KC group gives $30 million to MU for athletic upgrades

By TEREZ A. PAYLOR

COLUMBIA -- With the University of Missouri a few days away from joining the Southeastern Conference, the school announced its intention to “step up” to the challenge.

Missouri athletic director Mike Alden announced Tuesday a sweeping $200 million master plan to improve the school’s athletic facilities. The Tigers become an official SEC member on Sunday.

The two-phase plan will begin with an initial focus on projects totaling $102 million, $30 million of which will come from a private gift pledged by the Kansas City Sports Trust. The rest, $72 million, will be paid for with revenue from additional premium seating at Memorial Stadium.

“We wanted to show the country that Missouri … is serious about stepping up in a big way,” Alden said.

The school’s Board of Curators unanimously approved the first phase of the plan Tuesday afternoon after a presentation from Alden, who then held a news conference announcing the $30 million gift, which he said was the second-largest in school history.

The athletic department unveiled renderings of the projects, which include upgrades to MU’s football, baseball, softball, tennis, golf and track and field complexes.

Football, however, figures to benefit most from the planned renovations. The Tigers are about to move into the most competitive football conference in the country — the SEC has won the last six national titles — and the first phase of the plan includes multiple upgrades to Memorial Stadium.

It calls for the construction of an upper bowl on the east side of the stadium that will add more than 5,000 general admission and 1,000 premium seats, plus restrooms, concessions and lounge spaces. That expansion is scheduled to be completed before the 2015 season.

More work is scheduled to be done by next season, including a $9.75 million renovation to the west side press box that will add new suite and club seating. Structural improvements to the stadium and the extension of the north plaza — moving the “Rock M” and berm closer to the end zone — for possible new seating areas are also planned.

In all, Alden said, the initial phase will increase Memorial Stadium’s capacity from 71,004 to a little more than 75,000. The second phase could increase capacity to as much as 80,000.
"I remember 11 years ago, we looked at something and saw what it could be," Alden said of football
coach Gary Pinkel, whom he hired. "The success of our football program the last five, six years has
propelled us to these heights."

The second phase — to be completed within eight to 10 years, Alden said — includes a new, larger
indoor football practice facility and an additional weight room. The south side of the stadium also stands
to be renovated — Pinkel said the coaches’ offices will one day be moved into a new structure there.

"It’s a huge statement about the commitment the University of Missouri has in trying to achieve
greatness," Pinkel said. "When it’s all said and done, we’ll be in the top half (of the SEC) and probably
the top ten in college football. So we’re doing the right things."

And while Tuesday’s announcements were grand and majestic, they weren’t without a bit of comedy,
particularly when Alden thanked the Kansas City Sports Trust for the $30 million donation — though he
repeatedly declined to name the individual donors behind it.

"What a wonderful statement by the Kansas City — let me repeat that, Kansas City… Sports Trust,"
Alden said, referring to comments made a month ago by Big 12 officials who boasted that Kansas City
was a Big 12 town.

The Kansas City Sports Trust, which is administered by the law firm of Stinson, Morrison and Hecker,
previously gave a $10 million gift to the MU athletic department in 2004. That matched the third-largest
gift in MU history at the time.

"It was a trust formed by people who wish to remain anonymous but were interested then, and continue to
be interested in, supporting the athletic programs at the University of Missouri," said Mark Foster, the
trustee of the Kansas City Sports Trust and former managing partner at Stinson, Morrison, and Hecker.

"We’ve never disclosed information about our donations one way or the other."

Alden asked all of "Tiger Nation" to chip in to the ongoing capital campaign. The school may have a
$102 million jumpstart on the $200 million project, but Alden asked fans not to be "armchair
quarterbacks" during such an important moment in the school’s history.

"This is going to give our program a chance to succeed for many decades," Alden said.
Backed by $30 million gift, MU unveils master facility plan

By DAVE MATTER

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Five days before Missouri officially joins the Southeastern Conference, MU took its first steps in the league's facility arms race.

Mizzou Facilities Master Plan

After a brief presentation from Athletic Director Mike Alden, the UM System Board of Curators unanimously approved MU’s first phase for athletic upgrades, a bond-financed project totaling $72 million to renovate the east and west sides of Memorial Stadium, plus other smaller projects to other athletic facilities. The total projected costs for the master plan is $102 million.

The other $30 million will come from a donation by the Kansas City Sports Trust. MU did not disclose the identity of any individual boosters associated with the group. The same group donated $10 million to the MU athletic department for facility upgrades in 2004. The donation is the second largest in the school’s history and was described as the launching point of a comprehensive $200 million facility overhaul that MU hopes to complete within the next eight to 10 years, Alden said.

Alden described the day’s news as a making a “statement to the country, and not just to the SEC and the state of Missouri but to the country, that Mizzou is an institution that’s serious, completely serious, about stepping up in a big way.”

“It’s a proud moment when you can hold your head high and say, ‘We’re doing it right at Missouri,’ ” said Chancellor Brady Deaton during a news conference alongside UM President Tim Wolfe, Curator David Bradley and Alden.

