansas City.

It could happen. Des Moines has a fairly new arena that could accommodate the tournament. Get ready to travel to Iowa.

Don't get me wrong. I'm pulling hard for MU to stay in the Big 12. My parents graduated from that great institution.

But if MU leaves the Big 12, there can be no sugar-coating this fact: It took a step that damaged Kansas City.

Questions for brides-to-be: How long in advance is the wedding planned? A year?

Colleges, how much time is needed to set up major campus events like Homecoming and Parents’ Day and clear hotel space for next fall? A year would be ideal.

This is why football schedules require so much notice, and why the frustration levels are beginning to rise in athletic departments because of the uncertain landscape.

The Big 12 has announced West Virginia is in the league next season and assumes Missouri isn’t. But nothing is certain. The Tigers and the Southeastern Conference haven’t exchanged vows, and the Mountaineers are trying to litigate their way out of the Big East’s 27-month exit notice, or they may have to buy their way out at a steep price.

Whatever happens, schools need to know soon to set schedules. If the Big 12 loses Mizzou and doesn’t get West Virginia, a nine-team league means eight conference games and everybody will need to find another game.

Kansas State has three or four nonconference opponents for 2012, with Central Florida serving as the swing team. If the Big 12 continues with 10, K-State will buy out of the game, and if the league stands with nine, Central Florida stays.

A league schedule with eight games forces others to find another nonconference game, which at this late date is difficult. There’s been talk of teams playing twice within the Big 12, one that would count in the conference standings and one that wouldn’t.

But more likely, teams would look for nonconference inventory. They might catch a break from the Big East if that league follows through with its expansion and adds the likes of Boise State, Houston, SMU, Air Force, Navy and Central Florida. If those teams join next year, they’ll have to adjust their football schedules and opponents will become available.

Perhaps a bigger concern is the value of the Big 12 deal with Fox Sports Net. Without Missouri or West Virginia to fill slots, Fox might have to reconsider the value of the 13-year contract due to pay the league about $90 million annually beginning next year.
Faculty Council debates state performance funding metrics

By Zach Murdock
November 3, 2011 | 9:04 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Discussion of a proposed performance funding model for Missouri higher education brought out heated opinions from some UM Faculty Council members at a meeting Thursday.

Nikki Krawitz, University of Missouri System vice president for finance and administration, presented an update of the proposed performance funding model to the council and took suggestions on how the measures could be improved.

Many council members worried performance funding metrics will not capture MU's full academic mission, including MU's graduate studies program and research mission.

Broadly speaking, performance funding is the allocation of state money to schools based on their performance in certain academic areas from one year to the next. A performance-based model is being considered for Missouri's colleges and universities.

"The whole focus of this is consistent with the state and governor's goal of increasing the number of citizens in the state with post-secondary degrees or certifications," Krawitz said.

One of the most important details still being developed, Krawitz said, is how schools that are already performing well will be rewarded in the proposed measures for sustaining that success. As an example, Krawitz noted that MU's graduation rates have increased over the past 10 years, but the higher the rates increase, the more difficult it will become for MU to significantly increase graduation rates.

"It's not necessarily just about improving; there would be the option of sustaining high performance," Krawitz said.

Council members highlighted several issues they have with the metrics, especially the lack of recognition for MU's graduate studies and research mission.
Several council members, including Associate Professor of Nursing Rebecca Johnson, noted the measures don't account for graduate students' success.

"Graduate students are getting published; they are getting grants; they are presenting their research at peer-reviewed, nationally and internationally successful conferences," Johnson said. "There are many metrics to use that show success and quality in our graduate program."

In addition, council members noted the importance of rewarding the university's research mission.

"Just because we don't have a measure for these certain qualities doesn't mean it shouldn't be considered," André Ariew, associate professor of philosophy, said. "We can't put a quantity on this quality measure, but it's still a really important part of our mission."

Krawitz countered that a quality measurement is not necessarily feasible because the state has not yet found a way to accurately measure the quality of education.

Still, council members Johnson and Nicole Monnier, associate teaching professor of Russian, expressed their doubts that performance metrics can accurately reflect the university's entire academic mission.

"I hear your angst, and believe me, I share it because we are different," Krawitz said. "One could argue that as the research university of the state we shouldn't be included in the same set of measures that the other four-year institutions are included in. But right now that's not the direction we've been going in."

Krawitz said there are still a variety of questions to address, including the details of how appropriations would be distributed and how the model would work under changing economic conditions.

"There are a million reasons why you would not want to base funding on performance measures and a million reasons why you would want to," Krawitz said. "I can probably debate all of those."

There are still significant questions regarding the implementation of performance-based funding, said Steve Graham, UM System senior associate vice president of academic affairs, in a report to the system's Intercampus Faculty Council.

These questions include:
• What level of performance is sufficient to trigger funding?
• How will progress over the past 10 years be recognized by the model?
• How will performance-based funding be regarded by the state legislature?

Krawitz acknowledged the issue is very complex and said many details still need to be worked out before any model could actually be implemented.

