Study: We're Closer to Identifying the Genes That Cause Laziness

PROBLEM: Lab animals don't care about heart health or weight loss, I'm pretty sure. So what could it possibly be that motivates a caged rat to run rapidly nowhere on its wheel each night? And why is that some humans, who we at least try to make care about heart health and weight loss, are so much more willing to jump on the treadmill than others?

METHODOLOGY: Researchers at the University of Missouri took lab rats that spent the most time voluntarily running, and bred them with other highly active rats. They then did the same for the least active rodents. Eight generations later, they analyzed the behavior and physiology of the original rats' great-great-great-great-great-great grandchildren.

RESULTS: The rats had subtle differences in body composition and in the levels of mitochondria in their muscle cells. But those bred to be lazy chose to spend significantly less time on the wheel, ran shorter distances, and were generally slower. By the tenth generation, the active mice were running ten times as much as the lazy ones. And after six days of that, they had lost considerable body fat, while the others neither gained nor lost weight. The researchers narrowed down the discrepancy in motivation to 36 genes that appeared to be responsible.

IMPLICATIONS: The answer to promoting physical activity in humans probably isn't selective breeding, despite the best efforts of Fitness Singles ("where relationships workout!"). But if we can isolate the genetic basis of laziness in humans, perhaps we can better understand how to motivate those for whom the urge to exercise isn't innate. Or we can at least be more understanding about their indifference toward the idea of a bicycle desk.
Drunk and emotional people are the most likely to log on to Facebook, researchers find

- Heavy drinkers are more connected to Facebook than cannabis smokers
- It is more socially acceptable to mention drinking than drug use on the site
- Anxious people are more likely to use the site to connect with friends

People who are drunk and anxious are most likely to be emotionally connected to Facebook, according to new research.

A doctoral student has also discovered that people who use marijuana are less likely to be emotionally connected to the social networking site.

Russell Clayton, from the University of Missouri School of Journalism, wanted to discover how involved Facebook’s one billion users become in the site.

He surveyed more than 225 students about their perceived levels of loneliness, anxiousness, alcohol use and marijuana use.

He found that students who reported higher levels of anxiousness and alcohol use were more emotionally connected to Facebook and to the social connections it facilitates.

Mr Clayton also discovered that students who had higher levels of anxiety and loneliness were more likely to use Facebook as a platform to connect with others. ‘People who perceive themselves to be anxious are more likely to want to meet and connect with people online, as opposed to a more social, public setting,’ Mr Clayton said.

‘Also, when people who are emotionally connected to Facebook view pictures and statuses of their Facebook friends using alcohol, they are more motivated to engage in similar online behaviours in order to fit in socially.’

He added that because alcohol use is generally viewed as normative, or socially acceptable, among college students, increased alcohol use may cause an increase in emotional connectedness to Facebook.

By contrast, he also found that students who used marijuana were less emotionally connected with Facebook.

‘Marijuana use is less normative, meaning fewer people post on Facebook about using it,’ Mr Clayton said. ‘In turn, people who engage in marijuana use are less likely to be emotionally attached to Facebook.’
Clayton and his fellow researchers also found that students who reported high levels of perceived loneliness were not emotionally connected to Facebook, but use Facebook as a tool to connect with others.

This study was published in the Journal of Computers in Human Behaviour.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Chancellors to unveil strategy statements at Board of Curators meeting

By Dan Burley, Katie Yaeger
April 10, 2013 | 7:57 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The four chancellors of the University of Missouri System will each unveil a short statement Friday that will help shape the future of their institutions.

These "strategy statements" act as blueprints, so to speak, for system and campus priorities in the future, UM System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said.

Required by the system as part of its larger strategic planning effort, the statement must describe how each institution will define itself within the system, compete with other universities nationally and achieve specified goals over the next several years.

These presentations will outline the strategy statements in general terms and open the floor for discussion at the regularly scheduled UM System Board of Curators meetings Thursday and Friday at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. The meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. Thursday. In June, the chancellors will return to the curators and provide a detailed plan that explains how each institution will meet the objectives defined in the statement.

Instead of providing amorphous objectives, system President Tim Wolfe has advised that each statement set a metric that is time-bound and measurable, such as increasing enrollment by a certain amount by 2020, according to meeting documents.

The statements could have budgetary implications as well.

