

Filibuster slows progress on budget negotiations

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — Attempts to kill the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life are attacks on the academic freedom and mission of the university, UM System President Tim Wolfe said this morning.

Debate over the institute's role and activities is one of the issues that has thrown negotiations over next year's state budget into gridlock. Opponents of the institute, led by Sen. Jane Cunningham, R-Chesterfield, began a filibuster in the Senate to block a bill needed to balance the budget, and the House yesterday voted 93 to 59 to outlaw the institute or anything like it.

Initially, Cunningham wanted to bar not only the university from continuing the institute but also any private entity from engaging in its core activities.

"It's an embarrassment. It is a fricking embarrassment," Wolfe said of the legislative actions. Lawmakers are attempting to block the university from training the young people of the state to be leaders, he said. "I think they are going above and beyond what they should be focusing on," Wolfe said. "Having the political leadership in Jefferson City decide what we teach on our campuses goes against our mission."

The Missouri House voted to bar any "public institution of higher education, or campus thereof, political subdivision, quasi-governmental entity, or governmental entity" from operating the institute or "any successor entity to the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, or utilize public funds for any other institute that engages in political activity."

In the Senate, a demand that similar language be included in a bill necessary to balance the state budget tied up the chamber. From shortly after 4 p.m. yesterday until after 3 a.m. today, a filibuster over the institute and a handful of other issues prevented all other action.

The bill under debate, which began as a measure to make it easier for veterans organizations to open thrift stores, authorizes a shift of state money among veterans, early childhood and other programs. The state budget spends money shifted by the bill.

If it does not pass, lawmakers will need to rearrange spending before final votes on the \$24 billion budget. Those final votes must occur before 6 p.m. Friday.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, said a possible compromise on the institute would bar the use of public money for political purposes but not name the institute or specifically outlaw it.

The institute is named for Sue Shear, a Democrat who was a member of the Missouri House from 1973 to 1998. Its stated mission is to track and increase the participation of women in government, train college women leaders and encourage women to seek public office.

Cunningham contends the institute is a partisan organization that promotes a Democratic Party agenda rather than a nonpartisan role.

Institute backers said during the House debate that it has served its purposes well. "We shouldn't tell universities that they can't train women to do whatever they want to do," said Assistant Minority Leader Tishaura Jones, D-St. Louis.

Former House Speaker Catherine Hanaway, who is listed in institute materials as a former faculty member there, said today she supports the effort to kill it. After she criticized the institute, she said, it sought her out to participate in its programs.

Wolfe said he not only considers the legislative actions an attack on academic freedom, but that he has visited the institute to determine whether it was fulfilling its mission in a fair manner.

"It is a bipartisan operation that is intended to attract and educate leaders of both sexes and both parties," he said.

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Another "fricking embarrassment" for Missouri legislature?

Barb Shelly

Academics always wonder if someone outside of their circle will comprehend concepts such as academic freedom.

New University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe, who hails from the business sector, put at least some of those questions to rest today, when he colorfully described the Missouri legislature's attempt to kill a university program as "a fricking embarrassment."

"Having the political leadership in Jefferson City decide what we teach on our campuses goes against our mission," Wolfe told the Columbia Tribune.

Good point. Whatever one may think of the program in the legislature's crosshairs, the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, most of us know meddling when we see it. It's not up to the legislature to decide which university programs have value.

The Sue Shear Institute, located at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, supports and trains women interested in public office and public service. It runs an annual leadership academy, at which young women from around the state spend time with leaders in government, such as judges, elected officials and policy makers. The institute also runs a talent bank of women who are interested and capable of serving on boards and commissions.

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Editorial: Legislative budget talks devolve into 'Shear' madness

By the Editorial Board | Posted: Wednesday, May 9, 2012 12:05 am



Mars Maynard photo - From left to right, University of Missouri Board of Curators President Cheryl Walker, along with state Reps. Maida Coleman and Jamilah Nasheed, discuss state issues at a Feb. 15, 2008, program about woman's leadership. The program at UMSL, "Statehouse Sisters: A Conversation with Women Leaders," was sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, which encourages women to be active in civic affairs.

It's no secret that state Sen. Jane Cunningham, R-Chesterfield, has it out for the Sue Shear Institute.

As far back as 2005, when Ms. Cunningham was in the Missouri House, she was trying to pull funding for the institute at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, claiming it was too "partisan."