"I appreciate the input, but I think as you discuss it, you discover how difficult it is," Krawitz said. "Keep the ideas coming because the book's not closed yet."

Krawitz will present the measures again at the rescheduled general faculty meeting on Nov. 16.

The task force will take performance funding measures to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education for approval at the board's December meeting.
UM System rep presents performance funding information to Faculty Council

Proposed measures will be taken to the Central Board of Higher Education for approval at its December meeting.

By Caitlin Swieca Published Nov. 4, 2011

Nikki Krawitz, UM System vice president for finance and administration, presented information about proposed measures for performance funding at Thursday’s Faculty Council meeting.

During the discussion, which lasted an hour and a half, faculty members expressed concerns that the measures would neglect some of MU’s institutional goals and suggested other possible measures for consideration.

The measures were developed last week by the Department of Higher Education’s task force on performance funding. The current proposal would require four-year institutions to pick four measures from three different categories and an additional fifth measure at their own discretion.

The proposed categories are student progress, which could be measured by freshman-to-sophomore retention rate or the amount of undergraduates completing 24 hours in their first year; degree attainment, measured by six-year graduation rate or total degrees awarded; and quality of learning, based on performance on nationally-administered exams, such as professional licensing exams.

Gov. Jay Nixon proposed affordability as a category for goals, but the task force opposed this measure because affordability largely depends on the level of state funding.

Krawitz said the quality of learning measure was added at the requests of the UM System provosts, but they have had trouble determining what tests could be used to accurately measure this.

Council members had previously expressed concerns about the exclusion of research from performance funding measures, and the presentation suggested that MU could choose research funding as its fifth, undetermined measure.

Krawitz said the measures were tied in to Nixon’s goal of increasing the number of Missouri residents with college degrees.
"The while focus of this is consistent with the state's and the governor's goal of increasing the number of citizens in the state with post-secondary degrees or certifications," she said.

The task force's chosen measures, such as retention rates, are meant to measure how well institutions support students through their years at college.

"You have admission criteria and you are accepting students you think can be successful," Krawitz said. "Sometimes they aren't successful for reasons over which you have no control, so we try to do things over which we have control and help students pass those difficult bumps on the road."

Council members raised concerns that the measures would focus exclusively on undergraduate education.

"We have a whole population of grad students, and they're not being counted anywhere," council member Nicole Monnier said. "Nothing that they do, nothing that we do with them, nothing that they accomplish is counted anywhere in this."

Other faculty members suggested measures that could include graduate students.

"Grad students are being published, they're getting grants, they're presenting their research at conferences," council member Rebecca Johnson said. "There are many metrics to use to show success or quality."

Council members also questioned why diversity was not included in any of the measures, a concern Krawitz said she would relay.

"I'll bring back that this group would like to see a diversity measure included, but the idea is to keep it to a small number of measures, and there are choices in that," she said.

The measures will be presented and officially determined in December. Concrete details of how funds would be distributed based on these will be discussed later. The current plan would implement performance funding in the 2014 fiscal year.
Curators meet again to discuss UM System president candidates

By Zach Murdock
November 3, 2011 | 3:56 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The UM System Board of Curators will meet as the presidential search committee via teleconference Thursday evening.

According to a public notice, curators will move to hold an executive session, similar to October meetings in Kansas City and St. Louis.

UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead confirmed that curators met with and interviewed potential candidates in St. Louis but will not conduct any interviews during the teleconference Thursday.

At a news conference Oct. 21, board Chairman Warren Erdman said curators hope to narrow the field of candidates to a point that a list of finalists can be presented to the presidential search advisory committee in coming weeks.

"Erdman has indicated the committee might be down to a smaller group of candidates within the next few weeks," Hollingshead said on Tuesday.

Erdman has said there is no timeline for making a decision.
Obese teens may need more vitamin D

Published: Nov. 3, 2011 at 5:24 PM

COLUMBIA, Mo., Nov. 3 (UPI) -- Obese adolescents face an increased risk for vitamin D deficiency because they absorb vitamin D less efficiently than lean teens, U.S. researchers say.

Catherine Peterson of the University of Missouri said the Institute of Medicine recently set new dietary reference intakes for vitamin D -- 600 International Units per day, with a tolerable upper intake of 4,000 IUs, Peterson said.

In the study, participants -- deficient or insufficient in vitamin D -- were randomly selected to receive a placebo or 4,000 IU/day of vitamin D3 for six months as part of their standard treatment at the University of Missouri, Adolescent Diabetes and Obesity clinic.

Peterson told the annual meeting of Experimental Biology that the participants supplemented with vitamin D3 had significantly greater increases in concentrations of 25OHD -- the main indicator of vitamin D status -- compared to those who received the placebo. Obese adolescents are only about half as efficient at using vitamin D as their lean counterparts, the study said.

"If obese adolescents only consumed the recommended 600 IUs, they would be in trouble," Peterson said in a statement.

