MU expects to make budget cuts to increase faculty pay

By Katie Yaeger
April 9, 2013 | 8:05 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU will seek to make cuts in parts of its budget to increase faculty salaries next year, officials said at the university’s general faculty meeting Tuesday.

Assuming that the amount of state funding will be the same as last year, the budget will have a deficit of about $2 million before examining faculty raises or benefits, MU Budget Director Rhonda Gibler said.

Making salaries more competitive with other public members of the Association of American Universities is a priority, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said.

Tough choices will have to be made to increase funding for faculty salaries, Gibler said.

"We're not going to solve this (problem) simply by making one big cut in one area," she said.

To gain additional general revenue, MU plans to launch a second major private fundraising campaign, Deaton said. A goal has not been set, but more than $250 million has already been raised, he said. The first campaign, which concluded in 2008, raised more than $1 billion.

Tuition will increase by 1.7 percent next year, which is the rate of inflation, Deaton said.

Campus update

MU’s enrollment is expected to increase by about 400 students, Deaton said. The number of out-of-state and international students is also expected to increase.

Deaton also discussed the MU Faculty Council committee appointed to examine how MU can improve its Association of American Universities standing in four areas evaluated annually. A new faculty hiring strategy will focus on hiring and retaining the best faculty in the country.
and making salaries more competitive. MU plans to hire 100 tenured and tenure-track faculty and 100 non-tenure-track research faculty in the next five years, with grants funding most of their salaries.

At the University of Missouri System Board of Curators meeting this week, he plans to highlight several trends in terms of strategic planning, including:

- Decreased state funding.
- Decreased availability for federal research funds as a result of sequestration.
- An emphasis on interdisciplinary research, which he said is part of the foundation of the strategic plan.
- A shifting student demographic. Deaton cited the decrease in the number of Missouri high school graduates.
- An increase in online and hybrid course enrollment.

Deaton also said he planned to emphasize Friday the importance of MU’s international connections, such as the partnership with the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and, as of January, with Ghent University in Belgium. He also discussed the impact of international students. For example, they contribute an estimated $52.4 million to Columbia’s economy, according to the Association of International Educators.

**Faculty Council update**

Faculty Council Chairman Harry Tyrer talked about the council’s accomplishments, including:

- Creation of an advisory committee and compilation of a root cause analysis to examine events surrounding the University of Missouri Press.
- Creation of a committee to look at how to enhance scholarships not affected by Mizzou Advantage.
- Collaboration with Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies Jim Spain to revise the course evaluation forms students use.
- Organization and execution of a campus vote to change MU’s definition of faculty and give non-tenure-track faculty voting rights, which is set to be approved Friday by the Board of Curators.

After the vote is approved, the council will look to redistribute council representation because non-tenure-track faculty members will become eligible to serve and vote, and create a subcommittee to deal with tenure issues.
The council is also discussing the issue of shared governance, or the balance between faculty and staff participation in decision-making and administrative accountability. Tyrer said he thinks there needs to be a cultural shift at MU to improve shared governance. As part of this, the council is discussing a resolution to create a pilot committee to advise the chancellor about the budget and resource allocation.

The council has also been working on a diversity initiative. MU's schools and colleges have been asked to write a statement about how their curriculums enhance diversity, said Clyde Bentley, an associate professor of journalism. Statements will be posted on the council's website about April 15. A national survey will also be given to freshmen and seniors to measure progress in terms of diversity.

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
Calls Mount for Changing How Interest Rates Are Set on Federal Student Loans

By Kelly Field

President Obama’s budget for the 2014 fiscal year, due out on Wednesday, is expected to propose moving to market-based interest rates on federal student loans.

Under current law, student-loan interest rates are set by Congress. On July 1 the rate on one type of loan will double, to 6.8 percent, unless Congress acts to avert the increase.

Congress already postponed the rate increase once, in the midst of the 2012 campaign season. Now, with the one-year reprieve about to expire on subsidized Stafford loans to undergraduates, some interest groups and members of Congress are calling for changes in how the rates on all types of federal student loans are set, to better align them with the government’s cost of borrowing.

Last month the U.S. House of Representatives’ education committee held a hearing that focused on a plan, proposed by the New America Foundation, to switch to a rate pegged to the three-year Treasury note.