MU unveiled the renovation plans with six artist renditions of Memorial Stadium (football), Taylor Stadium (baseball), University Field (softball) and revamped tennis and golf facilities. Among the additions will be a new indoor football practice facility planned for the area behind the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex and an additional weight room.

As part of the plans for Memorial Stadium, MU will add an upper bowl on the east side of the stadium with more than 5,000 general admission seats and a club level with more than 1,000 seats, along with restrooms, concessions, lounge spaces, kitchen, support and circulation spaces. The east-side addition
will cost an estimated a $46.05 million, of which $45.44 million will come from revenue bonds and $500,000 from MU Campus Facilities Utility Reserves. MU recommended the architecture firm Populous Kansas City to handle the project for a basic service fee of $1,876,200. The same firm built the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex. The east-side addition is expected to be completed in July 2015.

MU also proposed a $9.75 million renovation of the press box on the west side of the stadium, all funded through revenue bonds. The project will relocate a portion of the press area to the upper deck with the creation of an enclosed, conditioned space. The vacated press areas will be converted to suites, while the current club and suite levels will receive updated finishes. For the west-side project, MU recommended 360 Architecture of Kansas City for a basic service fee of $543,975. The west-side construction is expected to be completed in August 2013.

Also for the 2013 season, MU will move the Rock M and berm on the north end of the stadium closer to the end zone to expand the north concourse for improved seating.

“What you’re seeing is a commitment to becoming a great team in a great league,” football Coach Gary Pinkel said. “And that means becoming a national team as we continue to build our programs.”

Missouri expects to finance the bulk of the $72 million project through increased revenue from the sales of additional premium seating on the existing west tower and the new east tower, plus an $8 ticket surcharge that will go toward debt relief. The project’s debt financing plan is based on a 30-year amortization at 5 percent.

Memorial Stadium’s current capacity is 71,004, which would rank 10th in the newly expanded 14-member Southeastern Conference, ahead of only Kentucky (67,942), Mississippi (60,580), Mississippi State (55,082) and Vanderbilt (39,790). Arkansas’ Razorback Stadium (76,000) would be next on the list to surpass.

Alden said he expects the first phase of renovations to push MU’s capacity past 75,000, and should MU continue to collect donations and expand capacity, the stadium could seat 80,000 sometime in the next decade.

Missouri and Texas A&M formally become the newest members of the SEC on Sunday, both leaving behind the Big 12.
MU athletics department announces $30 million donation from Kansas City Sports Trust

The MU athletics department received a $30 million donation from the Kansas City Sports Trust, the second largest private donation in MU history.

The donation comes in conjunction with the department’s $102 million facilities renovation plan, which the UM System Board of Curators unanimously approved Tuesday. The plan calls for the renovation of Memorial Stadium, as well as renovations for the baseball, golf, softball and tennis complexes.

"I'm humbled by the fact that I have a chance to be up here with this type of leadership in our state and talk about the gift of $30 million to this institution," Athletics Director Mike Alden said at a press conference following the curators' vote.

The $30 million donation is the second largest private gift the university has ever received, trailing only a $31 million contribution from the Reynolds Foundation to the Missouri School of Journalism, MU spokesman Christian Basi said. It marks the second major gift the athletics department has received from the Kansas City Sports Trust, which contributed $10 million in 2004.

Mark Foster, a partner of the Kansas City law firm of Stinson, Morrison, Hecker LLP that administers the trust, said the group is made up of anonymous donors who have ties to MU.

"The trust is designed to benefit the Missouri athletics program," Foster said. "Obviously, the motivation is to assist in transitioning into the SEC."

Chancellor Brady Deaton said alumni throughout the country have expressed excitement over MU’s move to the SEC.

"We’re really just so grateful to the donors that expressed that kind of confidence in the university," Deaton said. "I meant it when I said we're using this every opportunity we can to take a new start in every direction."
The $30 million donation brings the cost of the renovation plan down to $72 million. The department plans to fund the remaining amount through increased revenue from additional seating, as well as debt financing that includes bonding and borrowing.

The plan will add about 6,000 seats to the stadium, which currently has a seating capacity of 71,004. Alden said he also expects revenue increases to come from raising prices for premium seating and an increased visiting team allotment. These measures were part of a plan he outlined in "A Letter to Tiger Nation" in February.

Alden said the $102 million plan approved Tuesday is only the beginning. He said the athletics department hopes to eventually execute the rest of its $200 million master plan, which has not been proposed yet.

Alden said the department built its master plan based on a study conducted by Conventions Sports and Leisure, a nationally renowned marketing firm that has worked with the university to plan the past renovations of Mizzou Arena and the Memorial Stadium press box.

"We’re very confident in our ability to generate support for our premium seating and the additional seating, based upon the study," Alden said.

At the press conference, Alden unveiled painted projections of what the new facilities will look like upon completion and set tentative completion dates of 2013 for the east side of Memorial Stadium; 2015 for the west side; and either 2014 or 2015 for the other five complexes.

Alden said he got emotional when discussing the path he and football coach Gary Pinkel have taken over the last 11 years to elevate the football program to a position where it could join a new, competitive conference.

"I would say the speed and scope of what you saw today and we talked about today certainly has a direct correlation to our move to the SEC," Alden said.

