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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

**AP** Associated Press

## MU students to rally against planned tuition hike

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Student leaders from the Columbia campus plan to testify at a House Higher Education Committee meeting Tuesday morning and later meet individually with House Speaker Steve Tilley and other legislators.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## MU students will speak against cutting education funds

By The Associated Press

February 13, 2012 | 8:40 p.m. CST

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## More for Less collects more than 6,000 letters, heads to Jefferson City

*MSA and ASUM's campaign against Gov. Jay Nixon's proposed budget cuts will deliver the letters to the governor's office Tuesday.*

By Molly Duffy

Published Feb. 14, 2012

Closing its five-day letter writing campaign Friday, "More for Less" walked away with 1,000 more letters than expected.

The letters, opposing the proposed budget cuts to higher education, were all signed by MU students and addressed to Missouri legislators.

"We bought 6,000 envelopes," Missouri Students Association President Xavier Billingsley said. "We ran out of them."

**MSA and the Associated Students of the University of Missouri have been the backbone of the campaign. They are heading to Jefferson City to present the letters to the office of Gov. Jay Nixon on Tuesday.**

MSA Director of Communications and former Maneater staffer Zach Toombs said the letter writing campaign greatly exceeded his expectations.

"Originally, the resolution (and) the whole idea started very modestly," Toombs said. "We put the resolution before Senate just to put an official statement out there opposing the cuts, but the resolution also commissioned the letter writing campaign."

Toombs said he originally only expected to gather a few hundred letters in the campaign, but "More For Less" has more than 6,000 letters to show legislators.

"I was actually very pleasantly surprised with the response that we saw from students," he said. "Not only were a lot of students educated on the issue, they were very willing to take a few minutes and actually find their legislator. We (saw) such a good response we actually had people ask if they could come and work the table for us, just random people, not even MSA senators."

Toombs, Billingsley, MSA Academic Affairs chairman Ben Levin, Chief of Staff and former Maneater staffer Steven Dickherber and ASUM representative Rachel Herndon are heading to the capital to hand deliver the letters as well as meet with several legislators.

"More for Less" will speak in support of Chancellor Brady Deaton, who is speaking on student funding at the Higher Education Committee hearing Tuesday.

"More for Less" organizers will also be delivering letters to Nixon's office, though they are not meeting with Nixon. Toombs said they hope to meet with him March 6, the annual student lobby day. They are also speaking with Nixon's education liaison Michael Nietzel, Rep. Chris Kelly, Sen. Kurt Schaefer, Rep. Mary Still and House Speaker Steven Tilley.

"What we hope they get out of this is a sense of, 'OK, these people are really furious about this, and they real want to make a difference,'" Billingsley said.

Although the effort started small, Toombs said "More for Less" student support has given the movement some momentum.

"These are letters students have written to their legislators," he said. "Legislators listen to their constituents more than anyone, and we have at least one letter for every state legislator in Missouri, every senator, every representative, so everyone is going to be getting some mail from students this week, telling them students think this is unacceptable, you need to stand up against this."

If anything, Toombs said the campaign has highlighted issues with tuition and funding, as well as given students a way to be heard on those issues.

"I think students realized that, yes, the curators decide what our tuition is, but it starts at the state level," he said. "It starts with the amount of state funding the university receives."

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**AP** Associated Press

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## **New University of Missouri president starts job**

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — **The University of Missouri's new president returns to his alma mater on Wednesday to officially begin work.**

Fifty-three-year-old Tim Wolfe is a former software company executive and 1980 Missouri graduate hired in December. He has spent the past two months visiting the system's four campuses and working with his predecessor, interim president Steve Owens.

Wolfe is no stranger to Columbia. He's a graduate of Rock Bridge High School and led the Columbia powerhouse to a state football championship. His father is a retired professor at university's flagship Columbia campus

A public welcoming reception for Wolfe and his family is planned for Monday, Feb. 20 from 4-6 p.m. at Stotler Lounge in Memorial Union.



## MU taps CDC expert as first Mizzou Advantage visiting professional

By Janese Silvey

Monday, February 13, 2012

**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's chief communicator will spend this year visiting the University of Missouri to help various schools and colleges better figure out how to communicate health and science.**

Glen Nowak is senior adviser to the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC. He was tapped to be the inaugural Mizzou Advantage Distinguished Visiting Professional, a series that aims to bring big names to campus in a flexible way that lets them continue in their current jobs.