But some Democrats favor extending the current rate on the subsidized loans. Rep. Karen Bass, a California Democrat, has offered a bill that would permanently cap the interest rate on all federal loans at 3.4 percent. Senate Democrats would extend the 3.4-percent rate on subsidized loans indefinitely, though their budget doesn’t include money for the plan.

On Tuesday morning several student-advocacy groups released a report arguing that the government should not profit on student loans, especially at a time when default rates are rising and many recent college graduates are struggling to find work. The report cites recent Congressional Budget Office projections that the government will make 31 cents on every dollar it lends to students next year, for a profit of $34-billion. (The budget office expects the profit to decline to 6 cents on the dollar as interest rates rise.)
In the report, the groups call on Congress to come up with a "comprehensive student-loan solution," or at least a "short-term agreement that is good for students" if a permanent fix "proves politically impossible."

Switching to a market-based rate could save taxpayers billions over the next decade, provided that rates rise, as expected. But it would probably cost taxpayers in the short term, while interest rates are low. It could also cause rates to rise on subsidized loans, at least above the current 3.4 percent.

To protect borrowers when market rates rise, student groups want to cap the maximum rate. Ethan Senack, higher-education fellow for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, said his organization's priority was to come up with a policy "that is good for students now and good for students down the road."

Given the complexity of crafting a formula that's fair to both borrowers and taxpayers, there's a good chance Congress will put off changing the policy until the next reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, expected to begin next year.

On Tuesday afternoon, Rep. Joe Courtney, a Connecticut Democrat, introduced a bill that would postpone the interest-rate increase for two years, to give Congress "time to craft a thoughtful long-term solution to address this growing problem," according to a news release.
MU student’s poem wins Hallmark contest

Hallmark plans to use writing.

When given a riddle, University of Missouri senior Grant Johnston responded with a smile.

Johnston, an education major, recently won the 2013 Hallmark Storytelling Challenge by answering the riddle, "What can be given (gifted, passed on or paid forward) over and over again, leaves a piece of itself (an impression, tag, memory) behind, but never gets smaller."

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Students were asked to answer the riddle through any medium.

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So he sat down, and the story began to flow.

Johnston said the challenge was left pretty open-ended, so he decided to apply his love of poetry and rhyming to his submission.

"I didn't want to do something easy; I wanted to do something that was not tangible," he said.

Johnston said he felt a smile was the perfect answer to the riddle and began writing a sort of child's story. The story is now the intellectual property of Hallmark, and the company said it could not be published in the Tribune.

The Hallmark challenge, which was open to all MU students, was born from a partnership between the university and the company.

Charles Davis, a professor of journalism and Mizzou Advantage facilitator, said part of Mizzou Advantage is to work closely with corporate development. Davis said the journalism school also was looking to create a digital storytelling major.

The storytelling challenge was created by MU graduate Randy Knipp, who Davis says is "always thinking of ways to use" the university. Knipp is an exploration and discovery manager for design engineering at Hallmark.

Knipp said his creative team was looking for fresh thinking and to "look outside of the Hallmark walls" to a demographic the company doesn't often engage, so the riddle was extended to MU students.
Knipp said he originally anticipated offering the contest to journalism students, but Davis' ties through Mizzou Advantage gave him the opportunity to open the contest to the entire university.

Knipp said he was pleased with the outcome and believes there will be more contests in the future.

Fittingly, Johnston said he just "started smiling" when he received the news his story had won. This summer Johnston will go to Hallmark headquarters in Kansas City — expenses paid — and work with a team to develop his story into a product concept.

Johnston said he doesn't know where the story will go, but he knows it will be a "neat opportunity and a good experience."
The interest rate on many student loans is scheduled to double on July 1, to 6.8 percent from 3.4 percent — just as it was last year, when in the midst of an election campaign, Congress voted to extend the lower rate.

Again this year, no one wants the increase to happen, especially since even the current rate is well above market. But once again, there is likely to be a good deal of brinkmanship before the issue is settled. This time around, though, longer-term solutions may be on the horizon.

On Tuesday, the day before the White House plans to send its budget to Congress, student advocacy groups are releasing an issue brief charging that the federal government should not be profiting from student loans, while more and more students bear a crushing debt burden.