Pinkel shared the sentiment that the donation and plan represent a widespread commitment to stepping up in the field of athletics.

"It’s a huge statement of the commitment that the University of Missouri has in trying to achieve greatness," Pinkel said.
University of Missouri stadium expansion wins approval

ALAN SCHER ZAGIER
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Missouri isn’t waiting until it officially joins the Southeastern Conference on July 1 to make a big splash in the college football arms race.

University curators on Tuesday quickly and unanimously approved a request by athletic director Mike Alden to borrow $72 million through the sale of revenue bonds to add more than 6,000 seats to Memorial Stadium, which has a capacity of 71,004. Moments later, Alden announced a $30 million donation from the Kansas City Sports Trust — the second largest private donation of any kind in school history — for further football facilities upgrades.

“When we joined the SEC, we knew we had to step up to a new level,” said David Bradley, chairman of the university governing board.

The expansion will add 5,200 bleacher seats on the stadium’s east side and more than 1,000 premium seats, along with new restrooms, lounges and concession stands. Missouri also plans to add more enclosed luxury suites on the stadium’s west side and expand a concourse at the stadium’s north entrance that would provide room to add more seating in the future.

Even with the addition, Missouri will still rank ninth in stadium size among the 14 SEC schools. Eight of those schools have stadiums that hold at least 80,000, with Bryant-Denny Stadium at Alabama and Tennessee’s Neyland Stadium topping 100,000.

The $30 million gift will allow Missouri to build a new indoor practice facility and add a weight room to its athletics training complex. The projects are part of a 10-year athletics master plan that calls for a total investment in Missouri sports of $200 million, with the balance of the needed money provided by other private donors, Alden said.

A 30-year debt financing plan will cover the expansion, but Missouri expects to more than recoup that investment through the sale of additional premium seats and luxury boxes. Alden said football season ticket sales and donations have shot up since the school announced its move from the Big 12 Conference in November.
"We will sell more tickets than we ever have in the history of the University of Missouri," Alden told a recent gathering of Tiger football boosters.

Football coach Gary Pinkel, a vocal advocate of increased spending on athletics since Missouri opted to head south, said the investment bodes well as he joins a league that has produced the last six BCS champions.

“I’ve often expressed that if you’re not going to be committed to excellence, and to invest, then you should never go into this league,” he said. “It’s a great statement by our administration.”

The financing plan also will allow Missouri to improve its tennis and golf facilities as well as its softball and baseball stadiums. Missouri ranks near the bottom of its new conference in terms of annual expenses on athletics, as well as athletics revenue and recruiting budgets.
Mizzou puts money into upgrades

COLUMBIA, MO. — Changing how the athletes will look when they compete in the Southeastern Conference was one thing.

But the unveiling of those new-look uniforms in the spring was nothing compared with how Missouri celebrated the final countdown to officially becoming a member of the SEC.

The university revealed the details of what it hopes will become a $200 million facilities upgrade Tuesday as the Board of Curators approved the athletic department's master plan with its emphasis on the expansion of Faurot Field.

The first $102 million in updates is ready to launch with the help of a $30 million gift from the Kansas City Sports Trust. The remainder of the initial phase will be paid for with bond financing.

Work will be completed in stages over the next three years, including the addition of 5,000 general-admission seats and 1,000 club seats on the east side of the football stadium.

"I'm sure the SEC was thinking, 'OK, do these guys understand what it's going to take to step it up?"" athletics director Mike Alden said. "I think when they see this amount of work coming out of the chute, it will tell them Mizzou is really serious."

Missouri will officially become a member of the SEC on Sunday.

Before hearing Alden's final presentation, the curators spent considerable time discussing the university's $1.4 billion in outstanding debt and whether they were willing to risk a lower credit rating with the addition of expensive projects.

But the only question Alden faced was how the cost would be covered. Assured that increased ticket revenue from additional seating and price increases would be sufficient, the master plan was passed quickly and unanimously.

"When we joined the SEC, we knew we were going to have to step up to a new level," said David Bradley, board chairman.

The expansion at Faurot is expected to be completed by the 2015 season, increasing capacity from 71,004 to about 77,000. A second expansion planned for the southern end will be predicated on fund-raising efforts and would push seating to more than 80,000, Alden said.

Stadium upgrades will also include a press box renovation, expansion of the north concourse and structural improvements. The rock "M" will be moved closer to the north end zone to provide more space in the concourse. A new indoor practice facility also is planned but has not been designed.
"It's great for many reasons but it's huge for recruiting," football coach Gary Pinkel said. "Players want to go to a place where they're going to have excellent facilities as good as anyone in the country. That's what we're going to have."

The initial plans call for improvements in the tennis, baseball, softball and golf facilities.

A study conducted for Mizzou by an outside firm showed that revenue from new and premium football seating will cover the cost over time.

Alden said early indications are good. Mizzou is about 16 percent ahead of last year's pace for football season tickets with a goal of selling at least 45,000. The Tiger scholarship fund has seen a 19 percent increase.

The $30 million gift, the second-largest in university history, was a major boon as well. But the fundraising effort will continue in an attempt to make the remainder of the master plan possible.

