Path to prosperity at stake

Automatic cuts harm research and education.

By BRADY DEATON AND BERNADETTE GRAY-LITTLE

Sunday, December 9, 2012

Whatever you call them — fiscal cliff, austerity bomb, Debtpocalypse — the impending automatic federal spending cuts are likely to endanger the nation's short-term economic recovery. But they also pose a real threat to the long-term prosperity of the United States.

Why?

For starters, federal financial aid, without which many students couldn't attend college, stands to be cut. At our universities, tens of thousands of students receive some sort of federal financial aid. Without it, many of these students will take longer to graduate, will have to take out more loans and will simply drop out.

For these students, their future prosperity will be dimmed, and with it, the hopes of a nation that is facing serious workforce shortages in a range of fields. When the recovery does kick in, businesses simply won't be able to find the workers they need to grow.

Also set to be cut: research that not only creates jobs directly and through the commercialization of discoveries but that also saves lives.

At the University of Kansas, we just earned National Cancer Institute designation, which will provide cancer patients throughout the region with access to new treatments and clinical trials. This is on top of our federally supported research into Alzheimer's, autism and a range of other conditions, not to mention scholarship in a wide range of fields outside of health and wellness.

The University of Missouri is home to the nation's most powerful university nuclear research reactor, the focal point for many federally sponsored projects, from work on nuclear medicine and pharmaceuticals to structural engineering. And just this month, the MU Sinclair School of Nursing announced a $14.8 million federal grant that will improve the lives of seniors by investigating ways to reduce re-hospitalizations of nursing home residents.
The automatic spending cuts would halt research in a range of areas, not only having immediate consequences for the researchers employed in these efforts but harming the nation's long-term growth and prosperity.

We agree with our fellow university leaders from around the country that all options — discretionary spending cuts and reforms to entitlements and taxes — need to be on the table. There is no other way to not inhibit the economy's short-term recovery while still addressing our long-term fiscal issues.

The best way to solve our long-term debt challenge is by creating an economy that has both the educated workers and new discoveries that lead to sustained growth. Universities can help, but not if our students and researchers are hit with federal spending cuts that are preventable.

We're confident our representatives in Washington can find a responsible, balanced solution to this challenge. If Jayhawks and Tigers can come together for the good of the nation, surely Democrats and Republicans can, too.
UM System Board of Curators elects new leadership, discusses strategic priorities

Friday, December 7, 2012 | 4:18 p.m. CST

BY Dan Burley, Stephanie Ebbs

ST. LOUIS — University of Missouri System campuses moved one step closer to finalizing their strategy statements at the UM System Board of Curators meeting on Friday.

Representatives from each institution presented drafts of the statements to the curators for feedback during the second day of the board's December meetings at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

The short statement, required by the system, must describe how each institution will define itself within the system, compete with other universities nationally and achieve specified goals over the next five years.

"If you expect to succeed in the marketplace, you have to develop strategies and initiatives to overcome the challenges of that marketplace." UM System President Tim Wolfe said when describing his rationale for strategic planning.

Instead of providing amorphous objectives, such as "increase the number of qualified graduates," Wolfe has advised that each statement set a metric that is time-bound and measurable, such as "increase enrollment to 20,000 by 2020," according to meeting documents.

He emphasized that the statements do not change the mission or values of the universities. Instead, he said, the statements define the competitive plan that will drive the universities over the next five years.

Ratifying a strategy statement is the first step in Wolfe's strategic planning process, introduced in September. The president introduced an idea earlier this year that would use these statements to distribute state funding.

The president's unfinished plan would withhold five to 10 percent of any increase in state funding after the current fiscal year, UM System Spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said in November. That money would be reallocated to campuses based on how well they meet the goals outlined in their strategy statements.
Hollingshead added that this plan will not cause any changes until at least 2015 because the campuses are still developing strategic statements, and the system is predicting no change in state support for the 2014 fiscal year. The curators discussed tuition and fee raises to counter stagnant state funding at their meeting Thursday.

Each UM institution is required to present a finalized strategic statement to Wolfe by June 2013, according to meeting documents.

In Wolfe's report to the curators, he outlined his "holiday wish list" of issues to be addressed in the coming year. He also gave updates on the system's progress in meeting his six strategic priorities.

The president's wish list included:

- Continuing the "momentum" of the board after the governor fills two empty curator seats.
- Educating rural Missourians on higher education funding issues after the failure of Proposition B in November. The tobacco tax increase was expected to create between $280 and $420 million for public education. Wolfe said he wants to educate people on the benefits of investing in education such as job growth.
- Improving college-readiness for incoming students and retention for returning students to contribute to President Barack Obama's goal that 60 percent of Americans have a college degree.
- Showing the Missouri legislature that the UM System is a smart investment by spending money more efficiently and addressing deferred maintenance issues. The system saved more than $80 million in 2012 by reducing costs and increasing revenue, according to a news release from the system, and has saved more than $410 million since 2009.

