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UM System Board of Curators expected to vote on tuition Monday

By Zach Murdock

February 16, 2012 | 5:56 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA -- The UM System Board of Curators is expected to vote on tuition and other related enrollment fees at a special telepresence meeting on Monday morning.

At the board's full meeting Feb. 2 to 3, curators discussed average tuition increases of 6.5 percent to the four UM campuses but didn't vote on a proposal. Last week, Gov. Jay Nixon announced he wanted to add \$40 million to the state's higher education budget, which could reduce any proposed tuition increases.

On Tuesday, UM System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said the system is glad to see the reduction in state cuts.

"While we are still determining what this change means to our tuition recommendation to the Board of Curators, it will definitely have a positive effect on what our final tuition increase proposal will be," she said.



Advisers promote college to rural, inner city students

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Thursday, February 16, 2012

Kenny Cygeirt was planning to join the military when he was a student at Bourbon High School, if for no other reason than to earn money for college.

But Becca Fallon changed his course, and today Cygeirt is a University of Missouri freshman who snagged a 3.46 grade-point-average last semester.

And that's just one example of the Missouri College Advising Corps' success. Similar stories can be found around the state.

The Missouri College Advising Corps, or MCAC, is in its fourth year. The program stations recent MU graduates in rural and inner-city high schools across the state to help seniors navigate college options. It's not a recruiting tool for MU — students are given information about all of their higher education options, and plenty opt to go elsewhere, said Director Beth Tankersley-Bankhead.

It's tough to track who enrolls where, but the advising program is deemed so successful it has doubled in scope this year. Today, 24 advisers are working in 25 Missouri schools, up from the 13 advisers working in 11 high schools last year.

Fallon was stationed in Bourbon — two hours southeast of Columbia — last year when she met Cygeirt. He'd all but signed with the Air Force when she started telling him about MU and college life.

"I didn't hear what the tour guides tell you; I got to hear the inside story of what Mizzou is like," Cygeirt said.

She also helped him narrow his field of study to business.

But even when the idea of college became more attractive, Cygeirt wasn't sure his family could afford a four-year university, and he balked at the idea of taking out thousands of dollars in loans.

So Fallon researched a Trulaske College of Business scholarship and urged Cygeirt to apply. It took some nagging: Cygeirt admitted he procrastinated on the essay, thinking he didn't have a shot. But he won the award and is using it, and other local scholarships, to pay for school.

MCAC advisers work in high schools where college isn't the norm, including in low-income schools in the St. Louis and Kansas City area. At Bourbon, Cygeirt estimated few in the graduating class before him went to college, and those who did opted for community colleges. Last year, nearly half of the class of 76 students enrolled in college, with about a tenth going to four-year universities, he said.

"I would say a lot of it was because of her," Cygeirt said, referring to Fallon. "If she hadn't been there, I honestly have no idea what I would have done."

Fallon is humbled by the notion.

"It's hard to even fathom that you've made such a difference in someone's life," she said. "You don't necessarily see it in your day-to-day role when you're working with students. ... It's not something I think about every day. I just want them to realize their own potential."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mizzou sorting out cost of leaving Big 12 for SEC

BY VAHE GREGORIAN • vgregorian@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8199 | Posted: Friday, February 17, 2012 12:20 am | [\(3\) Comments](#)



University of Missouri athletics director Mike Alden, on the sidelines at the Mizzou-Miami (Ohio) football game. (Chris Lee / clee@post-dispatch.com)

COLUMBIA, Mo. • As Mizzou athletics director Mike Alden sat in his office on a recent evening, prospective renderings of a Faurot Field face-lift were plopped on his desk.

A related fundraising initiative is soon to formally launch.

And a branding initiative will begin April 14 with the unveiling of a football helmet and uniform makeover, changes believed to emphasize Tiger imagery over the traditional block "M" and certain to create commotion.

It's a busy and exhilarating time for Mizzou and Alden as they prepare to move from the Big 12 to the Southeastern Conference on July 1. But other key time frames remain less clear as MU prepares for the transition.

For one, Mizzou still is negotiating exit fees with the Big 12, as is SEC-bound Texas A&M.

Nebraska last year gave up \$9.25 million to go to the Big Ten, and Colorado \$6.86 to leave for the Pac 12. Each amount came from settlements not exactly in conformity with Big 12 bylaws, leaving open the range of MU's potential penalties.

Alden deferred comment on this to MU attorneys, who won't speak on the matter. But he reaffirmed that fees would come out of the athletics department and added that he expected the matter to be settled within 60 to 90 days.

He said though that West Virginia being cleared earlier this week to join the Big 12 may help expedite it.

"Once you get that answer, it allows these other discussions to be able to take place at a little faster clip," he said. "That's what I would hope, and I would think."

In a bit of a financial twist, the Big 12 could prosper financially for years from MU basketball, which at 24-2 and ranked third nationally has the potential for a deep run in the NCAA Tournament. Such a run would not affect departure fees but would benefit the Big 12 after MU's departure because a key portion of tournament revenue, or units, go to the league.