The brief, citing a February report from the Congressional Budget Office, said the federal government makes 36 cents in profit on every student-loan dollar it puts out, and estimates that over all, student loans will bring in $34 billion next year.

“Higher education loans are meant to subsidize the cost of higher education, not profit from them, especially at a time when students are facing record debt,” said Ethan Senack, the higher education advocate at the United States Public Interest Research Group, which is issuing the brief with the United States Student Association and Young Invincibles, an organization for people 18 to 34.

“The revenue from student loans should be used to keep education affordable, and should never be used to pay down the deficit or for other federal programs,” Mr. Senack said.

While it has long been known that the government makes money on student loans, the numbers in the issue brief are surprising, said Terry Hartle, senior vice president of the American Council on Education.
"If the numbers are accurate, the government will make more money on student loans than Ford makes on automobiles," he said. "Using student loans to create a profit center is not what anybody intended."

Student loan borrowers graduate with an average debt of $27,000, and the scheduled interest rate increase on subsidized Stafford loans would cost almost 10 million borrowers about $1,000 more over the life of their loan, for each year of college.

According to the C.B.O. report, the government will get 12.5 cents in revenue next year for every dollar lent through subsidized Staffords, 33.3 cents per dollar in unsubsidized Staffords, 54.8 cents on each dollar of graduate school loans, and 49 cents per dollar of parent loans, for a total of $34 billion a year.

Borrowers of subsidized Stafford loans make up more than a third of those using federal student aid. More than two-thirds of those borrowers are from families with an annual income under $50,000. Last April, in his re-election campaign, President Obama made a central issue of stopping the Stafford interest rate increase. A few days later, Mitt Romney expressed a similar view.

Now that the lower rate is about to expire, there is general agreement that it should not double. But a solution is unclear.

The White House budget is widely expected to include a proposal to move to a variable interest rate, pegged to the government’s cost of borrowing, that would be reset every year.

"The president’s plan will help middle-class students and their families afford college by stopping interest rates from doubling on July 1 as part of a long-term solution that is fair, fiscally responsible and benefits more borrowers by offering lower interest rates on nearly all federal student loans next year," said an administration official, who declined to provide details of the plan.

Many Republicans favor a variable interest rate. But the Senate recently passed a budget resolution extending the 3.4 percent rate indefinitely, and Representative Joe Courtney, Democrat of Connecticut, said he planned to introduce legislation this week extending the 3.4 rate for two years, to give Congress time to rethink student loan interest rates as part of the higher education reauthorization bill.

"We have this very fragmented loan system, with subsidized loans and nonsubsidized loans and graduate students who may not qualify for anything," Mr. Courtney said, "and we need some kind of long-term proposal that isn’t a one-year fix, but would use the low cost of money now as a sweetener."
Couch potatoes may be genetically predisposed to laziness: study

Genetics play a role in exercise motivation, say researchers who were able to breed rats for extreme activity and extreme laziness.

Can't get off the couch? Blame your genes: new US research suggests certain genetic traits may predispose people to being more or less motivated to being active.

University of Missouri researchers selectively bred rats that exhibited traits of either extreme activity or extreme laziness. While humans aren't rats, the scientists say that the rats indicate that genetics could play a role in exercise motivation in humans, too.

"We have shown that it is possible to be genetically predisposed to being lazy," said researcher Frank Booth. "This could be an important step in identifying additional causes for obesity in humans... it would be very useful to know if a person is genetically predisposed to having a lack of motivation to exercise, because that could potentially make them more likely to grow obese."

Booth and the team put rats in cages with running wheels and measured how much each rat willingly ran on its wheel during a six-day period. They then bred the top 26 runners with each other and bred the 26 rats that ran the least with each other. The scientists repeated this process through 10 generations and found that the line of running rats chose to run 10 times more than the line of "lazy" rats.

Once the researchers created their "super runner" and "couch potato" rats, they studied the levels of mitochondria in muscle cells, compared body composition and conducted genetic evaluations through RNA deep sequencing of each rat.

"While we found minor differences in the body composition and levels of mitochondria in muscle cells of the rats, the most important thing we identified were the genetic differences between the two lines of rats," Roberts said. "Out of more than 17,000 different genes in one part of the brain, we identified 36 genes that may play a role in predisposition to physical activity motivation."

