

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

UM curators moving to increase tuition again

By Tim Barker • tbarker@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8350 | Posted: Friday, December 9, 2011 12:05 am |

Tuition at the University of Missouri may be on its way up again.

The four-campus system's Board of Curators on Thursday took initial steps toward a tuition increase that could see undergraduate tuition rise by at least 3 percent starting next summer.

Curators aren't expected to take action on the matter until early next year, but system officials suggested tuition needs to rise, even if the state doesn't cut funding for the 2013 fiscal year.

They expect to know more about state support next month when Gov. Jay Nixon delivers his annual State of the State address.

But at this point, it seems unlikely that higher education will escape the knife.

Much like last year and the year before that, legislators are grappling with a shortfall.

Nikki Krawitz, the system's vice president of finance, told curators at a meeting at the University of Missouri-St. Louis that the state needs to plug a \$780 million gap, created by declining federal Medicaid payments and the need to replace one-time federal stimulus money.

"From a pessimistic perspective, each of our campuses is looking at the potential for a reduction in state appropriations," Krawitz said.

It's unclear what impact further reductions would have on the proposed tuition increases. But according to board documents, a 1 percent cut in state funding equals a loss of \$3.9 million, while a 1 percent increase in tuition raises \$4.4 million.

The tuition proposal calls for undergraduate tuition to increase 3 percent at the campuses in St. Louis, Columbia and Kansas City. A larger, 5 percent increase, is being considered for students at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla.

The 3 percent figure is based on what is expected to be the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index. Anything above that requires the system to apply for a waiver from the Commissioner for Higher Education, as the system did earlier this year when it passed tuition increases averaging 5.5 percent for the four campuses.

Rising tuition and declining state support have been a way of life for higher education for years as the funding formula for colleges has shifted dramatically. In 2001, state funding represented 55.4 percent of the system's budget. This year, the number has fallen to 31.6 percent.

The tuition increases would be accompanied by a host of increases in fees at the various campuses. Among them: The Trulaske College of Business at MU would raise its course fee 32.8 percent to \$70.10 per credit hour; the Mizzou journalism school would raise its course fee 18.3 percent to \$60 per credit hour; and the Missouri University of Science and Technology would raise all of its supplemental course fees 10.4 percent.

Also included in the discussion is a new Border County Tuition rate for Mizzou, that would apply to all students from counties bordering the state. They would pay a rate midway between the resident and nonresident tuition rates. The school estimates it could pull in 85 additional students from those counties.

UM tuition hike proposal

The University of Missouri system is contemplating a 3 percent tuition boost at most campuses, with a 5 percent increase at the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

The proposed in-state rates per credit hour at the four UM campuses:

University of Missouri-Columbia

\$269.40 (Currently \$261.60)

University of Missouri-St. Louis

\$265.60 (Currently \$257.90)

University of Missouri-Kansas City

\$265.60 (Currently \$257.90)

Missouri University of Science and Technology

\$274.70 (Currently \$261.60)

Source: University of Missouri Board of Curators.

Board of Curators talks tuition, system finances at December meeting

By Zach Murdock

December 8, 2011 | 6:34 p.m. CST

ST. LOUIS — **Tuition is on the rise for 2012.**

The UM System Board of Curators discussed a proposal to raise the tuition at three University of Missouri campuses — MU, University of Missouri-Kansas City and University of Missouri-St. Louis — at the rate of inflation, which is estimated to be about 3 percent.

The Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla proposed an increase at the rate of inflation plus an additional 2 percent increase to provide more funding for need-based scholarships. Last year, curators voted to decouple tuition at the four UM campuses, which allows each campus' tuition to be managed individually, instead of the system as a whole.

The proposal includes increases in some course fees of between 10 percent and 33 percent and an average increase of \$7.25 in 10 fee increases across the UM campuses.

A Missouri law limiting public colleges and universities from raising tuition above the rate of inflation without a waiver does not apply to supplemental and course fees, and several curators expressed concern that dramatic hikes in fees continue to drive up the actual cost of education to students.

The curators did not vote on any tuition or fee increases Thursday but will vote on finalized proposals at their meeting in February.