The university will pay Nowak \$37,294, or 20 percent of his CDC salary.

Nowak served as an associate professor of advertising and public relations at the University of Georgia before joining the CDC.

"Glen is a nationally — indeed, internationally — renowned health communication researcher-turned CDC communication chief," said Charles Davis, an associate journalism professor and Mizzou Advantage facilitator.

Nowak is expected to start work at MU in early March. He will do an inventory of what researchers and students are working on in science, health and science-related communication and then prioritize where he might be most helpful, said Glen Cameron, a journalism professor and co-director of the Health Communication Research Center at MU.

Although Nowak will be part of that center, he will work with researchers across the university.

"He'll be all over campus," Davis said. "The vast majority of requests to meet with him are coming straight out of the medical school and health professions. Because everybody who's got these grants or grant applications are going, 'Let's combat fill-in-the-blank public health issue.' There's not one that doesn't have a strong communication component to them."

In addition, Cameron expects Nowak to boost MU's reputation across the country and to help researchers identify and possibly snag grants.

“He can’t lobby for us, but he knows what the trends are and what people are looking at and what the issues are that need to be researched, especially in the health communication area,” Cameron said.

Mizzou Advantage is funded with \$4 million that comes from general operating dollars. Some are critical of the program in cash-strapped times, although the UM System has vowed not to cut programs that are part of long-term strategies. Davis puts Mizzou Advantage in that category.

“It’s a strategic bet,” Davis said. “It’s an investment that says if we build these networks of individual faculty and identify opportunities for these networks to go after, we’re going to land things that far exceed the budget.”

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Lawyers favor Gov. Jay Nixon in donations

BY WALKER MOSKOP wmoskop@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8325 | Posted: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 12:05 am | (6) Comments

Lawyers aren't hesitating to pull out their checkbooks for Gov. Jay Nixon.

When Gray, Ritter & Graham, a St. Louis personal injury and commercial litigation firm, contributed \$100,000 to Nixon's re-election campaign on Jan. 27, it became the third member of the legal community to write a \$100,000 check to the governor during this election cycle.

Yet that six-figure contribution accounted for only 5 percent of the money attorneys and law firms have given Nixon since October 2010.

A Post-Dispatch analysis of campaign contributions from that period found that roughly one of every three dollars Nixon raised — about \$2 million of \$6.28 million — came from lawyers.

On average, lawyers have made larger donations than others have. Even when all \$100,000 donations are excluded, the average donation from an attorney or firm is \$2,446. The average of the rest of the donations is \$1,349.

It's not unusual for trial lawyers to donate to a Democratic governor — particularly one who served four terms as Missouri's attorney general — and they've been generous to Nixon. Twelve firms that handle civil litigation have donated at least \$50,000 each.

**Don Downing, a partner at Gray, Ritter & Graham, was a former top deputy to Nixon during his time as attorney general, and the governor appointed him to the University of Missouri Board of Curators in 2009.**

Tim Dollar is a partner at Dollar, Burns & Becker, a Kansas City personal injury firm that has donated \$112,500 to Nixon since October 2010.

"We donate to any candidate that we perceive is supportive of access to the courts and supports the constitution," Dollar said. "The constitution gives every person the right to a jury trial."

He was quick to point out that his firm also donates to Republicans, albeit on a lesser scale than it does to Nixon. "He's the chief executive of the state," Dollar said.

In an email, Nixon's campaign manager, Oren Shur, said that considering Nixon's "long record of standing up for seniors and consumers," the governor's support from the legal community was unsurprising.

**And Nixon is part of the legal community, having graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia law school.**

Donors to the campaign, Shur said, include thousands of contributions "from a wide range of Missourians — Democrats and Republicans — who believe the governor has shown remarkably strong leadership for our state during challenging times."

Several firms that have been spending heavily on Nixon have been competing to represent Missouri in a lawsuit against the makers of a diabetes drug linked to increased risk of heart disease.