What's on your wish list for the UM System? Share your ideas here.

The president also highlighted how the system is working to meet the strategic priorities he set during his first board of curators meeting after taking office as president.

He mentioned that strides had been taken to attract and retain strong employees. He cited a retirement plan that took effect on Oct. 1 for more than 250 new employees. Another example was the streamlining of employee management procedures into electronic form, predicted to save the system $2 million a year.

Chairman David Bradley praised Wolfe's first year: "I don't believe he sees this job as a stepping stone to his later career. If he plays his cards right, he can give the university a long-term perspective that many of our past presidents could not."

Wolfe also spoke about a new classroom model developed at the Missouri University of Science and Technology that will be applied to other campuses, filling the priority for innovative instruction. The model reduced the number of faculty needed to teach large freshmen-level courses by giving students the option to view lectures independently and work in groups.
The board discussed the strategic planning priority at length when it heard representatives of each campus present drafts of their school's strategic statements.

The board also chose new leadership for 2013; Chairman Bradley and Vice Chairman Wayne Goode's terms will end in January. Goode moved up to take the position of chairman; St. Louis attorney Don Downing was elected as vice chairman.

Before his appointment to the board of curators in 2009, Goode served in the Missouri General Assembly for 41 years. He represented St. Louis County as a Democrat in the Missouri Senate and House and served as Senate appropriations chair from 1995 to 2000, according to the UM System website.

Goode is an MU alumni. He earned a bachelor's degree in banking and finance, and holds an honorary law degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Downing is an attorney from Webster Groves, where he is vice president of the personal injury attorney firm Gray, Ritter and Graham, P.C. He also has experience in Missouri government after serving as chief deputy attorney general from 1993 to 1995, when current Gov. Jay Nixon was attorney general, according to the law firm's website.

Downing earned both his bachelor's degree in economics and law degree from MU.

The chairman of the board presides over meetings and carries out any duties the board assigns them, according to the board of curators' bylaws. The vice chairman takes over those duties if the chairman is unable to complete them.

"For all of us, I think it's safe to say that not only has this been a labor of love, but also the high point of our lives," Bradley said about concluding his year as chairman.
UM considers border-state tuition deals

By Janese Silvey

Friday, December 7, 2012

ST. LOUIS — University of Missouri administrators are looking into whether lowering tuition rates for students coming to MU from border counties or states would be a money-maker for the campus by attracting more students.

Nikki Krawitz, vice president of finance and administration for the system, said MU, along with UM-Kansas City, are interested in border tuition rates. This would be different from the special rates UMKC and the St. Louis campus already have for those living outside of Missouri state lines but inside metropolitan boundaries.

Some curators were leery of the idea. Curator Don Downing pointed to a recent news report from the Chicago Tribune saying more Illinois students are already coming to MU.

"I question whether we're leaving money on the table from out-of-state residents who do not pay taxes into Missouri," he said.

Curator Wayne Goode also questioned what MU would gain from lowering some out-of-state rates.

Those are the kind of issues administrators are considering, Krawitz said. The idea behind offering lower tuition rates for nearby out-of-state students is to make MU more competitive as demographics change and the pool of future college students becomes smaller.

"We have to compete for students," Krawitz said. "In order to maintain high enrollment, we have to recruit students from other states as well."
Workers can help trim health costs, UM VP says

By Janese Silvey

Friday, December 7, 2012

ST. LOUIS — University of Missouri System employees who don't want to see their health insurance premiums or deductibles increase might consider taking matters into their own hands.

Betsy Rodriguez, vice president of human resources, said about 24 percent of health risks across the system are modifiable.

"We're not talking about things like cancer. We're talking about obesity-related issues, smoking-related issues, people not taking care of themselves and not getting exercise," she told the UM Board of Curators yesterday.

Managing those health issues on the front end could shave about $16 million off of university health care costs.

"There's really something here," Rodriguez said. "This is really quite a lot of money."

The UM System's medical costs have increased from about $60 million in 2004 to more than $135 million this fiscal year. If the system stays on its current path, costs could near $200 million by 2017.

Employees pay 27 percent of whatever coverage they choose, so those increases affect not only the university but also individuals.

The system is using a $100 incentive to entice workers to get a better sense of their overall health. Employees can earn the money by taking an online assessment and a health screening that includes a weigh-in and blood pressure and cholesterol checks. Since the system began offering that incentive in January 2011, about 31 percent of employees have completed it.

Other than identifying health risks and attempting to alleviate them, there's little the university can do to prevent medical costs from rising, Rodriguez said.
Workers already have a $250 deductible, which some curators said is low compared with private industry. Rodriguez said the deductible is a hardship on employees earning lower salaries but a necessity to prevent others from overusing the coverage.