Tuition and fee increases come on the heels of an anticipated drop in state funding for higher education. Nikki Krawitz, UM System vice president of finance and administration, talked about the system's strategic financial planning in what has proven to be difficult economic times for the UM System.

"From a pessimistic perspective, each of our campuses is looking at a potential for a decrease in state funding and support," Krawitz said.

Missouri ranks 45 out of 50 in state funding for higher education per capita and last compared to states bordering Missouri, board documents state.

State appropriations per full-time student have fallen 35 percent since 2000 while the system has had record enrollments annually in the same period, Krawitz said.

"There are no magic bullets," she said, reiterating that the system must find more ways to collect revenue to account for the lack of state appropriations.

"That's something I think we all know we have to focus on, the 'other revenues' piece of the pie is going to have to grow," said curator Don Downing. "I think all of us are going to have to focus on more creative ways to increase revenue."

The board is at the Millennium Student Center on the UMSL campus Thursday and Friday for its regularly scheduled December meetings.

Earlier in the day, curators met as the presidential search committee in another closed session to discuss the recommendations given to several board members Tuesday during a presidential search advisory committee at Mizzou Arena.

The advisory committee interviewed one candidate Tuesday, but afterward, board Chairman Warren Erdman indicated a new president would not be named this week. UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead called the odds of a presidential selection "extremely unlikely."

Erdman also indicated Tuesday that he will address the presidential search in the regularly scheduled news conference after the board's meetings Friday.

Other notes from Thursday's curators meetings:

- The board approved a contract with Fidelity Investments to serve as the administrator for the defined contribution portion of the new retirement plan approved in October. Betsy Rodriguez, UM System vice president for human resources, said having a single administrator for this portion of the plan makes it more user-friendly for employees and that more clarity may encourage more participation in the plan.
- The board discussed a proposed discount for students attending MU from counties touching the Missouri state line in bordering states. The discount would split the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition, and MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said he hoped it would help develop areas such as Quincy, Ill., Kansas counties in the Kansas City area and Arkansas counties bordering Missouri.

- Krawitz presented the financial aid outlook for the upcoming academic year and emphasized that financial aid is also tied to the problems facing state funding and revenue that have spurred next year's tuition increase.
- The board heard a presentation from Krawitz about a probable move to a performance funding model that would apply to new funding provided by the state. Despite criticism from the MU Faculty Council, Krawitz has previously said the model might not be implemented in the next few years because performance measures would apply only to additional funding, and she doesn't expect there will be much — if any — new state funding to allocate under the performance model.
- The board also heard reports from the four UM chancellors about future fundraising campaigns and strategies for improving college completion rates.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mo. panel wants performance funding for colleges

Associated Press | Posted: Thursday, December 8, 2011 1:44 pm |

NO MU MENTION

Missouri colleges and universities could get extra money for improving graduation rates or meeting other performance criteria under recommendations released Thursday by a state task force.

The proposal presented to the state Coordinating Board for Higher Education suggests that Missouri should start awarding performance-based funding in the 2014 fiscal year. The money would be on top of an institution's base funding and would not exceed 2 or 3 percent of an institution's total state funding in any given year.

Although the state board accepted the recommendations, it will be up to lawmakers to decide whether to carry them out by allocating money in the state budget to fund them.

Missouri's colleges and universities have been hit by a series of budget cuts over the past decade, which the task force report said has resulted in "universally inadequate" funding for institutions. In the 2001 fiscal year, the state spent \$920 million on higher education institutions, compared with \$884 million in the 2011 budget, according to figures from the Department of Higher Education.

The 16-member task force, which was appointed by the state's higher education commissioner, recommended an increase in base funding for colleges and universities in addition to the new performance-based bonuses. Gov. Jay Nixon also has endorsed a funding model that rewards schools for meeting goals.

The task force recommended that each institution be judged on five criteria, which would vary by school.

For community colleges, the recommended criteria would include the number of students who complete a degree within three years or transfer to a university; the percentage of students taking remedial courses in English and math who then successfully complete their first college-level course in those subjects; the percentage of technical-track graduates who pass their required certification exams; and the number of credit hours delivered per \$100,000 of state funding.