"It takes 4,000 IUs to raise their vitamin D status within a sufficient range. This is much higher than the currently recommended daily amount for this age group. This indicates that physicians need to carefully evaluate the vitamin D status in their overweight and obese patients."
Failure of debt panel could hurt funding

By Janese Silvey

Higher education leaders here are keeping a close watch on national discussions that will affect the future of U.S. Department of Defense funding.

Steep cuts to the department’s budget could affect research grants at the University of Missouri. For Columbia College, decreases in military tuition assistance could translate into a drop in enrollment.

It all hinges on the actions of a special House-Senate committee that has until Nov. 23 to find $1.2 trillion in cuts from federal spending over the coming decade. If that group fails to meet the deadline, automatic cuts kick in, and half of the $1.2 trillion will come from the Defense Department’s budget. Research, development and programs likely would shoulder the brunt of those cuts, rather than war spending.

“The concern here is that if in fact the automatic cuts are triggered, it could put especially our defense research into jeopardy,” said Rob Duncan, MU’s vice chancellor of research. “We don’t know what to expect, but we are ready to respond.”

The Defense Department funds a significant number of projects on campus. Of the $142 million in federal funding awarded to researchers in 2010, $11 million came from the Defense Department. That doesn’t include pass-through funds awarded by foundations or businesses that get money from the Department of Defense, nor does it include more recent grants, such as the $5.3 million awarded earlier this week that MU’s trauma center will share with partner institutions to study combat medic training.

MU won’t take any action until a federal decision is finalized, Duncan said, but he stressed administrators will be ready. “When we hear about cuts, we’re prepared to quickly evaluate whether to make an appeal or shift programs,” Duncan said. “Our awareness is heightened, but it’s potentially more destructive to try to second-guess this process. We’ll wait until we know definitively what the government is going to do.”

That’s the approach Columbia College is taking, as well. Administrators there have been discussing the impact of potential cuts for months, said Mike Randerson, vice president of adult higher education.

The college, which has campuses on 18 military bases, got a peek last month of the potential numbers. Although the Defense Department hasn’t finalized anything, the Marine Corps released
information indicating military tuition assistance to active-duty service members would decrease from a cap of $4,500 a year to $3,500. In this economy, it is unlikely service members will be able to make up the difference, said Ramona McAfee, assistant dean for military and federal programs.

“There’s no question it would hurt military enrollment at Columbia College,” Randerson said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
MU hosts fundraising event for Turkey earthquake victims

By Alison Matas
November 3, 2011 | 5:08 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Turkish food will be on sale Friday at MU to support victims of the earthquake in Turkey.

The fundraising event will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in rooms 2212 A and B of the MU Student Center at 901 E Rollins St. The MU Dialogue Club, which works to increase tolerance and understanding among students, is hosting the sale.

More than 600 people were killed and more than 2,600 were injured in the 7.2-magnitude earthquake that rattled eastern Turkey on Oct. 23, according to a New York Times report.

Mustafa Sir, the MU Dialogue Club's former faculty adviser, said he realizes there are problems everywhere in the world, but the situation in Turkey is pressing.

"Most of the immediate needs are taken care of, but, in the long run, they are facing a long winter," he said. MU master's student Orkide Izei is from Istanbul, and her parents still live in Turkey. She said raising money for the country is important because the people who live there are poor.

"Right now, they just live in pens, and it's too cold over there, and I don't think the government helps too much," she said. "I think Turkey needs help from the other countries."

At Friday's event, members of the Dialogue Club will also talk about trips they've taken to Turkey and their upcoming trip this summer. Though he doesn't know for certain, Sir said he expects there will be baklava, salads and pastries available for purchase.

Proceeds from the fundraiser go to a relief fund set up by the Niagara Foundation, an organization that encourages global fellowship. People who cannot attend the event but would still like to make a contribution can donate online.
Missourinet

Study: Missouri broadband deficiency hurts state’s largest industry

November 3, 2011 By Mike Lear

A study from the University of Missouri’s Community Policy Analysis Center (CPAC) says the state is significantly behind national averages for statewide broadband services. That deficiency could be hurting the state’s number one industry, agriculture.

Tim Haithcoat is with the University’s Geographic Resources Center and the lead on Missouri Broadband Mapping and Planning. He says the study found a difference between counties with more broadband coverage and less, in how agribusinesses in those counties were impacted. Those with high-speed access enjoyed greater profitability.

Agribusinesses also provided input in the study. Of those, 60 percent were dissatisfied with internet connection speeds.

Governor Jay Nixon’s “MO Broadband Now” Initiative has already invested $311 million to expand broadband access in the state. Haithcoat says redirecting money from the federal Universal Service Fund could compliment efforts under the Initiative. He says the advantage to using that fund is that it is already established and collected, and used to support other rural development efforts.

Haithcoat notes, providers are challenged to provide broadband service in many of the rural areas where gaps were found. Those areas often are marked by income levels that are low or are spread out across a broad area. Once service is established, providers must make periodic investments to offer service that meets customers’ ever-increasing demand for higher speeds and more coverage.

Visit the Community Policy Analysis Center here.