“There isn’t a whole lot left to do other than address health,” Rodriguez said.

The system is not yet sure how federal health care exchanges, part of the Affordable Care Act, might change the university’s insured roster.

“We want to make sure we don’t end up with unhealthy people in our plan and healthy people in the exchange,” she said.

When Curator Wayne Goode asked whether employees will be encouraged to consider the health exchanges, she said administrators need a better understanding of the costs.
Former senator named chairman of UM curators board

Former state Sen. Wayne Goode has been named chairman of the University of Missouri board of curators for 2013.

He was elected Friday morning by his fellow curators during the second day of a two-day meeting in St. Louis. He replaces David R. Bradley of St. Joseph.

Goode, of St. Louis, has been a university system curator for three years. He represented the Senate’s 13th District in St. Louis County until his retirement in January 2005.

Curators elected Don Downing of Webster Groves as the board’s vice chairman.
Cost may rise for a popular MU program

Demand is high for accountancy.

By Janese Silvey

Friday, December 7, 2012

University of Missouri administrators are asking curators to approve a new fee for students enrolled in a top-ranked MU accountancy program.

The $500-per-semester fee would be charged to students when they begin their third year of the five-year program that ultimately earns them a master's degree. The program is at capacity and doesn't take more than about 145 students a year, said Joan Gabel, dean of the Trulaske College of Business.

The UM Board of Curators saw the fee request among a package of proposed student increases, including a 2 percent tuition increase at MU. Because that is expected to be the consumer price index, curators would not need permission from the state to enact it.

Under the proposal, students already enrolled in the business college's School of Accountancy would pay $300 of that $500 fee, allowing it to be phased in, said Nikki Krawitz, vice president of finance and administration.

Curator Don Downing asked administrators to "phase it in a little more," saying he is concerned about how fee increases affect students already enrolled.

The Trulaske College of Business has nearly doubled the course fees charged to its undergraduates over the past two years, raising the price from $35.50 an hour to $70 per credit hour.

But the new charge would be different, Gabel said. While accountancy students pay the higher rates in their undergraduate classes, the master's-level courses did not experience those recent fee increases.

Gabel said the money will ultimately allow the program to hire two more faculty members and admit 50 to 60 more students.
"This program is ranked 13th in the country," she said. "It's very much in demand by students, and graduates are very much in demand by employees. Right now, we can't meet demand on either side."

Graduates, she noted, have a 95 percent placement rate and earn on average $5,000 to $6,000 per year more than their counterparts who only have bachelor's degrees.

The College of Engineering also is seeking a 6 percent increase in its supplemental fee, taking it from $74 an hour to $78.40 per hour. The money would be used to hire teaching assistants and graders to help manage enrollment increases, according to board material.

Krawitz stressed that tuition and fee rates do not necessarily reflect the sticker price of college because most students qualify for some sort of financial aid.

The tuition and fee increases are part of a 2014 budget being drafted that accounts for a 3 percent increase in the merit-based salary pool, an increase in maintenance and repair funds and other new expenses related to enrollment increases. If state funding remains flat and tuition remains capped at the consumer price index of 2 percent, Krawitz is predicting a budget gap of $25 million.

Tuition rates are expected to be set at the January meeting, and the final budget is approved in June.
COLUMBIA, Mo. -- Michael Dixon's abrupt departure from the Missouri men's basketball team hasn't quieted the campus conversation about his exit.

The senior guard announced his intent to transfer on Nov. 29 after two sexual assault claims became public. Dixon had been benched all season by No. 12 Missouri (7-1) and coach Frank Haith for unspecified team rule violations. He was not charged in either case.

In an interview with The Associated Press, University of Missouri Board of Curators chairman David Bradley suggested the school may need to take a closer look at its student disciplinary process. Dixon reportedly appeared before a campus student conduct board whose members include students and professors.

"I don't think it would hurt to relook at the process we go through," Bradley said at a curators' meeting in St. Louis. "I'm not saying the process is wrong, but there are a lot of people who had questions about it, and a lot of people who were upset about the Dixon situation."

Absent from the meeting due to illness was Chancellor Brady Deaton, who had Dixon not decided to leave on his own would have been able to veto, uphold or revise the student conduct committee's confidential decision. But university President Tim Wolfe, who oversees the system's four campuses, defended the integrity of the disciplinary process.

"We have a process that involves the student conduct committee that has representatives from the various constituency groups and has been successful in looking into these situations and making decisions," Wolfe said Friday. "That process was used effectively in this particular situation."
Curator Wayne Goode, a former Missouri legislator who will succeed Bradley as the governing board's chairman, said the university had to balance the privacy of both Dixon and his accusers.

"We were advised by our (legal) counsel that we had to be careful with regard to those privacy issues, and I think we were," he said.

With no charges against him, Dixon received a lot of support amid the allegations. After he announced he would transfer, some students remained troubled by the backlash faced by women who allege sexual assault.