For public universities, the recommended criteria would include the number of freshman completing 24 credit hours or returning for their sophomore year; the increase in degrees awarded; improvements in education assessments or professional licensure tests; increases in the percentage of total expenses

going toward the university's core mission, or success in holding down tuition increases; and an institution-specific goal approved by the state coordinating board.

If implemented, this would mark Missouri's second attempt at performance-based funding for public colleges and universities. A program called "Funding for Results" was launched in the 1994 fiscal year, but it fell by the wayside as state budget cuts began in the early 2000s.

United Press International

100 YEARS OF JOURNALISM EXCELLENCE

Money worries hurt parent-child connection

COLUMBIA, Mo., Dec. 9 (UPI) -- Middle- to upper-middle-class parents with financial problems and depression are less likely than others to connect to their children, U.S. researchers say.

Gustavo Carlo of the University of Missouri, Laura Padilla-Walker and Randal Day, both of Brigham Young University, studied how parents' financial problems and resulting mental distress affect their relationships with their children.

The study, published in the Journal of Research on Adolescence, found that parents who experience financial problems and depression are less likely to feel connected to their children, and their children are less likely to engage in pro-social behaviors, such as volunteering or helping others.

Carlo said the Pew Research Center found a majority of Americans rate their current financial situation as poor or fair, and nearly half of Americans say they have encountered financial problems in the past year.

"The study serves as a reminder that children's behaviors are affected by issues beyond their immediate surroundings," Carlo said in a statement. "Families' economic situations are affected by broader factors in our society, and those financial problems can lead to depression that hurts parent-child relationships."

For the study, parents and children answered questions about economic stress, depression and connectedness between parents and children. A year later, the children reported how often they engaged in pro social behaviors toward strangers, family members and friends.

"Even middle-class families are having financial difficulties, and it's affecting their ability to be effective parents," Carlo said. "When parents are depressed, it affects their relationships with their kids."

THE HUFFINGTON POST

Recession Taking Its Toll On America's Family Relationships: Study

The recession isn't only taking a toll on the bottom line of American families. It's also hurting the relationships themselves.

Parents that have faced financial difficulties and depression are more likely to feel disconnected from their children, according to a recent study from a University of Missouri researcher. The study, which focused on middle- and upper-class families, also found that children of parents who have experienced financial distress are less likely to volunteer or help others.

"Even middle-class families are having financial difficulties, and it's affecting their ability to be effective parents," Gustavo Carlo, the author of the study, said in a statement. "When parents are depressed, it affects their relationships with their kids."

The recession has pushed scores U.S. households to the brink and by many measures the recovery may have made things worse. Americans' access to basic needs such as food and shelter, fell to a three year low last month, according to Gallup. At the same time, U.S. median income declined 7 percent last decade, the *Wall Street Journal* reports, and fell in 2010 for the second year in a row to \$26,364.

The economic downturn is taking its toll on children. Twenty-five percent of very young American children are living in poverty, according to Census data released in September. And though working-age Americans are certainly struggling with an unemployment rate that's been elevated for months, the jobs crisis is having an outsize effect on their children, the Economic Policy Institute found.

For some families, the recession hasn't had a negative impact, but it has changed their dynamic. Twenty-nine percent of Americans said the recession has deepened their commitment to their marriage, according to the Survey of Marital Generosity released earlier this year. In addition, the number of dads regularly taking care of kids under age 15, has climbed to 32 percent in 2010 from 26 percent in 2002, according to Census data cited by Bloomberg.



Professor helps ex-soldier go study abroad

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Thursday, December 8, 2011

A finance professor at the University of Missouri Trulaske College of Business went out of his way this semester to make sure one of his students has the same opportunity as others in his class.

Stephen Ferris made special arrangements that would allow Robert Canine to participate in a study abroad program this winter alongside 56 of his classmates.

Canine is a former Army staff sergeant who lost both legs after an explosion in Baghdad in May 2009. He now is a sophomore in the business school and approached Ferris about the winter trip earlier this semester.

Canine initially worried about the walking required for the two-week program, which will include tours of six large factories and businesses in Berlin and Amsterdam. Although Canine gets around campus using prosthetic legs, at night, he relies on a wheelchair.