"I'd try to be conservative and say it will be eight to 10 years," Alden said. "That's going to be predicated on our ability to continue to generate major gifts. They aren't all going to be $30 million, obviously."

The second phase of the master plan would include improvements for Mizzou Arena, Hearnes Center, the aquatics center and the track and field and soccer stadium, among other things.

"I feel proud that football has had a lot to do with it, but we've also done well in a lot of other sports," Pinkel said. "The most important thing is what are we going to do with this great opportunity?"
Mizzou Athletics announces major facility upgrade plan

The $200 million plan was jump-started after the department received the second-largest single donation in MU history.

For just a brief moment Tuesday evening — five days before Missouri would officially become members of the Southeastern Conference — athletics director Mike Alden pardoned himself behind a glass podium.

On what he continually referred to as a “historic day” and a day that was “a statement to the country,” he paused in between his long monologue of praise for all involved in the athletics department who would be responsible for making the six art renderings to his right become a reality in the future: the renovated football, baseball, softball, tennis and golf facilities.

“In particular, Gary Pinkel,” he said. "I remember 11 years ago, we looked at something and said, ‘What could be?’ Because it wasn’t there when we got together 11 years ago. It wasn’t there when Gary Pinkel decided to come to the University of Missouri 11 years ago. But I think we saw something. We saw opportunity. We saw ability for us to work collectively as an institution. It cannot be understated: the success of our football program, in particular, in the past six or seven years in this country absolutely propelled us to new heights and opportunities as we enter the SEC.”

With the UM System Board of Curators’ unanimous vote of agreement, Missouri will embark on a master plan worth up to $200 million to improve athletic facilities. The first phase of the plan focuses on projects that could reach a total of $102 million, with funding coming from $72 million in bond finances. MU expects to relieve debt based on a 30-year amortization plan at 5 percent through increased revenue from ticket sales of existing and future additional seating.

A $30 million private donation from the Kansas City Sports Trust, MU’s second-largest single donation, jump-started the plan. There were gasps after chancellor Brady Deaton’s announcement.

“I can tell you that it’s a proud moment when you can hold your head high and say, ‘We’re doing it right at Missouri,’” he said alongside UM System President Tim Wolfe and chairman David Bradley. “We’re doing it right in every way.”

When he spoke of the donation, Alden emphasized Kansas City, Mo., which hosted the Big 12 Conference Tournament and celebrated Missouri basketball’s championship in March.

“What a wonderful statement about what it means to people throughout our state about how excited they are that we’re going to be entering the SEC come July 1,” Alden said.

The majority of the project’s financing will go toward Memorial Stadium, where more than 5,000 seats, along with a premium club level of more than 1,000 seats, will be added with restrooms, concessions and
lounging areas on the east side, which is expected to be completed by the 2015 season. Other upgrades to
the stadium will include press box renovations and enhancements to the north concourse for fans by the
2013 season.

"I’ve often expressed that, if you’re not going to be committed to excellence and doing the best, then you
should never go into this league," Pinkel said. "What you’re seeing is a commitment to becoming a great
team in a great league, and that means becoming a national team."

Pinkel was asked if his visions from 11 years ago were being realized with the future plans in place for
the facility upgrades.

"I don’t know," he said. "I mean, shoot, that was a long time ago. I feel proud that (football has) made our
contribution. But the most important thing is, what are you going to do with it now?"
Mizzou looking to expand stadium

June, 26, 2012  By Edward Aschoff | ESPN.com

Missouri unveiled its long-promised plans to upgrade its athletic facilities as it prepares for its move to the SEC.

One of those facilities expected to get an upgrade is Missouri's football stadium, Memorial Stadium. The Tigers' home currently has a capacity of 71,004, but the plan is to add at least 6,000 more seats, including 5,200 bleacher seats on the stadium's east side and 800 to 900 premium seats. New restrooms, lounges and concession stands are also expected.

Missouri athletic director Mike Alden will present the proposal to university curators on Tuesday afternoon, and a vote is expected Wednesday morning.

Mizzou is also seeking to improve its tennis and golf facilities and its softball and baseball stadiums. The projects would cost $72 million in 30-year debt financing through revenue bonds. A plan summary suggests Missouri would recoup its entire investment through the sale of additional premium seats and luxury boxes.

I took my first trip to Memorial Stadium this spring when I visited the Tigers and the first thing that stood out to me was the size of the stadium. While I liked the rustic feel, I did think the venue was a bit small. But size isn't everything when it comes to impressive home environments.

Look at Arkansas' Razorback Stadium or Mississippi State's Davis Wade Stadium. The Hogs and Bulldogs currently play in venues with capacities of 72,000 and 55,082, respectively. Last time I checked, those weren't exactly the easiest places to play in the league.

To see the capacities of all 14 SEC teams, check out this blog post from The Jackson (Miss.) Clarion Ledger's Brandon Marcello.

The added seats would rank Mizzou ninth in the SEC in stadium capacity, with eight holding at least 80,000. So Missouri still won't be one of the leaders of the pack when it comes to venue size, but seats don't make the atmosphere, fans do. Sure, more can make more noise, but that doesn't mean a smaller number of fans can't make things intimidating for visiting teams.