"Despite the incredible resources meant to educate on this issue, the sad truth is that there is still a culture of victim blaming that permeates MU and countless other college communities across the nation," student government president Xavier Billingsley wrote Wednesday in an open letter to the campus community titled "For A Safer Mizzou."

"Rape is rape — not only when a sexual advance is forcible, but any time one party says 'no,'" Billingsley continued. "There have been no convictions borne out of the accusations discussed this past week, but to think that any student would want to shut out serious concerns about whether an awful crime was committed for the sake of athletics is incredibly disappointing. This shows that even though we have made great strides in dealing with sexual violence and violation, we still have a long way to go."

Dixon was suspended for two games in December 2010 for violating unspecified team rules under former Missouri coach Mike Anderson, who is now at Arkansas.

A 25-year-old Missouri graduate and former athletics department employee told the AP that Dixon forcibly had sex with her in January 2010 during his freshman year. The woman reported the alleged assault to campus police and was examined for signs of sexual assault at a hospital, but said she declined to press charges.

The campus police report was publicly leaked to reporters last week, about the same time a second allegation was being aired publicly. In that case, a current female student accused Dixon of sexual assault, disclosing the allegation in a Twitter exchange with a former Missouri player. She also filed a city police report in August, but prosecutors decided on Nov. 16 to not file charges.
Everybody on the University of Missouri campus needs more education on the subject of rape. From Daniel Tosh's horrific comments earlier this year, to Todd Akin's misguided biology, to the mockery made of the "campus bear hugger," sexual assault on women has been heavily publicized, and public discourse is not improving. In light of the allegations that MU athlete Mike Dixon assaulted two women, we have seen disturbing reactions from the student population. We are addressing some of the comments we have seen the past few days on social media.

First, let's talk about the public's misconception of rape. Some of our peers believe a woman can simply get an exam done at the hospital and immediately prove she was attacked. The world isn't so clear-cut. For one, rape kits are terribly triggering. Women must relive their attack when they enter the hospital and give their accounts. Therefore, many women opt out of this. It takes a great deal of courage to face your attack and report it to the police. Also, rape kits are helpful only if done within five days. Therefore, gathering evidence is extremely difficult.

Second, we need to change our image of rape. On television and in films, we see the kind of violence that leaves women bruised, bleeding and in torn clothes. We rarely see the sexual violence done through emotional manipulation, fear and coercion. We fear rape as the "evil man jumping out of the bushes," but rape most commonly presents itself in the way described in the Dixon case. It is oftentimes someone the victim knows and someone they hold in high regard. Therefore, we cannot dismiss allegations because they do not fit social assumptions of rape. An individual never loses his or her right to refuse sex, no matter what the circumstance. Consenting to one intimate act, such as kissing, is not consenting to all forms of sex. We must not mistake self-preservation and safety for consent.

Third, we must learn to trust women in our society. Blaming victims, as we clearly saw with the "campus bear hugger," is a toxic epidemic in our society. We are taught that women are "crazy, emotional and vengeful." We teach women to not "get raped" instead of teaching perpetrators not to rape. When a woman comes forward about sexual assault, she all too often faces skepticism and humiliation. It is hard enough to report your attack without the harassment of your entire community. When instances like this arise and we choose to simply write off the woman's allegation, we are silencing future women from speaking out and seeking help for their attacks.
Evidence is extremely hard to gather in rape cases. A minuscule percentage of men accused of rape are ever convicted, but one in three women is assaulted in her lifetime. These numbers don't add up. A woman's personal testimony must carry greater value. To address this sweeping problem of violence against women, the victim-blaming needs to end. From now on, when a woman speaks out about her assault, believe her.

This institution means a lot to all of us. We are OneMizzou for a reason. Being a part of this campus means more than simply attending classes: It is being in ZouCrew, it is eating at Plaza 900, it is studying at Ellis Library, it is getting Starbucks at Memorial Union, it is being involved in organizations, it is attending concerts at Jesse, and it is living in the residence halls. We are members of this community, and we must keep the integrity of this institution alive. This Mike Dixon case and our reaction to it are a reflection on us, whether we like it or not. We are in danger of having the country view us as it did the students at Penn State last year during the Sandusky scandal. But here we have the opportunity to show we, as a community, value the safety of our students more than points on a scoreboard. Now is the time to take action, educate ourselves and support all of our students.
University of Missouri finds fertile recruiting ground in Chicago, rest of Illinois

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Students from Chicago and the rest of Illinois are increasingly calling the University of Missouri home.

The Chicago Tribune (bit.ly/R61cRn) reports that Illinois students now make up more than 20 percent of Mizzou's freshman class. That's up from just 6 percent in 2000.

A recent Tribune analysis of U.S. Department of Education data found that nearly one-fourth of all first-time Illinois college students left the state, compared to 17 percent a decade earlier.