“He came in and introduced himself and said, ‘Given how I am, can I do your program?’ ” Ferris recalled. “I said, ‘Yeah. We can make it work for you.’ ”

Ferris agreed to let him take breaks during the tours or sit out on certain ventures if he is not comfortable.

But Canine hit another roadblock when he found out the Department of Veterans Affairs would pay for only the program tuition, worth three credit hours, but not the airfare or lodging. With a wife and 10-year-old son, Canine said he didn’t have the extra money to spend. He thanked Ferris for the opportunity but said he would not be able to go.

“So I got to thinking,” Ferris said. “The sacrifice he made for this country, and now trying to transform from being a warrior to civilian life, surely there’s an organization or individual who, if they knew about him, would provide funding.”

Ferris made some calls and ultimately got a \$4,000 donation from Veterans United Home Loans — formerly known as VA Mortgage Center — and secured a \$750 scholarship from the school’s study abroad program.

Ferris took the extra initiative, in part, because he can relate to Canine. A longtime Navy reservist who retired last month, Ferris was deployed to Kuwait in 2007 and served alongside soldiers.

“I could really relate to his sacrifice,” Ferris said. “It touched me. No doubt it touched me. I really wanted to make this happen for him.”

Ferris has been leading the study abroad trip for six years. The goal is to give students a real-life glimpse of international business. Students take an eight-week theory class on campus first and are then given a pass/fail grade based on projects they conduct overseas and the way they interact with business managers they meet there. This year, the group leaves Dec. 28 and returns Jan. 4.

You might recognize Canine’s name. He was the first soldier in Missouri to receive a house from the charity Homes for Our Troops. He moved into the custom Columbia house last fall after spending a year at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Canine had both legs amputated after a roadside bomb hit his Humvee.

Canine is now focused on his education. He hopes to someday work in a sports marketing-related business but also wants to make a difference in the lives of other wounded veterans.

But for now, he is just looking forward to the opportunity to learn about international markets and business through the trip to Germany.

“I’m pretty excited to go,” he said. “It’s the learning experience. I’ve already learned a lot in Professor Ferris’ class leading up to it.”

He expressed gratitude to Ferris and others who made the trip possible.

But Canine will give something back when he works alongside other undergraduates.

“He brings something intangible to my students — self-discipline, maturity, management and leadership experience from being a squad leader,” Ferris said. “He’ll be a daily role model, a daily inspiration for my young students.”



Parents of infants lament MU program's closure

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Thursday, December 8, 2011

A University of Missouri institute aimed at helping parents deliver acid-reflux medications to infants has closed, sending some parents into panic mode.

"I have one packet" of the pharmaceutical aid CaraCream left, said Brandy Karl, a Maryland mom. "Honestly, I have no idea what I'm going to do afterwards."

CaraCream and BufferBaby were products sold by Reflux Solutions, the MU institute that closed last month. The two products contained flavors, buffers and thickeners to make it easier for babies to take Prilosec, Prevacid and other medicines referred to as proton pump inhibitors.

Jeff Phillips is the MU researcher who developed the heartburn medicine Zegerid, and he started Reflux Solutions in the mid-1990s. The institute aimed to help area doctors and nurses deliver acid-reflux medicine to infants.

But word got out, and by the time it closed, Reflux Solutions was helping thousands of parents.

"We almost became a not-for-profit organization like you would see in a Third World country," Phillips said. "It's really hard to do that within the university setting."

Phillips and his research group involved in the programs found themselves working weekends and extra hours trying to help parents while charging minimal prices for the products.

"We weren't able to really make enough money to pay for anything," Phillips said.

The institute was part of the Department of Surgery within the MU School of Medicine. Phillips did not have financial figures available but said expenditures for the program topped revenue 2-to-1 last year.

The university also has pulled the plug on a related website, MARCI-kids, because of cost. That site gave parents educational information about delivering acid-related drugs.

Reflux Solutions and MARCI-kids aimed to help families solve a common problem for babies with acid-reflux issues — they can't simply take a pill to control their symptoms. And for infants, acid-related issues can cause projectile vomit, gas discomfort that keeps them crying in pain and side symptoms such as ear infections.