Let's see what Georgia players have to say about Mizzou's atmosphere after Sept. 8.
SEC-bound Missouri unveils inevitable expansion plans for Faurot Field

By Matt Hinton | CBSSports.com College Football Blogger

June 25, 2012 7:10 pm ET

New conference, new demands: Expecting a surge in attendance following its defection from the Big 12 to the SEC, Missouri announced plans today for a $72 million renovation project that will add at least 6,000 new seats to Memorial Stadium, expanding total capacity to 77,000.

The plan – announced on the same day as a "major private gift" to the Mizzou athletic department – calls for 5,200 bleacher seats on the stadium's east side, along with 800 to 900 premium seats and the obligatory addition of new luxury suites on the west side, sales of which are expected to fund most (if not all) of the construction. A newly expanded concourse at the stadium's north entrance will also provide room for another seating increase at some point in the not-too-distant future. Athletic director Mike Alden will formally present the proposal Tuesday at a meeting of Mizzou's Board of Curators, who are expected to vote on Wednesday amid ongoing protests over budget cuts elsewhere in the university.

Officially, Mizzou averaged a little over 62,000 per game last year, up slightly from 2010 but down from the averages in 2008 and 2009 – the best seasons at Faurot Field since 1980. At any rate, the Tigers are entering a whole new league, literally and figuratively: Where last year's attendance ranked fourth in the Big 12, behind only Texas, Texas A&M and Oklahoma, the post-expansion capacity will rank just ninth in the SEC. With in-conference road trips to South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee and Texas A&M, the only stadium Mizzou will play in this fall
smaller than its own is Central Florida's Bright House Networks Stadium (capacity 45,300) on Sept. 29.

Fun Memorial Stadium fact, according to the school: Legend has it that, during the stadium's initial construction in 1925, a rock crusher and truck were buried in the course of dynamite blasts, and remain entombed beneath the field to this day, Jimmy Hoffa-style. Maybe that explains why the turf has sometimes seemed to be haunted?

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The University of Missouri-Columbia is requesting $46 million to fund upgrades to its football stadium. In preparation for its move to the Southeastern Conference (SEC) this fall, the University of Missouri-Columbia is investing in its athletic infrastructure in order to meet increased demand for both general stadium seating as well as a variety of premium seating options.

The university is requesting $72 million in athletic facility improvements, with about $46 million of that total devoted to enhancing the university’s football venue, Memorial Stadium.

In a Board of Curators document, the $46 million price tag will be funded by $45.6 million from revenue bonds and $500,000 from MU Campus Facilities Utility reserves for “utility infrastructure improvements.”

Those enhancements include the addition of spectator seating on the east side of Memorial Stadium including about 5,200 bleacher seats, 800 to 900 premium seats and additional restrooms, concessions, lounge spaces, kitchen and other spaces.

According to the document, the university has recommended Populous Kansas City as the project architect for a fee of $1.9 million. The firm constructed the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex.

The press box is also getting a few upgrades at a cost of $9.8 million, funded by revenue bonds. The project includes relocating a portion of the existing press box to the upper deck by creating
additional enclosed space. The vacated press box spaces will be converted into suite seating. The university has recommended 360 Architecture of Kansas City as the architect at a fee of $543,975.

The east side addition is expected to be completed by July 2015, while the press box renovation project is expected to be completed by August 2013.

In addition to the stadium upgrades, the university has requested six other projects, which each cost less than $5 million and will be funded by the remaining $16.2 million in revenue bonds. They include tennis facility renovations, Taylor Stadium renovations, University Field renovations and a clubhouse at the Old Hawthorne Golf Facility.

The university’s athletic department is set to announce a major private donation late this afternoon.
The University of Missouri system to cut programs, jobs

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

The University of Missouri system will cut programs and eliminate jobs to balance the $2.8 billion budget it set Tuesday for fiscal year 2013, which begins July 1.

On the first day of their two-day meeting in Columbia, system curators approved the new budget, which reflects more than $35 million in cuts. About $1.1 billion, or 40 percent of the total budget, is for instruction and comes from state support and tuition at the four campuses.

System President Tim Wolfe said that wading through a sluggish economy with shrinking state support has forced system leaders to question how much more they can cut without gnawing away the university foundation.

“The University of Missouri System has continued to operate very efficiently for the past decade, but at the point where the quality of your mission is in jeopardy, it is no longer a badge of honor to do more with less,” Wolfe said in a prepared statement. “We must ensure that our budget is aligned with the strategic objectives of the university that are most critical to our mission of teaching, research, service and economic development.”

David Bradley, board chairman, said the system has to “stop spending in areas that are no longer strategic.”

The new budget invests 8 percent or $12 million more in financial aid to students. The budget also includes salary increases of between 1 and 2 percent, with individual awards based on merit, promotion, tenure and the market.