For example, Carey, Danis & Lowe of St. Louis and Simmons Attorneys at Law, which has offices in Missouri, Illinois and California, have each contributed more than \$100,000 to Nixon, and have also donated to Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster, a Republican.

The firm chosen to represent Missouri in the case would be entitled to a share of the settlement, which could be hundreds of millions of dollars.

The contributions also come at a time when the Republican-controlled Legislature has been pushing bills that would change workplace laws to limit the number of lawsuits brought against employers.

Last week, the Senate and House both passed versions of legislation that makes it harder for workers to bring employment discrimination suits by requiring that workers prove discrimination was a "motivating factor," rather than a "contributing factor," in an employer's action. The bills would also place caps on punitive damages in discrimination cases based on the size of the employer, with a maximum of \$300,000.

The House and the Senate must reconcile the two bills before sending the legislation to the governor. Nixon vetoed a similar bill in 2011, saying that it would have undone decades of civil rights progress.

Sara Schuett, the executive director of the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys, said the bill would make it easier for employers to discriminate.

"My members are the ones representing people who've been fired because of their race or age or gender," she said. "They're on the front lines of some of those fights."

Another bill being considered in the Senate would absolve co-workers of liability for employee injuries resulting from negligence. It also would keep disputes over diseases caused by workplace conditions from going to court by making them exclusively covered under the state's workers' compensation laws.

Rich AuBuchon, general counsel for the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, which supports both bills, said current Missouri laws favor plaintiffs.

Changing discrimination laws to align them with federal standards, limiting punitive damages and preventing employees who are receiving workers' compensation benefits from also bringing lawsuits, AuBuchon said, would help businesses save on litigation costs and focus resources on growth.

David Kimball, associate professor of political science at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, wasn't surprised to hear that attorneys were donating heavily to Nixon. "Given the history in Missouri of disputes over workers rights and product liability cases," he said, "it's pretty clear that Republicans are not on the side of trial lawyers."

Dave Spence, who is seeking the Republican nomination for governor, has raised \$2.51 million, though \$2 million came out of his own pocket. St. Louis businessmen Bill Koman and Robert O'Brien each gave \$100,000 to Spence's campaign.

As of January, Nixon had raised roughly \$8.15 million during this election cycle, and his campaign had slightly more than \$5 million in cash on hand, according to the latest report filed with the Missouri Ethics Commission.

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## MU reacts to approved fee increases

*Board will vote on a potential 7.5 percent tuition increase later this month.*

By Caroline Bauman

Published Feb. 14, 2012

In response to a potential 12.5 percent cut to higher education this year, the UM System Board of Curators approved supplemental fee increases on Feb. 3, at the first meeting of 2012.

**MU increases will include a 3.3 percent increase to the information technology fee and additional course fees to the College of Business, School of Journalism, School of Health Professions and College of Engineering.**

The College of Business courses are set to increase the most, by 32.8 percent. The School of Journalism follows at 18.3 percent, the School of Health Professions at 15.7 percent and the College of Engineering at 10.4 percent.

College of Business Dean Joan Gabel welcomed the fee increases as a way to maintain student services. The fee increases would change the \$17.30 a course to \$70.10.

“We have provided students with a lot of services and faced the choice to increase fees or cut back services,” Gabel said. “We want to make sure our students are prepared in a hard job market so we increased fees in order to ensure that our classes and services are top notch.”

Brian Brooks, associate dean of the School of Journalism, also said the fee increases were much needed.

The increase would change journalism course fees from \$9.30 to \$60, according to a report from the Board of Curators.

Brooks said in an email that the journalism school requested an increase a couple of years ago, but the board implemented only part of it. The increase this year represents the rest of the requested increase.

“The journalism course fee funds technology and helps to pay for teaching assistants,” Brooks said. “Journalism education has become increasingly dependent on technology, so the fee is really needed.”

Brooks said a large portion of the fee goes back to selected students in the form of teaching assistantships. This has become increasingly necessary, as the journalism school has doubled in size during the past 10 years.

Freshman journalism student Jay Wallis said he wished the board had asked for more public input before deciding to raise fees.

“Instead of directly raising fees or tuition, I wish they would let the public weigh in,” Wallis said. “There could be other ways to gain revenue.”

Interim System President Steve Owens said in a letter published Feb. 7 on the Board of Curators website though 2011 was a productive year where more was done with less, he was uncertain how long that could continue.