Unlike other types of drugs that can be smashed and put into juice or another form, proton pump inhibitors lose their effectiveness if they break down too soon. They're designed to start releasing medicine after the pill gets past the stomach, otherwise stomach acid would destroy the medication, Phillips said.

There are other products designed to help parents deliver the medicine, but bitter tastes typically cause babies to spit it out.

"So the medicine ends up on their lips," Phillips said. "And Mom wipes it off, not realizing it's medicine."

Drug companies, he said, haven't necessarily been interested in marketing products such as BufferBaby and CaraCream because it's not clear whether the market is large enough to support them.

Phillips has been advising parents to contact their physicians or health care providers for advice about how to deliver medication in the future.

But so far, nothing has worked for Karl's son, who soon will turn 1. And other parents have expressed similar concerns on online message boards and a Facebook page created in light of the situation, Fans of MARCI-kids and Reflux Solutions.

"Why in God's name would they cut funding for something this serious/important?" asked one dad after learning on the Facebook page about the institute's closing.

Karl sent her concerns to the UM System Board of Curators this week.

"I have spent the previous week experimenting with the preparation of medication that will work for my baby and have come up with no viable solutions that taste good, actually work and don't involve any dairy products," she wrote, noting her son has a dairy allergy. "No parent should have to experiment with their child's medications. My baby is not a science project. Please bring back Reflux Solutions."

Virginia Tech used alert system to update campus after police officer shot

MU Mention on Pg. 2

By Eric Tucker and Zinie Chen Sampson/The Associated Press

December 8, 2011 | 9:29 p.m. CST

BLACKSBURG, Va. — A gunman killed a police officer in a Virginia Tech parking lot Thursday and then apparently shot himself to death nearby in a baffling attack that shook up the campus nearly five years after it was the scene of the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history.

The shooting took place on the same day Virginia Tech officials were in Washington, fighting a government fine over their alleged mishandling of the 2007 shooting where 33 people were killed. Before it became clear that the gunman in Thursday's attack was dead, the school applied the lessons learned during the last tragedy. They locked down the campus and using a high-tech alert system to warn students and faculty members to stay indoors.

"In light of the turmoil and trauma and the tragedy suffered by this campus by guns, I can only say words don't describe our feelings and they're elusive at this point in time," university president Charles Steger said. "Our hearts are broken again for the family of our police officer."

The officer, identified as 39-year-old Deriek W. Crouse, was killed after pulling a driver over in a traffic stop. The gunman — who was not involved in the traffic stop — walked into the parking lot and ambushed the officer. Police did not know what the motive was and they didn't release the identity of the shooter. Crouse was an Army veteran and married father of five.

A law enforcement official who spoke on the condition of anonymity confirmed the gunman was dead, but he wouldn't say how he died.

Many students were preparing for exams when they were suddenly told to hunker down. Heavily armed officers swarmed the campus as caravans of SWAT vehicles and other police cars with emergency lights flashing patrolled nearby.

"A lot of people, especially toward the beginning, were scared," said Jared Brumfield, a 19-year-old freshman from Culpeper, Va., who was locked in the Squires Student Center.

The university sent updates about every 30 minutes, regardless of whether they had any new information, school spokesman Mark Owczarski said.

During about a one-hour period on Thursday, the university issued four separate alerts.

Harry White, 20, a junior physics major, said he was in line for a sandwich at a restaurant in a campus building when he received the first text message alert.

White said he didn't panic, thinking instead about a false alarm about a possible gunman that locked down the campus in August. White used an indoor walkway to go to a computer lab in an adjacent building, where he checked news reports.

"I decided to just check to see how serious it was. I saw it's actually someone shooting someone, not something false, something that looks like a gun," White said.

The school was a bit quieter than usual because classes ended Wednesday. About 20,000 of the university's 30,000 students were on campus when the officer was shot. Exams, set to begin Friday, were postponed.

Since the 2007 massacre, the school expanded its emergency notification systems. Alerts now go out by electronic message boards in classrooms, by text messages and other methods. Other colleges and universities have put similar systems in place.

At MU, there are 54,074 people signed up for the university's alert system, which includes people from the UM System, MU Health Care and MU Extension, Terry Robb, spokesman for the MU Division of IT, said.