The increased numbers at Missouri is part of an aggressive recruiting strategy, which includes two full-time recruiters in Chicago.

A Mizzou fraternity recently added a position of Illinois rush chair just to recruit students from the Chicago area.
For obese, three meals a day may be best

COLUMBIA, Mo., Dec. 8 (UPI) -- People trying to lose weight have long been advised to eat several small meals a day, but University of Missouri researchers say three meals might be better.

Lead author Tim Heden, a doctoral student in the University of Missouri's Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology, and colleagues studied how meal frequency affected blood-sugar and blood-fat levels in eight obese women throughout two 12-hour periods on two separate days.

All of the women consumed 1,500 calories. During the two different testing days, the participants consumed three 500-calorie liquid meals or six 250-calorie liquid meals.

Throughout the 12-hour time frames, researchers tested sugar and fat levels in the women's blood every 30 minutes.

The study, scheduled to be published in the journal Obesity, found women who consumed three meals had significantly lower fat in their blood.

"Our data suggests that, for obese women, eating fewer, bigger meals may be more advantageous metabolically compared to eating smaller, more frequent meals throughout the day," Heden said in a statement. "Eating larger meals less often lowered blood-fat levels. Over time, consistently eating fewer, larger meals each day could lower the women's blood-fat levels and thereby lower their risk of developing heart disease."
MU Police Department receives 'Accreditation with Excellence' award

By Sarah Suerig

The MU Police Department was recently awarded renewed accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. On top of its renewal status, the department was also awarded "Accreditation with Excellence."

This is the fifth time the department was awarded the accreditation by CALEA, but it was the first time it received the Accreditation with Excellence.

"This recognition acknowledges the fact that our police officers are among the best in the nation at their jobs," Chancellor Brady Deaton said.

CALEA aims to improve the delivery of public safety standards developed by public safety practitioners.

MUPD spokesman Brian Weimer said CALEA will keep watch over the department.

"We must remain in compliance with all applicable standards between now and July 2015," Weimer said. "They send a team of assessors to review the department's procedures."

The department will go to all means to maintain these standards.

"(MUPD will) continue to follow procedures to make sure that we not only keep our policies in place, but that we are practicing them and matching them with our standards," Weimer said. "We will continuously train our employees."

Those standards are not easy to maintain, according to Weimer.

"(CALEA hosts) many different areas, with over 480 standards, plus two to 10 categories in each standard," Weimer said. "Our assessment met 100 percent of the categories. Departments are only required to meet 80 percent. All of these are critical. There is now a section on college campuses that has not been addressed in the past."

This award is reinforcement to the phenomenal work the officers do, Weimer said.

"(The award) helps validate the hard work that we do," Weimer said. "We do not want to be the status quo. It validates to them that they are doing a good job. The department pushes itself to look to be the best we can in the field."
Student Conduct Committee discussion continues

Recently, the Missouri Students Association raised concerns about the Student Conduct Committee’s procedures, power and transparency.

MSA Academic Affairs Chairman Ben Levin authored a bill condemning the committee, although it did not pass full Senate on Wednesday. Of the senators, 44.44 percent voted against the bill, 33.33 percent voted for it, 11.11 percent abstained and 11.11 percent did not vote or were absent.

The Student Conduct Committee is comprised of 15 faculty members appointed by the Board of Curators and 10 students — six from MSA and four from the Graduate Professional Council — appointed by the chancellor with the aid of the MSA president. Students are present on the committee if the offender requests it.

The Student Conduct Committee is the formal process for hearing student conduct violation cases. A case only reaches the committee if the alleged offender rejects the sanctions imposed by the primary administrative officer.

If the alleged offender rejects the sanctions imposed by the committee, he or she can appeal to the chancellor. The chancellor may affirm or reverse the committee’s decision or request further proceedings.

The primary advisory officer is currently Donell Young, the Office of Student Conduct senior coordinator.

Young said he welcomes discussion with MSA about their concerns with the committee.

One concern raised in Levin’s bill was Young’s multiple roles in the student conduct violation process.

In addition to other offices such as the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center, Young helps to train the committee members.

“I’m very involved in the process but more about addressing committee questions,” Young said.

Young also compiles case information, which goes to the committee and serves as a bulk of its evidence.

Levin called this a conflict of interest in his bill.

Others found some issue with this practice.

“Both parties in front of the committee should be coming in front of the committee with no prior relationships other than the presenting of cases,” Steve Concannon, coordinator of student legal services, said.
Young said he understood the concern, but the committee is very thorough.

"The committee does not cut me any slack," Young said. "(The members) express how they feel and I have to be prepared."

The committee is able to rule on cases involving physical abuse, nonconsensual sexual behavior, stalking, harassment, invasion of privacy, participating in attempted and actual theft, among others, according to the M-Book. These violations are also tried in a court of law.