"It's an interesting thing," Alden said. "Those units accrue to the conference, so what happens is when we exit the Big 12 (on) July 1, 2012, any units we've earned in the 2012 NCAA Tournament or the five previous ones, all of those will stay with the Big 12 Conference. Those won't follow us to the SEC.

"So even though we will be departing ... the Big 12 will continue to earn a revenue distribution based upon our performance in the NCAA Tournament four or five years after we've gone."

Alden said MU's opportunities to compete in the tournament are "directly related to competing in the Big 12" and that the revenue "should be something that would be part of the Big 12."

Even less certain to Alden is the time frame for resolution of the NCAA investigation of the University of Miami and of an accusation made by a former booster against then-Hurricanes basketball coach and current Tigers coach Frank Haith.

In a report largely focused on Miami football by Yahoo Sports released last August, the booster, Nevin Shapiro, charged that Haith thanked him for a \$10,000 payment funded by Shapiro. The payment allegedly went through an assistant coach, a gift Shapiro said was "required" by a family member of prospect DeQuan Jones to secure his commitment to Miami.

Haith and Jones' mother have denied the accusation by Shapiro, who is in prison for his role in a nearly billion dollar Ponzi scheme and recently told the Miami Herald that he has proof of Haith's role.

After being held out in relation to the investigation for the first part of the season, Jones was reinstated by Miami with the NCAA's permission. The coach that Shapiro says actually took the money and made the payment was then-Miami assistant Jake Morton, who is in good standing at Western Kentucky.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said last summer he had been assured by the NCAA that Haith's aspect of the case would be expedited. Alden says now he has no timeline.

"I think that certainly our hope, and anybody's hope would be, that you have a conclusion in a timely fashion," he said. "But what we have seen in the past from NCAA work is that sometimes it takes a long time. So we have no idea."

Alden has a better idea of how MU's 2012 football schedule will be finalized. After the recent addition of a game at Central Florida on Sept. 22, Mizzou has two spots on the schedule to fill.

"You're going to get an FCS team for Sept. 1, and then we have to identify one more game, and we want that to be a home game, probably Nov. 17," he said.

The Sept. 1 opponent, Alden said, is nearly set. The other still is being sorted out, but he hopes to have an opponent established by mid-March.

But don't expect it to be Kansas, which has said it doesn't want to play Mizzou as a non-conference opponent.

"We've made it clear that we want to be able to play, and we're open to be able to do that with any and all of our sports," Alden said. "But we've made our point ... We need to focus on the SEC now."



How to fix our public health

Across the nation, America discovers small cures for big health problems

Too many Americans are fat. Too many have diabetes, heart disease and other chronic problems, or are well on their way to developing them. Our leaders debate solutions, but a nationwide health remedy remains elusive.

The good news? State and local solutions already are making a difference in people's lives.

Here's a sample of impressive results:

Missouri: Kids step it up with pedometers

Want kids to be more physically active and to choose — and actually eat — more fruits and vegetables? A low-cost school-based program has triggered those obesity-busting behaviors by giving pedometers and nutrition lessons to 45,000 children in Missouri since 2004.

The program, Jump Into Action, begins by training teachers and creating support teams of adults. Then kids learn to use a personal pedometer. Soon, they compare their pedometer readings against goals they set for themselves and compare one teacher's steps with another's. Imagine a formerly sluggish child saying: "Mrs. Smith has more steps than you have today, Mrs. Johnson. You'd better get moving! Let's take an activity break. Let's go for a walk." Kids have even asked for healthier food on the school lunch menu.

Weekly lessons are bolstered by monthly checkups, and parent newsletters provide support at home.

Throughout the class day, activity breaks help students pay more attention and do better academically, adds Stephen Ball, associate professor of nutrition and exercise physiology at the University of Missouri. Ball and nutrition specialist Ann Cohen developed the Jump Into Action program, which was launched with a grant from the University of Missouri Extension.

A University of Missouri study showed that participating students drank less soda and other sugary drinks, were more physically active and spent less time watching TV, playing video games or using computers. They had a better understanding of nutrition, portion sizes and healthy choices so they chose — and actually ate — more healthful dairy foods and more fruits and vegetables.



Pet News: Rats? Pets at work, pet and baby, and pets at home

Bring your pet to work day – every day

"People are realizing we need to do things to reduce stress in the workplace," says Rebecca Johnson, director of the Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction at the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine. With rules, pets in the office help make people in the office, friendlier, healthier and more relaxed.

Pregnant? Better prepare your pet

Experts say when you're expecting, you should also plan to prepare your pet. "A baby changes everything for a pet – from how its home looks, smells and sounds to what the rules are." While low-energy dogs tend to be the most adaptable, independent or excitable dogs are more "high maintenance" and usually the least adaptable, says San Francisco veterinarian Sophia Yin

Some changes to make before the baby arrives:

- Introduce your pet to baby noises (CDs full of baby cries, noises and toys can be purchased).
- Introduce your pet to the baby smells before the baby comes home from the hospital.
- Make sure your pet's healthy. Get more tips – including cat- and dog-specific ideas -- about what to do to prepare your pet.