A recent example of when the alert system was used was at the end of January and beginning of February when a major snowstorm hit, Christian Basi, spokesman for MU, said. Those who signed up received a text message and an email.

To sign up for the alert system, visit mualert.missouri.edu, and click on the red box in the right corner that says, "Sign up for text alerts."

Universities are required under the Clery Act to provide warnings in a timely manner and to report the number of crimes on campus.

Andrew Goddard, who has crusaded for stiffer run control laws since his son Colin was wounded in the 2007 shootings, said Virginia Tech's response seemed substantially better this time.

"It sounds like things moved very, very fast this time as opposed to the time before," said Goddard, who has a daughter and nephew that go to the school. "That doesn't surprise me. Virginia Tech really did get the message in the sense that when bad things are happening, you have to ask quickly."

Although authorities wouldn't reveal specific details about the gunman, they released a timeline of events.

At about 12:15 p.m., Crouse called in the traffic stop. After a few minutes passed without hearing from Crouse, dispatch tried to get in touch with him but didn't get a response. About 15 minutes later, police received the first call from a witness who said an officer had been shot at the Cassell Coliseum parking lot and the gunman had fled on foot.

Local, state and federal officials responded immediately. At 1 p.m., an officer saw a suspicious man in a parking lot known as The Cage. The man had a gunshot wound and a gun was nearby.

Authorities said they responded to numerous other calls of suspicious activity but found no threats and lifted the campus lockdown about four hours after the initial alerts.

Asked if police were still looking for the shooter, state police Sgt. Robert Carpentieri said: "I think the investigators feel confident that we've located the person. I can't give you specifics and I don't want to confirm that, but you can kind of read between the lines so I won't specifically address that question."

Crouse had served four years on the campus police force, which has about 50 officers and 20 full- and part-time security guards. Crouse joined the campus police force about six months after the 2007 massacre, the school said. He previously worked at a jail and a sheriff's

department. State police were still investigating whether Crouse had been specifically targeted.

The shooting came soon after the conclusion of a hearing where Virginia Tech was appealing a \$55,000 fine by the U.S. Education Department in connection with the university's response to the 2007 rampage.

The department said the school violated the law by waiting more than two hours after two students were shot to death in their residence hall before sending an email warning. By then, student gunman Seung-Hui Cho was chaining the doors to a classroom building where he killed 30 more people and then himself.

The department said the email was too vague because it mentioned only a "shooting incident," not the deaths. During testimony Thursday, the university's police chief, Wendell Flinchum, said there were no immediate signs in the residence hall to indicate a threat to the campus. He said the shootings were believed to be an isolated domestic incident and that the shooter had fled.

An administrative judge ended the hearing by asking each side to submit a brief by the end of January. It is unclear when he will rule.

On Thursday night, about 150 students gathered silently for a candlelight vigil on a field facing the stone plaza memorial for the victims of the 2007 massacre. Although the official vigil was moved to Friday evening, many turned out anyway to show their support. One student came forward to invite everyone back a day later. He shouted, "Let's go!" The crowd responded, "Hokies!"

Police would not rule out a connection between the shootings and an armed robbery Wednesday in Radford, about 10 miles from Blacksburg. According to media reports, Radford police were looking for a man they considered armed and dangerous after an armed robbery at a local real estate office.

— *Missourian* reporter Alison Matas contributed to this report.

Old Bambino's restaurant demolished

By Kelly Cohen

December 8, 2011 | 6:00 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — If you've walked down Hitt Street lately, you probably have noticed a lot of debris where Bambino's restaurant used to be.

Bambino's and International Cafe were at 209 and 203 Hitt St. before MU declined to extend their leases last November. The Curators of the University of Missouri are listed as the owners of the property.

The sign on the door of the old International Cafe now reads "University of Missouri Department of Studio Art Annex." **Christian Basi, associate director at the MU News Bureau, said the building is a training facility for MU Fire and Rescue and will remain that way for now.**

The Bambino's building, however, has been reduced to rubble. Before it was demolished, Basi said, it was being used as a staging and storage area for a nearby construction site owned by Trittenbach Development.