Levin's resolution took issue with the committee's ability to rule on a criminal case before a court does. The resolution stated the proper role of the Student Conduct Committee should be to assess punishment for violations of academic integrity and crimes for which the student has been found guilty in a court of law.

The resolution also said the committee often arrives at a different conclusion than that of a court, according to the resolution.

Another issue discussed in MSA meetings was how a court requires evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, but the committee makes decisions based on preponderance of evidence – described as being 51 percent sure the student committed the act.

Young said the committee operates this way for a number of reasons. First, courts often taken much longer than the committee does, so a dangerous student could be on campus before a court has time to prosecute.

"I think (students) would be concerned if they were on campus and they were concerned for their safety and the university did not act, or waited a year or two to make a decision where a student could potentially be in danger of their health and safety," Young said.

Second, being proven innocent by a court does not necessarily mean one is innocent, Young said. The case may have lacked substantial evidence to reach a conviction.

Third, the committee has different standards than a court does, Young said.

"(The committee members) are not trained on criminal law at all," Young said. "They're trained on what is a violation of the standards of conduct and what is the proof we need."

Young added that the majority of the cases the committee deals with do not focus on proving a student guilty, because students admit they violated the code of conduct.

"Of the cases we deal with, a vast majority of them are centered around consequences for that violation," he said.

Another concern raised in Levin's resolution is the lack of transparency the committee has because it is a closed-door session.

Although the hearings are taped, they cannot be released due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Young said.
You in Mizzou' engages students, faculty in discussions about diversity

A group of nearly 20 people sat in a circle and introduced themselves and where they were from.

Graduate student Patti Quackenbush introduced herself first.

"When I introduce myself," she said. "I say I'm pink because I'm half white, half Native American."

The rest of the group followed Quackenbush's example and discovered that the people seated near them came from all over the world: Canada, Malaysia, China, Germany, Missouri, Illinois, Utah, Indiana and a variety of other locations.

Graduate student Yuan Gao had a group of strangers engaged in conversation within minutes with one question: "What does culture mean?"

This diverse group participated in last night's "You in Mizzou" discussion, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close: Experiencing Cultural Differences." Participants discussed the meaning of culture and personal experience.

Gao's question brought up a variety of answers. Some said culture consists of one's individual beliefs and values. Others found culture to be the traditions of a group of people. The question lead to an even broader conversation about how one develops a sense of culture and how to approach those from other backgrounds. For nearly two hours, the participants shared laughs, stories and ideas.

"You in Mizzou" is a discussion series run by the Chancellor's Diversity Initiative. The monthly meetings consist of small-circle dialogues on topics regarding different kinds of diversity, Gao said. Gao, who is an assistant with the Chancellor's Diversity Initiative office, supervises the discussions.

"We want to create a safe space for people to share opinions," Gao said. "We want students to come and enjoy the environment. It's a democratic discussion as opposed to a debate or argument."

Gao said participant feedback has been positive and people regularly feel open to share ideas and understand those of others.

In a previous meeting, the dialogue centered around the issue of abortion and ideas behind pro-life and pro-choice arguments.

Gao said that instead of turning into a heated argument, participants engaged in a civil discussion.

"We had everyone fill out a feedback form and people said that they were surprised by themselves that they were capable of having a civilized discussion about this really heated topic," Gao said. "It's about
learning to respect others and be exposed to different ideas. Part of our philosophy is that we can agree to disagree."

Quackenbush serves as a volunteer facilitator for the "You in Mizzou" discussions. She became a volunteer after seeking out more ways to get involved with cultural activities. Quackenbush engages with the groups by proposing questions to get discussions started.

The next dialogue will occur during Black History Month and center around the topic of race, Gao said.

Before college, Quackenbush didn't have the opportunity to embrace her Native American culture.

"If I can help show someone something new, I feel like I've done my job," Quackenbush said. "This is an opportunity for participants to get out of their comfort zone and talk about things that don't get talked about or that might be taboo."
Anthropology professor honored for life’s work in Caribbean

The American Association for the Advancement of Science added five more MU professors to its ranks of honorary fellows.

Biological sciences professor Stephen Alexander, biochemistry professor Shuqun Zhang, psychology professor Nelson Cowan, radiology and physics professor Kattesh Katti and anthropology professor Mark Flinn were included in the 701 new fellows elected in October 2012.

All will be honored at the “Fellows Forum” at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston, Mass., in February 2013.

The nonprofit association is dedicated to “(serving) society by leading initiatives that include science policy, international programs, science education, and public understanding of science,” according to its website. AAAS publishes the peer-reviewed science journal Science.

Current fellows nominate new future candidates, Flinn said. Candidates must have a doctoral level degree in one of five areas of study: social and behavioral sciences, medical and health sciences, biological, physical or earth sciences, computational sciences and mathematics or engineering disciplines.