The total savings were made by shaving $11.5 million from salaries by leaving some positions vacant and eliminating 180 others. Cutting and consolidating programs saved an additional $8.1 million. And reducing funds for research, financial aid management and auxiliaries, such as the University Press, which is being closed this summer, saved about $6 million. About $9.7 million is new revenue, some of which were gifts to the university system.
University of Missouri curators approved a fiscal year 2013 budget that includes $35.5 million in cost-savings required to balance the budget.

The total revenue budget for fiscal year 2013 is approximately $2.8 billion. Expenditures are projected at $2.7 billion and include an increase in salaries and wages of between 1 to 2 percent on the campuses with individual awards based on merit and special salary needs. The university said benefit costs for medical and retirement plans will increase 2 percent for those eligible. The university system’s operating budget totals more than $1.1 billion.

Actions to balance the budget include: generating $9.7 million in additional revenue through gifts and special fees; $11.5 million through salary savings from vacant or eliminated positions; $8.1 million through program reductions, consolidations and planned initiatives; $4.4 million in reducing research and other operating costs; and $1.6 million in financial aid management.

“Balancing a budget is about making difficult choices,” University of Missouri Board of Curators Chair David Bradley said in a statement. “While our new budget invests 8 percent—or $12 million more in student aid to support student access, affordability and completion to graduation—it also includes position eliminations, program consolidations and eliminations and reductions in planned investments in several areas.”

The university will use the $26 million saved through cost-savings measures to maintain and grow facilities focused in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The funds will also be used to recruit and retain faculty and staff, support student scholarships, increase academic advising and student success programs and invest in seed funding to support student entrepreneurship and commercialization of intellectual property from student innovation.
UM System Board of Curators approves budget, housing and athletics projects

The curators unanimously approved the fiscal 2013 budget, which will go into effect July 1.

Fiscal Year 2013 budget

One component of the UM System's 2013 balanced budget is a 3.6 percent increase in revenue from the 2012 budget. Part of this revenue will come from an increase in tuition fees due to rising enrollment.

The UM System will also experience a 7.8 percent reduction in state funding, which equates to $30 million.

The system's spending will be reduced by $35.5 million. Cuts are being made in the following places:

- Workforce reductions through eliminating positions and not filling vacant positions.
- Funding reductions in auxiliaries and research.
- Consolidation of academic programs.
- Reduction of general spending, which includes cutting back on supplies and travel.
- Reduction of planned maintenance.
- Reworking of financial aid at the system campuses.
- Revenue enhancements.

Money will also be put toward five strategic initiatives that will cost $30 million. These include:

- The maintenance, repair and renovation of facilities with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) facilities.
- Hiring new and retaining current faculty and staff.
- Continued funding of scholarships.
- Enhancing student experiences by decreasing class sizes and increasing academic advising and student success programs.
- Supporting a fund for student entrepreneurship.

2014 fiscal year preliminary request
The Board of Curator's financial committee also presented the 2014 fiscal year preliminary operating appropriations request to the curators.

The committee's first priority is to obtain enough funding to maintain the system's core operations. This part of the request detailed information about financing the system, stating that the total minimum funding for core operations is $417.9 million.

The committee also discussed increasing Missouri's competitiveness by focusing on two areas. The first is increasing STEM education and research funding to $55.2 million. The second is continuing to support Caring for Missourians, which will increase education for health care professions.

Nikki Krawitz, vice president for finance and administration for the UM System, suggested that the requested $10.3 million fund for Caring for Missourians should be permanent. The program received a one-time appropriation in 2010.

"STEM and Caring for Missourians are incredibly good priorities," board member Don Downing said.

**Residence hall and athletic projects**
The board also approved the building of a new residence hall on MU's campus and the renovation and expansion of Memorial Stadium, along with six other athletics projects.

The curators will reconvene at 8 a.m. Wednesday at the Reynolds Alumni Center.
The more than a dozen people who turned out for a University of Missouri Board of Curators meeting Tuesday in hopes of voicing their concerns about the closure of the UM Press weren't given a chance to do so.

Curators, who rarely have outside attendees at their meetings, essentially ignored the subject of the press and the unusually large audience. Board meetings typically do not have allotted time for public comments, but press supporters were hoping to have a chance to make remarks.

At the end of the meeting, some curators and administrators went into a sports-related news conference; others went straight into a closed-door meeting.

The board is holding its annual meeting at the Reynolds Alumni Center on the MU campus a month after UM President Tim Wolfe announced the UM Press would be phased out starting next week.

If nothing else, protest organizer Jane Lago said, she hopes a strong showing lets current UM Press staff, some whom were in attendance, know they have support.

Before the meeting, board Chairman David Bradley told the Tribune he was aware of a possible protest and that it would not change the university's decision. Afterward, he said he wants press supporters to know the MU campus is hashing out details of a new publishing model.

"We're still looking at an alternative for a press," he said. "We should have something shortly, and I think we'll come up with something I hope they're happy with. We've not forgotten about the university press."

Closing the UM Press is expected to save the UM System $400,000, but some question whether losses in donations and potential litigation will eat the savings.

Tom Quirk, an MU English professor, said he could envision breach of contract lawsuits if the university breaks contracts with authors expecting their books to be published or litigation over employment issues if not publishing hurts someone's ability to gain tenure.