Pet elk not allowed back home

It's sad news for owners George and Sharon Richter when it comes to their pet elk. The runaway three-year-old elk is not allowed to return home to Pennsylvania, because officials are worried about the possible spread of chronic wasting disease. The elk escaped the Richters' farm more than a year ago when a gate was accidentally left open. He's now being fed by the local residents of Pleasant Valley, W.Va.

Cancer-stricken woman wins fight to keep her dog

Pat Picavet not only has to fight Stage 4 breast cancer, but she also had to go to bat to keep her dog at her condo in Florida. Picavet purchased the condo along with her husband for a retreat

while she battles cancer. Marley, their black Labrador retriever who weighs 60 pounds over the homeowner association's limit, brings the family as much peace as their "relaxing waterside retreat."

Cat gets first knee joint operation

Cyrano, referred to as a "tubby tabby," couldn't have his leg amputated, after it was weakened by cancer. So, his owner brought him to North Carolina State University, where doctors helped him receive the first feline total knee replacement in the country. While knee implants have become common among dogs, "a cat's smaller anatomy has proved more difficult to work with," says Dr. Denis Marcellin –Little.

Dog spinal-cord experimental tests may help humans

Small dogs with spinal-cord injuries can now undergo experimental treatment through a three-year-long study. Unfortunately, many of these long-backed, short-legged little breeds become paralyzed by spontaneous disc ruptures that bruise or tear their spinal cords. This treatment, if effective, will cure these dogs and make may one day be used on people. Learn more about what the experimental treatment entails and what pets are eligible.

Rats can make great family pets

Rat owners say their pets are playful, affectionate and intelligent. One such owner, Robin Rushlau, describes rats as smaller versions of dogs. They're social animals, cleaner than guinea pigs and are simple to maintain. Erin Stromberg, a keeper at Think Tank, an exhibit at the National Zoo, says that many don't like rats because of their intelligence. "They're flexible and adaptable enough to learn to avoid new dangers," she says.

Columbia looks outside Missouri for bus system alternatives

NO MU Mention

By Dan Burley

February 16, 2012 | 10:23 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — City Manager Mike Matthes and Mayor Bob McDavid discussed the city's financially faltering bus system on the eve of the city's educational trip to Ames, Iowa. The duo answered questions and provided opinions Thursday night at the Public Transportation Advisory Commission meeting at City Hall. The trip to Iowa is one of three excursions the city is going on to explore efficient college town bus systems. The trips will cost \$10,000.

"There's only so much you can learn on Google," Matthes said, referring to looking at bus systems on a map. "Then you've got to go and see it." McDavid spoke frankly about the bus system's recent woes.

"Gloom and doom is accurate. We're at a crisis," he said. Columbia's transit system is facing a budgetary disaster, losing \$1 million per year. Compare that to 2007, when the transit system had a \$3.5 million reserve. Unless it finds additional resources, the city will have to shorten bus routes and limit service hours by October. **McDavid puts some of the blame on ill-advised contracts with off-campus student apartment complexes that dramatically discount student bus fares.**

"We established contracts with apartments that were devastating financially," McDavid said. "We're hemorrhaging \$400,000 to \$500,000 a year on those routes."

Finding an efficient system is one of the city's goals in Iowa. The city thinks students who park at meters and university parking lots could be an untapped source of revenue for the bus system. The city is also willing to redraw routes, looping them through campus in hopes of picking up more passengers.

"Every route should be on the table," McDavid said.

Missouri students attending KU's Edwards Campus get tuition break next fall

NO MU Mention

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

February 16, 2012 | 8:10 a.m. CST

TOPEKA — Missouri students attending the University of Kansas campus in Overland Park will get a tuition break, starting next fall.

The Kansas Board of Regents on Wednesday approved a proposal to allow students from 11 Missouri counties to pay the same tuition that Kansas students pay on the Edwards Campus.

The Lawrence Journal-World reports the current Metro KC Tuition Waiver applies to students from only four counties. Undergraduates from Missouri get a discount but still pay more than Kansas residents.

Starting next fall, the tuition break will be available for Missouri students from Clay, Cass, Jackson, Platte, Buchanan, Clinton, Ray, Lafayette, Johnson, Henry and Bates counties.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Fenton-based Kaiser Electric helps renovate Mark Twain residence hall at Mizzou

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Fenton-based Kaiser Electric has started work on a \$21.7 million project to renovate the 47-year-old Mark Twain residence hall and Mark Twain Market dining hall at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Kaiser Electric is providing the electrical wiring, lighting, branch circuiting, data and communication service and fire alarm wiring at both facilities.

The general contractor on the project is River City Construction of Ashland, Mo.

Plans for the seven-story residence hall, which closed for renovations in December, include a gut-renovation of the main desk area, restrooms, student quarters, lower level spaces and a main lounge, plus relocation of the entrance, the addition of study rooms throughout, restoration of the exterior façade and replacement of the windows and central air conditioning and heating units.

The facility will house 372 residents.