The institute is named for the late Clayton Democrat who was the longest-serving woman in the history of the Missouri Legislature. It is dedicated to encouraging and training women to be involved in civic life, including running for office. It does tend to produce more Democrats than Republicans, though that may be a function of geography.

But there are plenty of Republican women who have taken advantage of the institute's programs, including current U.S. House candidate Ann Wagner and former Speaker of the House Catherine Hanaway.

The question of the institute's political leanings is immaterial to the current battle over the \$250,000 in state funding it receives through the University of Missouri.

Here's what matters:

The state's \$24 billion budget is being held up, at least publicly, over which of the following groups deserves to suffer the most: aging veterans, blind Missourians and women who dare to want to be involved in politics.

Lawmakers seem to be able to find money for all sorts of lobbyist-induced binges, whether it's \$2 million for a port that hasn't yet been planned or the same amount for a university project in the district of House Speaker Steve Tilley, R-Perryville.

But the blind, the veterans, and women, well, they'll have to fight over the table scraps, as they are passed from one pile of money to another.

The fact is, as state Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, has made clear, the budget is a mirage. It assumes certain revenue that doesn't exist. Eventually, as has been the case each of the past few years, the governor will be forced to withhold spending from schools to make the budget balance.

This is what happens when term-limited lawmakers are beholden to their campaign donors, or worse, a handful of legislative leaders who control the campaign cash spigot.

The blind, veterans and women — they're just straw characters trotted out by the Republican majority who refuse to consider any cuts to corporate welfare programs or any meaningful solutions to Missouri's revenue deficiencies.

On the same day the Missouri House voted to cut funding to train women for public service, it gave nearly the same amount of money in a handout to a Canadian company that transports highly radioactive material across the state, by cutting its fees and eliminating safety inspections.

That just about says it all.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

UMSL's Shear Institute the flash point of state budget debate

BY VIRGINIA YOUNG vyoung@post-dispatch.com > 573-635-6178 | Posted: Wednesday, May 9, 2012 12:05 am | [\(Loading...\) comments.](#)

NO MU MENTION

JEFFERSON CITY • For 16 years, a little-noticed institute at the University of Missouri-St. Louis has been trying to increase the number of women in governmental, civic and policymaking roles.

The institute, which holds leadership seminars and helps women network, is named for the late Sue Shear, a Clayton Democrat who served in the Missouri House for 26 years, longer than any other woman.

But on Monday night, her namesake, the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, became a flash point when the House debated an amendment to bar the university from operating the program — or any like it.

In impassioned speeches, Republican women called the institute partisan and unnecessary, while Democratic women said jettisoning it would be a step backward in the battle for equality.

"This is the barefoot, pregnant and stay-in-the-kitchen amendment," said Rep. Sara Lampe, D-Springfield.

Rep. Sue Allen, R-Town and Country, and the sponsor of the amendment, responded: "I don't want any special treats or advantages."

The Republican-dominated House agreed with Allen, adopting her amendment on a 93-59 vote. The bill, which deals with higher education, now returns to the Senate, where its fate is unclear with only eight days left in the legislative session.

The fight over the institute — which receives about \$250,000 a year in state funds — threatens to tie up the entire \$24 billion state budget, as well as scores of other bills awaiting final action. Friday is the constitutional deadline to pass the budget; the session's mandatory adjournment is May 18.

The main force behind the drive to eliminate the institute is Sen. Jane Cunningham, R-Chesterfield, who is serving in her last legislative session because of redistricting.

Cunningham, who served eight years in the House before moving to the Senate in 2008, contends that the institute is slanted toward Democrats. She said she requested interns through the program several times but never received any.

"I never even got a call back over three elections," she said.

She said that two female students later asked her why she didn't participate in an intern program.

"They were told no Republicans asked for interns," Cunningham said.

She said the organization also forwards emails asking for volunteers for politicians.

The university calls the complaint a misunderstanding. A university spokesman said UMSL's political science department often forwards emails to students about volunteer or internship opportunities, so Cunningham may have mistakenly assumed that those emails were coming from the Shear Institute.

Also, one year, the institute asked women candidates whether they had openings they would like posted in a jobs bank that the institute's graduates could peruse. But no students participated, and the project was dropped, said Vivian Eveloff, the program's longtime executive director.

Since then, "there's always been this mistrust, which I'm not sure of the basis for, because we have always worked very hard to make sure nothing we did was partisan," Eveloff said in an interview Tuesday.