Trittenbach Development has been developing the Brookside Downtown apartments that are immediately west and northwest of the former Bambino's site.

Under its contract with MU, Trittenbach agreed it would demolish the former restaurant for free when it was done using it.

"The original structure was in such bad shape," Basi said. "We faced a challenge in finding a good use for it."

Basi also said there still are no firm plans for the property.

"No longer-term decisions have been made yet," Basi said. "There have been discussions, but MU is looking at all options."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

POLITICAL FIX

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON MISSOURI, ILLINOIS AND ST. LOUIS POLITICS

Senators want investigation of Army Corps and Missouri River flood

BY BILL LAMBRECHT • blambrecht@post-dispatch.com > 202-298-6880 | Posted: Thursday, December 8, 2011 3:17 pm |

MU MENTION ON P. 2

WASHINGTON • Senators along the Missouri River turned up the heat on the Army Corps of Engineers today by requesting that the Government Accountability Office examine whether missteps by the corps played a role in devastating flooding along much of the river last summer.

Thirteen of 14 senators from states along the basin requested a wide-ranging study by Congress's investigative arm including whether changing the river's bible of operations could prevent future floods.

"The letter is a strong statement by senators from the seven states along the river that we want the corps' performance and plans to meet what the corps' priorities are," Sen. **Roy Blunt**, R-Mo., told reporters today. "The number one priority is supposed to be flood control."

Reflecting perennial complaints of farmers along the river, the letter also asks the GAO to examine whether environmental concerns factored into the corps' decisions before the flood.

Some lawmakers, the letter said, have suggested that attention to fish and wildlife "carried too great an influence on the corps' decision-making process."

Corps officials testified at hearings this fall that a record combination of snowmelt and rain in the basin's western reaches overwhelmed the ability to manage the river's six dams and reservoirs so as to prevent flooding.

The corps has said it intends to be more flexible in its river operations next year, perhaps opening up more storage space for water in upstream reservoirs. But thus far, Army engineers have resisted demands to make broad changes in its river management plan.

While much of the flood damage occurred up river, a study by the University of Missouri estimated that 207,000 acres of Missouri farmland was flooded and farmers lost \$176 million in income. The St. Louis area was largely spared because of a dry summer and levee breaches west of the metropolitan area.

The corps operates the Missouri under a law that requires a balancing of flood control and seven other priorities, among them recreation, navigation and protecting endangered species.

Blunt, backed by Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., is pushing legislation that would strip \$50 million environmental restoration along the river and spend it instead on levee repair. But with time running out on Congress this year, it is uncertain whether they will succeed.

Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., was the only basin state senator not to sign the letter requesting the study.



5 Reasons Why Iowa is The Perfect Place For the First 2012 Contest

Despite quadrennial whinging about Iowa's early caucuses, the state may in fact be an ideal place for the first nominating contest

MU MENTION PAGE 2

By Danielle Kurtzleben

Have you ever detasseled corn? Do you live more than half a mile from your neighbors? Do you care intensely about the Cyclones-Hawkeyes rivalry?

For most Americans, the answer to these questions is "no"...and rightly or wrongly, many outsiders believe Iowa to be a world apart and find it easy to bemoan the state's first-in-the-nation caucus. Every four years at caucus time come new complaints that the state is too small, rural, agrarian, or ideologically extreme to be representative of the nation. Here's why that view of Iowa might be wrong.

Iowa Conservatism Has Gone Mainstream

Iowans were conservative before conservatism was cool. The Republican Party has shifted to the right over the last several years—a place that Iowa conservatives have been all along. For this reason, "we are poised to be more representative as a national party than we were in 2008," says Dianne Bystrom, director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University. In 2008, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, known for his socially conservative views, won the Iowa Republican caucus with 34 percent of the vote, beating former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney by 9 percentage points and besting eventual nominee and Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain by 21 points. "Certainly the Republican caucus in 2008, and it appears perhaps in 2012, reflects a much more conservative side of the Republican party. On the other hand, as a whole, the Republican Party has shifted to the right over the last several years," says Bystrom.