"As far as I can tell, it will cost the university more to close the press than it would save," he said.
Some, including a former UM president’s daughter, have posted in online forums that they will redirect future donations.

Phasing out the press is part of a $26 million pool the system hopes to reinvest in other areas considered higher priority.

But there should be no higher priority in a university setting, said Dan Jaffe, a professor emeritus who drove from Kansas City to attend the meeting.

"The university is supposed to create knowledge, disseminate knowledge and contribute to the community," Jaffe said. "When a university press is eliminated, a university is not representing those things."
UM Press proponents protest Board of Curators meeting

The UM Press has published more than 2,000 works on a variety of scholarly subjects over the past 54 years.

By Jad Sleiman

About two dozen faculty, students and alumni gathered at a UM System Board of Curators meeting Tuesday to show their support for the University of Missouri Press less than a week before its annual $400,000 university subsidy is scheduled to end.

More an act of presence than protest, the advocates stood quietly as the board mulled over its scheduled, unrelated agenda. The most notable university reaction came when a Donald W. Reynolds Alumni Center employee wheeled out extra chairs for press supporters.

“It’s easy to protest online,” MU graduate student Jonathan D. Jones said. “Sometimes actually showing up is half the battle.”

UM System President Tim Wolfe announced plans in May to shutter the press, citing a need to focus on six broad strategic priorities including “attracting top personnel, expanding research and economic development and effective communication of (the university’s) value and importance.”

The university system was granted level funding by the state legislature this year.

Bruce Joshua Miller, a UM Press Midwest sales representative, launched a Facebook page in support of the press shortly after the announcement and has gathered more than 3,600 online signatures in opposition of the move. He, along Florida State University associate English professor Ted Stuckey-French, helped organize Tuesday’s event. Neither could actually attend, but hoped that a face-to-face meeting between press supporters and university decision makers could do more than letters and phone calls had – overtures they say had been ignored.

“I don’t understand how (Wolfe) can state his goals and then say he’s closing the university press because it doesn’t meet them,” Miller said from Chicago, explaining that press publications increase the school’s stature worldwide and attract exceptional students and faculty hoping to publish works.

UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said the Office of the President has replied to all the letters they’ve received concerning the issue and agree with MU Press supporters about the importance of scholarly publishing.
“Certainly we have worked with them over the years to try and turn around the model,” she said. “But in this economic time, where resources are tight, we have to find ways to accomplish our mission that are more cost efficient and sustainable.”

The UM Press was established 54 years ago and has since published more than 2,000 works on a variety of scholarly subjects as well as aspects of Missouri’s history and culture. Stuckey-French said he sees the press’ predicament as a consequence of declining public university funding nation-wide and a trend of attempting to “run universities like corporations.”

Eastern Washington University and Southern Methodist University have both shut down their presses.

“Very, very few of them make money,” Stuckey-French said. “They’re a service, like libraries.”

Both Facebook organizers said they were surprised by the amount of coverage their cause found in major news outlets and the thousands of online supporters that showed electronic support and outrage.

“We’ve been amazed that it has mushroomed like it has,” said Stuckey-French.

Hollingshead said the UM Press supporters were welcome to appear at the public meeting, but could not speak about whether or not their efforts would have any effect on the university’s plans.

Cameras and microphones packed an alumni center conference room during the afternoon’s press conference announcing major sports facility spending after the Board of Curators meeting. A handful of press supporters, the last of many who had waited four hours for a chance to speak that never came, stood at the back of the crowd, waited some more and finally left as well.
OPEN COLUMN

MU should reverse its decision to close press

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Editor, the Tribune: As an author who has published two books with the University of Missouri Press ("Field Observations: Stories," 2001, and "The Master and the Dean: The Literary Criticism of Henry James and William Dean Howells," 2005), I am shocked and saddened to hear of the administration's decision to close the press. In this era of market consolidation, we need university and small presses more than ever.

Missouri has been a distinguished presence in the market for some time, launching or promoting the careers of (to choose just one niche, literary fiction) Charles Baxter, Steve Yarbrough, Joan Frank and others. I implore President Tim Wolfe to reverse this decision in the interest of writers, readers, scholars and lovers of the printed word.

Rob Davidson
Professor of English
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Construction of a new five-story residential hall on the University of Missouri campus is expected to start next summer.

The UM System Board of Curators on Tuesday gave the green light to the so-called Virginia Avenue South housing project. The dorm, which will have a 330-bed capacity, will be located between College Avenue and Virginia Avenue south of Hospital Drive.

The building project "is in response to the exploding growth in enrollment at the Columbia campus and the desire of students who want to live on campus," said Nikki Krawitz, vice president of finance and administration.

Not only are freshmen required to live on campus, but the number of upperclassmen wanting to live in campus housing is increasing, too, she said.

Chancellor Brady Deaton said he's concerned about a growing waiting list among students in the upper grades who want to live on campus and said he views the new residential hall "as a very conservative step."

The budget for the construction project is $28.4 million with the bulk coming from revenue bonds. It is expected to be completed in April 2015.
DED gives incubator $100,000 in credits

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

The Missouri Department of Economic Development said yesterday it awarded $100,000 in state tax credits to the University of Missouri Life Science Business Incubator at Monsanto Place.