Each candidate must also show leadership qualities, a commitment to serving society at large and an ability to “engage with non-scientific audiences,” according to the AAAS website.

Les Hall, interim dean of the MU School of Medicine, described Katti as an “internationally renowned expert in applying nanomedicine discoveries to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer” in an article on the MU School of Medicine news website.

“I am deeply honored and humbled to have been selected for this award,” Katti said in an email. “It is always special when your peers elect you in recognition of your scientific accomplishments.”

Flinn said being a fellow is basically just an honor for his work over his career. He describes his research as combining a number of disciplines.

“What makes (my research) weird is that I mix medical school stuff with developmental psychology with cultural anthropology,” Flinn said. “I really enjoy interdisciplinary work. Part of the reason (why the anthropology department) works so well is that it’s the perfect place to do work like this. We have phenomenal collaborators across disciplines: the medical school, the psychology department and so on.”

A major facet of Flinn’s work has been his research in the area of stress hormones, he said. Flinn is currently tracking the levels of the stress hormone cortisol in children and other members of a rural village on the Caribbean island of Dominica.
The project is a naturalistic, longitudinal study.

“I’ve been living in the community for about 25 years,” Flinn said. “I’ve basically become a community member. I go to all the houses and talk to kids about what’s going on in their lives. Then I take a saliva sample. The sample is frozen and sent back to the States for analysis.”

The project aims to compare the levels of cortisol to life events such as growth and illness. It also examines the effect of family relationships and chronic stress on cortisol levels.

Flinn cites MU as a key factor in his new fellow status.

“I never would have gotten honors like this without the University of Missouri,” Flinn said. “There is an astonishing quality of people at MU. Being in this elite group is almost embarrassing. There are so many people that I admire. I’m extremely grateful. And proud.”
MU student killed going wrong way on I-70 near Kingdom City

Friday, December 7, 2012 | 2:31 p.m. CST; updated 2:55 p.m. CST, Friday, December 7, 2012

BY Katrine Crow, Tripp Steinicki

COLUMBIA — An MU sophomore died early Friday morning after a head-on collision on Interstate 70.

According to the Missouri State Highway Patrol crash report, Emily Ferguson, 19, of Kirkwood, was westbound in the eastbound lanes at 3 a.m. near Kingdom City when she hit another motorist.

Charles Mills, 39, of St. Peters, is currently in serious condition at University Hospital. Ferguson was not wearing a seat belt, but Mills was wearing one.

Ferguson was driving a 2004 Nissan Xterra, and Mills was in a 2009 Hino truck. The eastbound lane of I-70 near Mile 151 was closed from 3 a.m. to 11 a.m. Friday, according to the Missouri Department of Transportation.

This was the second traffic fatality within eight hours on or around I-70. Charles Streeter, 44, was killed around 7 p.m. Thursday when he was struck less than half a mile from I-70 on U.S. 40.

Streeter, from Springfield, Ore., was standing in the roadway when a 17-year-old driver from Oquawka, Ill., hit him, according to Missouri State Highway Patrol spokesman Paul Reinsch. Reinsch said no charges were expected.

Two Columbia residents are in critical condition at University Hospital after a collision on Providence Road shortly before midnight.

Michael Tufts, 23, and Michelle Morrow, 24, were southbound in a Ford pickup when a Volkswagen Beetle crossed the center line and hit their truck.

Three others in the accident were not seriously injured. Neither Tufts nor Morrow were wearing seat belts.
Wrong-way driver from Kirkwood killed in Callaway County crash

December 07, 2012 2:14 pm • BY JOEL CURRIER jcurrier@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8256

A woman from Kirkwood driving the wrong way on Interstate 70 was killed in a head-on crash early this morning in Callaway County, the Missouri Highway Patrol said.

Emily N. Ferguson, 19, a sophomore at the University of Missouri-Columbia, died at the crash scene at 3:17 a.m., the patrol said. She was driving a Nissan XTerra west in the eastbound lanes of Interstate 70 and struck an eastbound box truck near Kingdom City, Mo.

The box truck driver, Charles R. Mills, 39, of St. Peters, was taken to University Hospital in Columbia, Mo., where he was listed in fair condition.

Ferguson was not wearing a seat belt, the patrol said. Mills was wearing a seat belt.

The patrol said investigators do not yet know why Ferguson was going the wrong way.

EDITOR’S NOTE: An earlier version of this story gave the incorrect UM campus where Ferguson was a student. The story has been corrected.

Joel Currier is a breaking news reporter for STLtoday.com and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.
U.S. Senate will have trio of MU graduates

By Rudi Keller
Sunday, December 9, 2012

On June 25, 1993, Martin Heinrich lay on his back beside a road in northern Iowa with a solar panel resting on his stomach. It was the penultimate day of Sunrayce '93, and the Sun Tiger car built by University of Missouri engineering students was out of juice. With an hour of racing left, Heinrich and fellow student Pat Smallwood became the platform to keep the fragile panels off the roadside dirt as others held them up to gain a few watts of power to reach the day's destination.