Numbers Don't Lie

Iowa is perhaps smaller, older, and more rural than many other states, but it is perhaps not as corn-farmer-heavy as people might think—roughly 60 percent of the population lives in urban areas. In fact, when a broad spectrum of demographic data are considered, Iowa is among the most representative states in the nation, **according to a 2009 study by political scientists from the University of Missouri and the University of Iowa. When a variety of economic, diversity, and social factors were taken into consideration, Iowa was the 12th most representative state in the nation, meaning that it hewed relatively close to national averages on those factors.** Sure, there might be 11 other states ahead of it, but Iowa compares particularly well with California, New York, and Texas—high-population states that are also among the least representative.

A Variety of Republicans

Though Iowan Republicans may deviate slightly from the national party, the state's GOP still runs the gamut from far-right to centrist, says Tim Hagle, associate professor of political science at the University of Iowa. In the northwestern part of the state, says Hagle, the counties are "reliably Republican in terms of their voting," electing officials like Rep. Steve King, a member of the House Tea Party Caucus. In the eastern part of the state, home to like Iowa City, the population is more liberal, and Republicans track closer to the center, says Hagle.

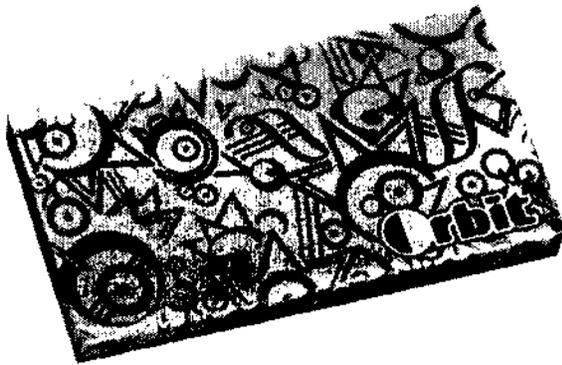
Everyone Cares About the Economy

Iowa's unemployment rate is 6.0 percent, as of October—the seventh-lowest unemployment rate in the nation. But that doesn't mean that Iowa isn't suffering with the rest of the country. "Even though we're in better shape based on national averages...we're still in worse shape compared to what we're used to here," says Hagle. Iowa's unemployment rate, he says, tends to track below the nation's, and hovered around 3 to 4 percent throughout the 1990s and early 2000s. This means that uptick to 6 percent is still uncomfortable for Iowans. Iowa also is facing the housing crisis alongside the rest of the nation. According to RealtyTrac, Iowa's October foreclosure rate was 1 in 745 units—relatively close to the national rate (1 in 563). Hagle also adds that Iowans care deeply about national economic concerns: "We realize what's going on in the rest of the country, and certainly Iowans are concerned about the debt and deficit."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Two Mizzou students have winning Orbit gum package designs

BY DEB PETERSON • dpeterson@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8276 | Posted: Thursday, December 8, 2011 1:26 pm |



Emily Herron's package design

CHEW ON IT: The packages of Orbit's new Melon Remix gum are going to have Missouri written all over them.

Not literally -- but two of the eight winning package designs that were chosen by Wrigley gum came from University of Missouri students.

The students, **Brad Siegler**, 20, of Hazelwood, and **Emily Herron**, 20, of Monroe City, Mo., will each get \$5,000 in cash and the pleasure of seeing their design and personal signature on gum packages on store counters everywhere.

Siegler and Herron are both J-school students seeking degrees with an emphasis in Strategic Communication.

The contest notice was sent out in the spring to college students across the country majoring in design and art and communications programs. The company received hundreds of entries in what it calls the first-ever series of crowd-sourced gum packs.

The other six design winners attend the following schools: Art Institute of Michigan in Detroit; University of Minnesota -- Twin Cities; University of Texas at El Paso; The College of Visual Arts; Savannah College of Art and Design; and the Illinois Institute of Art - Chicago.

Siegler is a musician who said his design was inspired by music and a retro color scheme. Siegler also said he thought the shape of the gum pack resembled a cassette tape and he based his design concept on that.

Herron said her pack design was inspired by the bright and vibrant colors of the Melon Remix gum flavor, which reminded her of summer. She used Photoshop to create graphics that resembled a summer landscape of sun, waves and ocean.

The eight limited edition pack designs will be available starting this month and will remain on shelves through the end of February.