Indeed, the institute's roster of seminar faculty over the years includes statewide officeholders, Cabinet heads, legislators, mayors and judges who hail from both political parties.

Take the annual Leadership Academy, a weeklong workshop that encourages college-age women to consider elected or appointed positions in government or policymaking.

It culminates with a mock legislative session in Jefferson City and a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion, where the college women are paired with women from various Jefferson City jobs.

Republican Trish Vincent helped mentor women at the events regularly when she was a top official in former Gov. Matt Blunt's administration. Vincent, who is now chief of staff to state Auditor Tom Schweich, said she did not view the institute as political.

"I still believe there's a glass ceiling, and I think (the institute is) telling these young women, showing them there are role models out there and if you work hard, you can achieve," Vincent said. "That's my view of what the institute is."

Others who have taught classes or served on panels include Democrats such as Secretary of State Robin Carnahan and state Rep. Tishaura Jones of St. Louis, as well as Republicans such as former state Treasurer Sarah Steelman and former House Speaker Catherine Hanaway.

Not that all are fans of the institute.

Hanaway said Tuesday that she sides with Cunningham in favoring elimination of the institute. Hanaway said she served on the institute's advisory board when she was in the House.

"But I always had the impression that I was a token, that I was being used to demonstrate bipartisanship. I don't recall ever having attended a board meeting, or even being notified of one," Hanaway said.

She also questioned the institute's effectiveness. Of the House's 163 members, 41 are women, a level that is about the same as when she was in the House eight years ago, Hanaway said.

In fact, 41 is a record high. The number of women in the House dropped as low as 31 in 2007 after hitting 40 in 2001.

The institute says its programs are purely educational and have helped women break down barriers to civic participation.

"Over and over again, we get these testimonials: 'I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing now; it changed my life'," Eveloff said.

Republican women in the House dismissed that idea.

"If women really want to be treated equally, they need to stop asking for special dispensation," said Rep. Kathie Conway, R-St. Charles.

The party split was evident on the vote to scrap the institute: 16 Republican women favored the amendment, while 23 Democratic women opposed it. Two Republican women were absent.

None had served with Shear, who died in 1998, shortly before the ceremony where the institute was given her name.

But her role as a trailblazer drew one tribute on Monday, from Rep. Jones.

Shear, the ninth woman to ever serve in the House, was known for her persistence in the male-dominated chamber — for example, sponsoring the Equal Rights Amendment for years and ending her career with an unsuccessful push for gun safety legislation for children.

"I recognize that I stand on the shoulders of Sue Shear, as every woman in this body does," Jones said.

The amendment disbanding the institute is part of SB455.



UMKC considers dropping Missouri from its name

By Janese Silvey

The University of Missouri-Kansas City is considering dropping the state from the campus's name and returning to its original moniker, the University of Kansas City.

"We are exploring this possibility in order to more clearly reflect our strong ties to the greater Kansas City community," spokesman John Martellaro said. "We are Kansas City's university, the only research university within the city limits."

Administrators are studying the possible implications of a name change, including whether dropping Missouri would discourage students not living in or near Kansas City from considering the school, he said. The change also would be an attempt to nix any notion that UMKC is a branch campus of MU.

The change would have to be approved by the UM System Board of Curators, which has not yet seen the proposal. If approved, it would be the latest in a string of name changes across the four-campus system and would leave St. Louis as the sole campus with a location following the UM brand.

In 2008, the former UM-Rolla became the Missouri University of Science and Technology, and curators in late 2007 agreed that MU could simply refer to itself as the University of Missouri without using Columbia as a distinguisher.

The latter change came with some opposition from UMKC and UM-St. Louis. That's why the proposal seems ironic, said Leona Rubin, an associate professor of veterinary medicine and MU's representative on the Intercampus Faculty Council. "There was tremendous pushback about Mizzou doing it," she said.

But Rubin doesn't oppose the change and suggested it might benefit MU if all other campuses dropped the UM from their names. "There's no rule that says we all have to be the UM System at wherever," she said.

MU doesn't have an official stance on the proposed name change. "Certainly we would support whatever is in the best interests of UMKC and the UM System," spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said in an email.

At first nod, Curator Wayne Goode of St. Louis is not convinced UM campuses ought to be shedding the system brand.

"My thought for a long time has been that we're all part of the University of Missouri, and all of the campuses should reflect that," he said. "I think the one university concept is important, and there's a benefit to that."

Kansas City Curator Warren Erdman said he's open to the idea — former Rolla Chancellor Jack Carney made a convincing pitch that each of the campuses needs an individual brand, he said.