On Jan. 3, Heinrich will take the oath as a U.S. senator for New Mexico. He is one of three University of Missouri graduates who will begin six-year terms in the Senate that day, the largest number from a state-supported school. The others are Sen. Claire McCaskill and former Gov. Tim Kaine of Virginia. All are Democrats.

"The only thing I find irritating about Martin Heinrich is that he graduated 20 years after I did," McCaskill said.

Heinrich graduated in 1995, with a degree in mechanical engineering. McCaskill's 1975 degree was in political science. Kaine's 1979 diploma was for economics.

Heinrich was born in Fallon, Nev., and raised near Cole Camp in Benton County. In 1995, he and his wife, Julie, decided to make New Mexico their home while discussing the book "Bless Me, Ultima" at Flat Branch Pub & Brewing. Neither had jobs lined up, but the book's moving story and the high-technology economy of the state both were draws, Heinrich said.

Heinrich had spent time in the state as a child, he said. "We didn't know how long we would stay, but in a few years we were tied up in the local community," he said.

Heinrich's parents, Peter and Shirley Heinrich, now live in Centralia, where they moved to be close to their daughters, Pat Olsen, the city librarian, and Tish Shealy, owner of Scratchy's Trading Post.

Shirley Heinrich can rattle off her son's achievements as Albuquerque city councilman and state natural resources trustee as if she had been in the room when the decisions were made. When he
decided to run for Congress in 2008, he expected to take on a Republican incumbent who had defeated every likely Democratic contender. The incumbent instead ran for Senate and Heinrich took the seat.

"Boy, when he went he was full force," Shirley Heinrich said.

Heinrich will join the Senate after four years in the House. Kaine spent two years as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, four years as Virginia's governor and four years as lieutenant governor.

Kaine was born in St. Paul, Minn., and raised in Kansas City. A graduate of Rockhurst High School, he moved to Virginia to attend law school after graduating from MU in 1979 with an economics degree. His parents live in Overland Park, Kan., and his brothers still live in the Kansas City area.

Kaine used a trip home for his 30th high school reunion to organize a fundraiser for McCaskill's first bid for Senate. "I pulled together a bunch of my Rockhurst buddies," Kaine said.

McCaskill, who was born in Rolla and raised in several communities including Columbia, where she graduated from Hickman High School, began her political career in Kansas City as a state legislator.

All three lawmakers said their experiences attending MU have helped shape their attitudes as public officials. There are schools that can boast a larger contingent of Senators — there are six who attended Harvard as undergraduates — but a state school has a larger diversity among its students.

MU was very different from the insular Rockhurst, Kaine said. "On my dorm floor, freshman year, there was every type of male imaginable, all races and all different economic backgrounds," he said.

Economics professor John Kuhlman, who included attendance and participation in grading, helped shape Kaine's attitude about public money from the first day of class, Kaine said. "There are a whole lot of Missouri taxpayers who support this, and I am going to make sure you are here," Kaine recalled Kuhlman saying.

McCaskill, who waited tables at Bobby Buford's, said the trio from MU shows the value of public higher education. "You can't graduate from a school like the University of Missouri without understanding how important it is that it receives public funding," she said.

Heinrich's job on the Sun Tiger was to design the suspension. Engineering instructor Rick Whelove remembers the first team and the problems they solved to compete in the race. Heinrich stopped in Whelove's office earlier this year during a visit to see his family.

"I boast on him as the guy who was right here in the same classrooms and now is going to be a senator," Whelove said.
McCaskill said she wants to bring her two new colleagues to Columbia for a basketball game or Homecoming next fall. When they get together in Washington, D.C., Heinrich said he'd like to serve Shakespeare's Pizza. He worked at the iconic pizza place as a delivery driver.

Kurt Mirtsching, Shakespeare's general manager, remembers Heinrich with hair past his shoulders. Heinrich was chosen as one of the "Best Dressed Political Candidates" this year by Esquire magazine, which described him as having "David Duchovny meets Bobby Kennedy-esque good looks."

"He certainly has grown up and gotten all pretty," Mirtsching joked.
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri will have three graduates in the U.S. Senate for at least the next six years.

Martin Heinrich, a 1995 graduate, will represent New Mexico after being sworn in Jan. 3. He will join Gov. Tim Kaine of Virginia, who graduated from Missouri in 1979, and Claire McCaskill of Missouri, who graduated in 1975. All three are Democrats.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that's the largest number of U.S. senators from one state-supported school.

All three lawmakers told the newspaper their experiences at the university helped shape their attitudes as public officials.

And McCaskill said she wants to bring her two new colleagues to Columbia for a basketball game or Homecoming next fall.