The findings were published online in the American Journal of Physiology: Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology.
Mizzou to host SEC business school competition

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Graduate business students from schools in the Southeastern Conference come to the University of Missouri this week for an academic competition among the prospective MBAs.

The inaugural SEC MBA Case Competition begins Thursday and continues through Saturday on the Columbia campus. It's one of several initiatives of SECU, the conference's academic component.

Teams of four graduate business students representing each of the 14 SEC member schools will evaluate case studies provided by event sponsor AT&T and present potential business plans.
JEFFERSON CITY — The Missouri Senate has given first-round approval to a bill that would create a fund to develop so-called "Innovation Campuses."

The campuses are designed to help students complete their degrees sooner and land jobs in high-need fields. Projects involve partnerships between colleges and universities, businesses and, frequently, area school districts to help students earn college credits and get work experience.

Currently, some of the campuses are funded through grants, but the measure endorsed Tuesday would allow state funds to be appropriated for the project. It needs one more vote before moving to the House.

The bill's sponsor is Republican Sen. Will Kraus, of Lee's Summit.
Columbia start-up receives $250,000 funding from UM System

The University of Missouri System awarded $250,000 in investment funds to a Columbia start-up company that licenses technology from MU.

MedSocket, which officially opened in January, is geared toward commercializing products developed by the university to increase health care quality. The funding comes as a part of the Enterprise Investment Program, the Office of Research and Economic Development’s program for economic development in Missouri.

“The EIP was initiated to create more jobs across Missouri by moving innovations from the system’s four campuses to the marketplace by way of start-ups,” said Mike Nichols, UM System vice president for Research and Economic Development, in an email. “The start-up company currently employs five (individuals) and through this co-investment, MedSocket expects to generate revenue by late 2013. When put into practice, MedSocket’s efficient technology has been instrumental in saving time and money for health care providers.”

MedSocket developed a program called I-Click Decision Support, which uses algorithms to aid doctors in choosing proper treatment options by taking in information from a patient’s chart and choosing the treatment instantaneously.

MedSocket Chief Financial Officer Joel Kaplan said the company’s products help give doctors more time to actually talk to the patient and less time searching for the proper treatment.

“Doctors have very little time with the patients today,” Kaplan said. “MedSocket’s goal is to provide the right information at the point of care. Physicians don’t have time to take information and put it into online calculators that are available since they only see the patient for 15 to 20 minutes. We do that automatically with ICDS.”

Kaplan said the university develops patents for technology that have potential for commercialization and then licenses those patents to companies such as MedSocket for development.

“The university began plans for ICDS after the patent was issued in October of last year,” he said. “We are taking it and creating a business that will help create jobs for the university and Columbia in general.”

University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe expressed confidence in the investment when the decision was announced Thursday.

“Our financial investments continue to make a difference—serving as a catalyst between our researchers’ innovative technologies and the marketplace,” Wolfe said in a news release. “And with this investment, MedSocket has been able to leverage external funding from our partners.”
Nichols said MedSocket was chosen from among 13 other companies to secure the funding from the second round of the EIP.

"After the advisory panel reviewed the applicants, MedSocket was among the top-ranked candidates," he said in an e-mail. "The strength of the technology, management team, and their ability to leverage our investment to raise approximately $450,000 in additional funding greatly influenced our decision."

The goal of the UM System's investment is the hope that the success of start-ups such as MedSocket will help Missouri's economic climate as a whole, Nichols said.

"The Missouri Technology Corporation gets funding from the U.S. Small Business Administration and then looks for opportunities in Missouri to help build the economic engine of the state," he said. "We apply and go through rounds of questions and they determine if it will be worthwhile to invest in our company to create a better economic environment for Missouri. We will be giving them more money down the road to give to other people."

For now, the company hopes to use the investment to create between 500 and 600 ICDS units and solidify its business plan.
MU Health Care System program provides support to grieving health care workers

Before the creation of the forYOU peer support program, there was no road map to follow to help health care workers recover from emotional impact of the loss of a patient or a traumatic clinical event.

In 2007, before the program was fully implemented, one out of seven health care workers in the MU Health Care System reported emotional trauma following a “patient safety event,” and 68 percent did not receive trauma support, according to an internal survey completed by the system.