"UMKC is an urban university, and its peer institutions are not the same as Columbia or Rolla or St. Louis," he said. "They may give that consideration."

Erdman said the campus would need to thoroughly analyze a name change and do "due diligence" before bringing a formal proposal to the board. That's what happened in Rolla's case, he said.

"We had an opportunity to hear reasons and understand how stakeholders felt, and they made their case," he said. "UMKC has not done that."

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UMKC considers changing name to University of Kansas City

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

Leo Morton was sitting in a restaurant near the University of Missouri-Kansas City recently when a waiter asked about the kangaroo pin on his jacket's lapel.

"I told him the kangaroo is the mascot for UMKC," recalled Morton, the school's chancellor. "He said, 'Oh, I thought you guys were the Tigers.'"

That encounter got Morton thinking that it's time to act on a long-percolating idea: Drop the "University of Missouri" and return the school to its original name, the University of Kansas City.

"We are not a branch of the University of Missouri Tigers," Morton said, a hint of frustration in his voice. With a medical school, a dental school, a law school, a conservatory of music and dance, a school of pharmacy and a nursing school, UMKC is the only university research institution in the city.

However, it also is one of four campuses, including the one in Columbia, that make up the University of Missouri System.

The UMKC Roos wear blue and gold.

MU's Tigers wear black and gold and hold court about a two-hour drive to the east.

Morton said the name change would better identify the university with its mission to be a model urban research university that's actively engaged with its city and region.

"A name defines who you are, but it also defines whose you are," he said.

Eighty percent of students enrolled at UMKC come from the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area and 75 percent of its graduates stay in the city, Morton said. "We are Kansas City's university and our name should suggest that."

The school began as the University of Kansas City in 1929. It didn't become the University of Missouri-Kansas City until 1963, when it joined the University of Missouri System.

Experts in university marketing say they have noticed more schools “rebranding” to try to better explain their value to donors and potential students.

In the beginning of 2008, the University of Missouri-Rolla changed its name to the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

That same year, a controversy brewed over the University of Missouri-Columbia’s decision to drop “Columbia” from its name as a way to distinguish itself from Missouri State University and make it clear that MU and not MSU is the state’s flagship university.

Faculty and campus leaders at the system’s three other schools — Kansas City, St. Louis and Rolla — argued at the time that if the Columbia campus became the University of Missouri, it would make the others seem like satellite campuses.

UMKC spokesman John Martellaro said Monday that a name change would not be an attempt to distance the school from the university system.

“It’s just the opposite,” he said. “As far as we are concerned, our commitment to the University of Missouri System has never been stronger. We are always looking for a way to make UMKC stronger, as that only benefits the University of Missouri System.”

Rebranding the university, starting with a name change that would include new promotions and redoing campus signage and stationery, could cost more than a half-million dollars, Morton said. The money would have to be raised from donors because it could not be taken from state funds, he said.

He said he broached the name-change idea a week ago at a UMKC Faculty Senate meeting.

“In a way, we were asked to test the waters and get some sentiment on the issue of changing the name,” said Gary Ebersole, senate chairman.

Although faculty members have not had time to analyze all the pros and cons, Ebersole said, “there appears to be support for the idea. There was no opposition to a change vocalized.”

Some faculty members think a name change would be an advantage for raising money from Kansas City philanthropists wanting to support the city’s school, he said.

Morton said he hadn’t had a chance yet to discuss the idea with alumni. He said they might be the hardest sell because they have diplomas and certificates emblazoned with the school’s current name.

He said he would meet with alumni later this month, and no action will be taken until the university has had a chance to talk more with faculty, students, administrators and community members.

Restaurateur and community leader Ollie Gates, a former UMKC trustee, said he doesn't mind the idea of the university going back to its old name.

"I think people in Kansas City would feel more connected to it," Gates said.

A name change would require approval from the UM Board of Curators, who so far have not received any proposal from UMKC detailing the cost or process.

"It is too premature..." said Jennifer Hollingshead, system spokesperson.

Curator Warren Erdman of Kansas City said that when he does see a proposal from the UMKC campus making a compelling case for a name change, "I would have to evaluate that along with how the stakeholders — students, faculty, alumni and surrounding community — feel about it. But I would be very open-minded to it."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



Mo. House backs limits on child care rating system

Associated Press | Posted: Tuesday, May 8, 2012 1:17 pm | [\(Loading...\) comments.](#)

The Missouri House has approved a measure intended to block rating systems from being used at child care centers and preschools.