The credits, known as small-business incubator tax credits, were part of $360,000 awarded by DED this year and put the total received by the Columbia incubator at $425,000 over the past five years. The money is meant to leverage private investment in the incubator by covering half of a donor's contribution to the incubator, and contributions can only be used for the build-out of the incubator space.

The 33,000-square-foot incubator, which opened in January 2009, has about 4,500 square feet of shelf space left, said Jake Halliday, CEO of the Missouri Innovation Center, the entity that operates the incubator. All of the rentable space in the building is occupied, he said.
NO MENTION WHAT OTHERS SAY: Missouri has top college savings plan

Wednesday, June 27, 2012 | 6:00 a.m. CST
BY THE KANSAS CITY STAR

It's rare when Missouri tops the charts for a positive development.

So we cannot let it go unnoticed that Missouri's 529 College Savings Plan has ranked first in performance in two consecutive surveys.

Savingforcollege.com, which informs consumers and advisers about the challenges of paying higher education costs, ranks 529 college savings plans. Named for Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, they offer tax advantages and other incentives for families to put money aside to pay for educational expenses.

Most are sponsored by a state and operate as investment portfolios. When operated well, as Missouri's is, they provide an excellent way for families to plan ahead for the ever-increasing costs of college.

The website has ranked Missouri's tops in performance for the last two quarters.

A similar plan in Kansas, Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Program, ranked 12th for the quarter that ended March 31.

Missouri's 529 plan has about 14,500 accounts with nearly $157 million in assets. It is overseen by the state treasurer's office.

A productive savings investment plan, even one considered the nation's best, doesn't mitigate Missouri's overly-high tuition rates and the legislature's long-term neglect of public colleges and universities.

But it's reassuring to know that an important tool is working well under the leadership of state Treasurer Clint Zweifel.
New Wireless Sensors Tackle Old Problems Like Pneumonia

Wireless sensor technology developed by the University of Missouri can measure subtle changes in pulse, respiration, and bed restlessness, warning clinicians of the early onset of pneumonia or other life-threatening problems.

By Anthony Vecchione ... InformationWeek
June 26, 2012 12:10 PM

For the past seven years, wireless sensor technology developed at the University of Missouri (MU) has helped detect disease in its early stages among residents living at the TigerPlace assisted care facility in Columbia, Mo. Now, thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation, that technology soon will be expanded to remotely monitor the elderly in another facility in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Marilyn Rantz, RN, professor of nursing at the Sinclair School of Nursing at the University of Missouri, said that staffers and MU researchers will remotely monitor residents in Cedar Falls from the TigerPlace facility, which is about three miles from MU. High-speed video conferencing capabilities will allow communication between staff and residents at the two locations.

"Using what we're already doing at TigerPlace and deploying it at the facility in Cedar Falls will allow us to further test the concept of remote health care," Rantz told InformationWeek Healthcare. "Monitoring individuals with in-home sensors allows us to unobtrusively monitor their health changes based on their individual activity patterns and baseline health conditions."

[ There's almost no end to the amount of useful medical information available online. Read 7 Health Education Tools For Patients. ]

Rantz said that environmentally embedded sensors that monitor pulse, respiration, and bed restlessness have been a key to the success of early detection.

"What we have been able to discover are new pieces of information from the environmentally embedded sensors that can indicate when people are having functional decline and particularly when they are getting sick," Rantz said. She added that the sensors are able to pick up when people are developing an illness between 10 and 26 days before the older adult or someone else detects the illness.
"We've automated this process, we send out alerts to the staff and take a closer examination and look at the changes in the sensor patterns. We look at those changes and do an assessment to see what's going on."

For example, pneumonia caught in its early stages can deter an emergency room visit or hospitalization. "You have less health care costs and it's easier on the person because you can recover from that acute illness faster because you caught it early," said Rantz.

Alerts are set up on an email system and are accessible via a smartphone, said Rantz. The alerts are currently sent to the healthcare staff at TigerPlace and the healthcare research team at MU. The alerts from the sensors at the Iowa facility go to the Iowa staff, the TigerPlace staff, and the research team, she said.

An environmentally embedded sensor is a motion sensor that is unobtrusive and environmentally pleasing. For example, a sensor that that can be mounted on a wall or one that sits in a box that looks like an end table.

These sensors wirelessly transmit data to small computers that in turn transmit data via a secure network server located at TigerPlace and in the telecom building at MU. "We do real-time data analysis and feedback to the user and the healthcare provider," Rantz said.

Rantz said that the combination of sensor technology with care coordination represents the future. "Much of what I see with older adults are the same problems that I saw 40 years ago and this is a new solution to those same old problems."

According to a 2010 position paper released by the Center for Technology and Aging entitled "Technologies for Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) for Older Adults," the U.S. healthcare system could reduce its costs by nearly $200 billion during the next 25 years if remote monitoring tools were used routinely in cases of congestive heart failure, diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The position paper stated that RPM technologies could help older adults slow the progression of chronic disease and alert caregivers and prompt intervention when a vulnerable older adult is injured or in harm's way.