Susan Scott, coordinator of forYOU and doctoral student in the Sinclair School of Nursing, created the idea for the peer support program in 2006 after she saw how loss of a patient affected Tony, a nurse. Tony, whose name has been changed to maintain privacy, formed a bond with a patient who later died following a minor procedure.

Scott recognized that other health care workers, like Tony, might have been suffering from emotional trauma that they weren’t coping with in a healthy way.

“They came in that day to work to help somebody, and when they couldn’t do that, it caused them a lot of distress,” Scott said. “We decided we needed to figure out a way to help the staff when they were experiencing a difficult clinical event.”

The forYOU program consists of 93 members, from physicians to social workers, who have completed eight hours of support training. Scott said the program provides “emotional first aid” to health care workers who become “second victims.”

“A second victim is anyone who is emotionally impacted or traumatized by a clinical event and is second-guessing their career and their qualifications,” said Laura Hirschinger, facility leader with the forYOU peer support program.

ForYOU became the first of its kind when its steering team launched the program in 2007. In order to understand how to help health care workers cope with tragedy, a team of researchers with the program analyzed the second victim phenomenon, Scott said. Researchers found that clinicians experience a six-stage grieving process that is not affected by how recently the event occurred, and that clinicians do desire support from colleagues.

ForYOU provides clinician support in three tiers of local or department support provided by coworkers, support and beginning levels of counseling provided by the trained peer supporters and professional support from trained counselors.

“Historically, we’d always try to keep on going and sort it out on our own at home,” Scott said. “People go into health care to feel like they can help, and if they go into a situation and can’t help it’s devastating to their professional psyche.”
Becky Miller, executive director of the Center for Patient Safety, an organization based at University Hospital that works statewide and nationwide to improve patient safety, said many health care workers leave their profession following an emotional trauma. Miller said the forYOU program supports employees in a profession that traditionally focuses on patients and families.

"I think helping them (health care workers) through a crisis can keep them in the profession ... and keep them full-functioning in their job," Miller said.

Scott and Hirschinger have presented the program to more than 5,700 people in more than 45 locations, including Denmark, England and Switzerland, where they were flown to speak about the program at conventions.

In 2009, forYOU received the HOPE Award from the Medically Induced Trauma Support Services, and The Institute for Safe Medication Practices awarded the program the Cheers Award in 2012.

Hirschinger said forYOU especially helps clinicians confront trauma in an environment that values privacy and confidentiality.

"We want to be professional with our patients, and we also want to be compassionate," Hirschinger said. "So it's kind of this weird balance ... and I think we have never allowed ourselves to pause when we feel this impact of caring."

At a recent regional presentation, one doctor shared with Scott the emotional trauma he had experienced in 1996. He had never told anyone about the experience before.

"He said, 'I wish you were there in 1996,'" Scott said. "'I've wasted so much negative energy.'"
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Gandhi's grandson to speak at MU's Memorial Student Union

By Nick Agro
April 9, 2013 | 6:02 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA -- Two MU professors, Charles Davis and Paul Wallace, will interview Rajmohan Gandhi, a grandson of Mohandas Gandhi, at 11 a.m. Friday in Stotler Lounge at Memorial Student Union.

Davis, a journalism professor, and Wallace, a political science professor, will have a conversation with Rajmohan Gandhi, whose grandfather led India's push for independence from Britain, to understand how India's relationship with Pakistan will affect the rest of the world.

Gandhi's recent book, "A Tale of Two Revolts: India's Mutiny and the American Civil War," chronicles the two conflicts, which have important similarities despite being thousands of miles and many decades apart. Gandhi is a retired research professor at the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"I'm really interested in talking to him about the India-Pakistan relationship," Davis said. "I'd like to see if he thinks a united Kashmir is possible."

Kashmir, an area north of India and east of Pakistan, has been a disputed region between the two nations for decades. Representatives of Ellis Library asked Davis to interview Gandhi because of his background in journalism. Davis then asked Wallace to participate because of his knowledge of the Indian subcontinent.

"He's one of the deepest experts on South Asia that I know of," Davis said. Wallace has worked with the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the U.S. Attorney General's Office and other organizations as a consultant on South Asia, according to a news release from the library.