The child care measure passed Tuesday is tied to legislation that also would create a dedicated funding stream for state veterans' homes. Both items have been at the center of a legislative logjam that so far has prevented the state's \$24 billion budget from passing.

Some Republican lawmakers want to stop the implementation of a five-star rating system developed at the University of Missouri-Columbia. They contend it could wrongly put some child care centers at a disadvantage.

The House attached the child care and veterans' measure as an amendment Monday to a bill dealing with the state militia. That bill now must go back to the Senate.

MU professor dedicated to education, knowledge

By Karee Hackel

May 8, 2012 | 8:19 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — John Miles Foley was more than simply a college professor. He was considered the foremost authority in the area of scholarship deemed oral tradition.

"John has many times referred to oral tradition at the world's oldest thought technology," said Mark Jarvis, IT manager at the Center of Studies of Oral Tradition and the Center of eResearch and friend of Mr. Foley's. "Oral tradition is the way that ideas, art and technology are transmitted from generation to generation or just between people without writing." Mr. Foley died Thursday, May 3, 2012. He was 65.

According to the MU Department of English, Mr. Foley graduated with his doctorate from University of Massachusetts in 1974. He served at MU as director and founder of the Center for Studies of Oral Tradition and the Center for eResearch, as well as a curators' professor and professor of both classical studies and English. Mr. Foley studied as a student under Albert Lord, a scholar in the study of oral tradition, said Milbre Burch, Ph.D candidate in the MU department of theater, award-winning storyteller and former student of Foley's.

"John was a student of Albert Lord and as a result of that and his ongoing work in the field, the Lord family gave his papers to John and the university library last year," Burch said. "This was a tremendous gift due to John's incredible work in the area." Mr. Foley studied the oldest forms of thought technology such as epic poems in comparison to the newest forms of thought technology such as the Internet, Jarvis said.

"John was able to really bring a scholarly analysis of oral tradition," Jarvis said. "You can do field work and you can collect research, but John really began the work of how oral tradition works and is transmitted." Jarvis said Mr. Foley worked to create the oral formulaic theory, which indicates how methods of communication and transmitting knowledge in non-textual forms takes place. Mr. Foley also founded the Oral Traditions Journal, which is dedicated to the multidisciplinary study and research of oral tradition.

"The study of oral tradition requires a lot of different disciplines, such as linguistics and anthropology, in order to truly investigate it," Jarvis said. "John pretty much solidified this study." Jarvis said Mr. Foley went out of his way to make his research readily available. As the editor of the Oral Tradition Journal, Foley was adamant about his work being democratic and free to all, he said. Jarvis recalls this being the guiding light in all that Foley did.

"John was very interested in making knowledge open access to all. The Oral Tradition Journal is distributed online all around the world," Jarvis said. "We have readers in over 200 countries. It is truly international." Burch said Mr. Foley was dedicated to making his researcher widely accessible on the web.

"I think John's generosity as a scholar and human being is clear when you go on the oral tradition website which is an open site for scholarship on oral tradition," Burch said. "He was very interested in connecting people to the wide body of info around the world that has been gathered on oral tradition."

The Oral Tradition Journal and Center for Oral Tradition celebrated its 25th anniversary in February 2011. Jarvis said the most recent issue of the Oral Tradition Journal is a Festschrift, which is a German term meaning a book or pieces of work that serve as a celebration of an individual's cumulative work or career. This edition of the journal is composed of pieces entirely done by Mr. Foley's students.

"It is a fitting tribute to John's standing as one of the greatest scholars in the field and a really excellent mentor to so many students over the years," Jarvis said. Throughout his 30-plus years as a professor, Mr. Foley mentored many of his students. Mr. Foley would co-author papers with his students, encourage them to do great work and help them in many generous ways, Jarvis said.

"He was an incredibly generous and kind man as well as being an engaging and awe-inspiring professor in one of the fields that I believe has been one of the best kept secrets," Burch said. Burch credits Mr. Foley as one of the reasons that the study of oral tradition is still in existence. Jarvis recalls Mr. Foley as being "a true educator."

"John was really interested in the field of oral tradition and was a really great teacher to his students," Jarvis said. "He was able to understand that when you bring students along and give them the tools to do good scholarship, you have a much greater impact."

A memorial service will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Great Room of Reynolds Alumni Center at MU.