“How long can we do more than less,” Owens said in his letter. “Even an institution with a noble purpose and dedicated people cannot flourish for long without adequate resources.”

The board did not vote on proposed tuition increases but is expected to address it later this month.

The proposal would increase undergraduate and graduate tuition for MU in-state and out-of-state students by 7.5 percent, according to a report from the board.

Gov. Jay Nixon released a statement following this proposed tuition increase, saying the tuition proposal should get the scrutiny it deserves from the Commissioner of Higher Education.

“This tuition proposal is well beyond the increase in the cost of living allowed by statute,” Nixon said in the release. “Universities should look first at achieving every efficiency in their operations before taking this type of action that affects families’ ability to pay for higher education.”

A summary released by the board regarding tuition and enrollment fees for 2013 stated a 43 percent increase in enrollment at MU over the last decade has resulted in significant declines in state support per student.

“Without tuition increases at the proposed levels, the campus fears ranking will continue to fall,” according to the summary. “And upcoming accreditation of programs as well as its AAU (Association of American Universities) status could be at risk.”

Even with the proposed increases in tuition and fees there is still a budget gap of \$54.2 million, according to the summary. To cover the decline in state appropriations alone would require an increase in tuition rates of 11 percent.



## College-town trips to focus on bus options

By Andrew Denney

Monday, February 13, 2012

**A field trip Friday to Ames, Iowa, will give city officials, University of Missouri students and MU's transit consultant a chance to review that city's transportation system, in the hopes it will inform efforts to change Columbia's bus service.**

The trip to Ames, home of Iowa State University, is the first of three city officials have planned to explore other college-town bus systems funded partly through student activity fees. The city has booked a similar trip Feb. 24 to Lawrence, Kan., and is planning a yet-to-be-scheduled trip to Champaign, Ill.

For the Ames trip, the city has invited 17 attendees, including reporters and officials from the city manager's office and the Public Works and Public Communications departments. Others invited include Cheryl Price of the city's Disabilities Commission; Brittany Perrin, who is vice president of MU's Graduate Professional Council and a member of the PedNet Coalition; and MU students Anne Ahlvers, James Hatler and Todd Oberlin, who each serve on a student task force created to discuss transportation needs.

The group will take a charter bus and will complete each round trip in a day.

Columbia City Manager Mike Matthes said the trips would be a good way for MU students and city officials to learn about systems used in other cities and bring back fresh ideas for Columbia buses.

"I think of it as field research for all of us to get an up-close, personal view of how these systems operate," Matthes said.

Oberlin is a graduate student who uses Columbia Transit to get to campus from his home in northeast Columbia. He was asked to become part of the task force after he discussed transit issues at one of Matthes' regular coffee sessions with residents at City Hall.

Oberlin said he is not opposed to a student-subsidized bus system but did not approve of the city's approach. He said the city did not take students' needs into account before making a proposal.

"They threw out some numbers based on what they've seen and not based on what we have and how we can fix it," Oberlin said. He said members of the task force will take the information gathered in

Ames and broadcast it to students and campus organizations.

The bus system in Ames — called CyRide, a nod to the Iowa State Cyclones' mascot — is partially funded through a \$62.60 fee levied on Iowa State students. Students then can ride buses at no extra charge with a university ID. The bus system is governed by a six-member board of trustees, which includes a representative from the Iowa State administration and two student representatives.

Falisha Humphrey of Solstice Transportation Group also has been invited on the trip. Solstice is a transportation consultation firm MU hired to gather input on how transportation could be reworked to better serve MU students.

The university hired the firm after the city proposed cutting its popular Black and Gold bus routes, which serve south Columbia student apartment complexes, in May to help close an expected \$1 million deficit.

The city announced the proposed cuts last fall, weeks after a breakdown in talks of the Transit System Task Force, which was appointed by Mayor Bob McDavid and included city officials and MU student representatives. At the task force's second meeting in November, Matthes and McDavid presented two options for Columbia Transit: a student-centric bus system paid for in part by a student activity fee or deep cuts to bus service.

The MU representatives said they perceived the city's proposal as a threat to get students to help pay to close budget holes. The task force has not met since.