Later in the evening, Gandhi will speak about human culture and memory at the Library Society Dinner, a fundraising event for MU Libraries, according to Shannon Cary, communications director for the library.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU club explores creation of solid objects through 3-D printing technology

By Alissa Fisher, Lauren Hill
April 9, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — In a dimly lit basement room constructed of concrete walls and hard stone floors, creations are born.

Lafferre Hall is a place of magic, where a single idea can become a reality through 3-D printing.

3-D printing is the process of creating three-dimensional solid objects by “printing” layers of heated plastic on top of each other, layer by layer. Mechanical engineers, biomedical engineers, designers, architects and artists throughout the world use this process to create prototypes, designs and solid models. Students are exploring and learning about this process at MU through the 3-D Printing Club.

The 3-D Printing Club was founded in October by seniors Alex Madinger and Derek Provance. They saw a number of people interested in 3-D printing but no community for them to grow and learn, Madinger said. More than 100 people attended the first meeting in November.

Madinger recounted that he had nowhere to nurture his passion for 3-D printing before the club’s formation.

“When I began I was adrift and felt on my own,” Madinger said. "We want to empower students to investigate 3-D printing further if they want to.”

The club meets every first and third Thursday of the month. The meeting agendas vary. The club could have a demonstration on a new technique, hold elections for officers or video chat with speakers from around the world. Throughout the year, the club holds seminars to further the education of their members. Seminars include 3-D Printing Club 101 to teach the basics of 3-D printing and computer aided design to teach programs used to make models for printing.
Madinger, a mechanical engineering student and president of the 3-D Printing Club, and Provance, a computer science student and vice president of the club, started building 3-D printers during the summer out of parts ordered online. They assembled the printers using blueprints and instructions also found on the Internet. The plastic that is used by the club is the same plastic used to make Legos. The students either create their own designs to print or they find images on the Internet and print off the models.

The club encourages students from all majors and areas of interest to join. The first member to join was a communications major.

Columbia’s Modern Meadow, 1601 S. Providence Road, is using this process to print leather and steak, as in meat, Provance said. Just like in regular 3-D printing, the printer goes layer by layer to create the final product. Except this time, the substances used are the cells of the meat along with a bonding agent. The cells fuse together to create the final product.

Provance said he hopes that this technology will carry the world into a brighter future by feeding the less fortunate in foreign countries.
Put a lid on conspiracy legislation

Anti-drone measure and similar bills hurt Missouri.

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 2:00 pm

This appeared Friday in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The Missouri House on Thursday protected farms in the state from the Attack of the Drones.

Rural lawmakers, most of them Republicans, fed the conspiracy theory that the federal government has a plan to unleash thousands of drones on unsuspecting farmers, sent by the Environmental Protection Agency to spy on fertilization methods, or by Homeland Security to confiscate guns, or that third agency that former Gov. Rick Perry, a former GOP candidate for president, said he wanted to eliminate. What was that agency again?

This could be chalked up to the annual legislative silliness that goes on in Missouri’s Capitol. On the same day the House gave initial approval to the anti-drone bill, the Senate moved closer to passing a bill from Sen. Brian Nieves, R-Washington, that would protect Missouri from another wild conspiracy, the United Nations’ “Agenda 21,” which the tin-foil-hat brigade has decided is a worldwide plot to take our property.

No doubt, the U.N. will be sending out drones to enforce its agenda. But this is more than silliness. It’s dangerous lawmaking on behalf of conspiracy theorists.

Rep. Casey Guernsey’s anti-drone bill, House Bill 46, could have serious negative consequences on a growing industry that is finding all sorts of commercial applications for drones. The drone industry is already a multibillion-dollar economic driver. The unmanned devices are being used by law enforcement, by journalists, by research institutions (including the University of Missouri), by utility companies and by the sorts of entrepreneurial businesses that lawmakers claim to support.

Missouri lawmakers seem intent on erecting a sign at the state border that says, “Closed for drone business: Send your jobs elsewhere.”

The real motivation behind the anti-drone law isn’t about protecting the right to privacy, but taking further steps to protect large, corporate farming interests that already have more protections in Missouri than most places in the country.
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Hallmark plans to use writing.

By Karyn Sory

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 2:00 pm

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