If the system receives more money from the state than it did in fiscal year 2013, the additional money might be distributed to the institutions based on the criteria defined in these strategy statements, Wolfe said.
Tom Phillips, a professor of biological sciences at MU, co-chaired a committee that drafted MU’s strategy statement.

"The statement will help drive decisions in the future: where we’ll move money, what are the highest priority items, and then what are the lower priority items that require us to make tough decisions," Phillips said.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton formed the committee of 14 faculty, staff and administrators last October, Phillips said. Since then, the committee has received input on drafts of the strategy statement from Faculty Council, Missouri Students Association and open forums for faculty and staff.

"There are lots of different stakeholders and our job was to balance the competing needs of the different groups," Phillips said.

Phillips said it’s critical to make the statement as realistic as possible.

"Administrators have to make decisions," he said. "This (the strategy statement) is a way we can identify things so we can come back and say, 'Why aren’t these things being done?'

"Dollars are limited and state support has dwindled, so it’s important to use resources in an efficient way,

State support at MU has dropped by 12 percent since 2001, according to MU Budget Director Rhonda Gibler.

The decrease in state support is a trend that Deaton will identify when he addresses the curators on Friday.

At Thursday’s meeting, the curators will review the preliminary budget for fiscal year 2014. In February, the curators agreed on a 1.7 percent increase in tuition and fees for resident, undergraduate students.

Supervising editor Elizabeth Brixey.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU astronomy professor Angela Speck receives Kemper Fellowship award

By Jessica Thomas
April 10, 2013 | 4:55 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Angela Speck felt “sheer terror” when MU administrators, professors and staff entered her classroom to award her the William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence.

She knew she was going to blush.

"It doesn’t go with the outfit or the hair," said Speck, whose hair is black with purple and green streaks.

Speck, a professor in the MU Department of Physics and Astronomy, received the fifth and final 2013 Kemper Fellowship on Wednesday morning. She joined associate professor of toxicology Tim Evans, who won the first award, and three other professors who also won awards.

MU Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton made the announcement to eight students in Speck’s Introduction to Modern Astrophysics course before Commerce Bank Chairman Jim Schatz presented her with a check for $10,000.

The Kemper Fellowship program was established in 1991. It was named for William T. Kemper, a 1926 graduate of MU. Commerce Bank controls a trust that provides $10,000 awards to five outstanding MU professors each year.

In his presentation of the award, Middleton recalled a conversation he had with Speck when they both traveled to South Africa.

"She said she wanted to be an astronomer since she was a little girl," Middleton said. "Her passion for the field is obvious."

Twenty minutes later, Speck was back to teaching her class, which focused on techniques for measuring distance in space.
A student walked in late and missed the announcement. "You missed all the fun," Speck told him.

Speck said she is in her 11th year teaching at MU. She has been a professor in the department since 2011, according to a release from the MU News Bureau.

She completed her undergraduate studies in astrophysics at Queen Mary, University of London. She received her Ph.D. in astronomy from University College London and did postdoctoral work at both University College London and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"She's very passionate about her teaching, and she clearly does a very good job," said Stephen Garton, a junior chemical engineering major in the class. "She's good at explaining concepts in simple ways."

Although Speck knew she had been nominated for the award, she was surprised by the visit.

"I'm speechless, which is really unusual," Speck said when she accepted the award.

She said she appreciates the university for recognizing people who put effort into their teaching.

"I don't see my research and my teaching as being distinct things," she said. "They feed into each other."

*Supervising editor is Richard Webner.*
Final 2013 Kemper award goes to Speck

Angela Speck, a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Missouri, received the final 2013 William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence award this morning.

MU Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton, Commerce Bank Chairman Jim Schatz and a group of professors, administrators and staff surprised Speck with the fellowship, which includes a $10,000 check.

Speck has been teaching at MU since 2007 and is known for engaging students with learner-centered and peer instruction techniques.

Fellowships are awarded to five outstanding teachers at MU each year.
KWMU, Beacon online publication about to merge?

41 minutes ago • By Joe Holleman jholleman@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8254

Public-radio station KWMU-90.7 FM and the St. Louis Beacon, an online news publication, have been talking about joining forces since last year.

Sources now say if all goes well, the local media landscape could see a June wedding.

"It's always good to have a target, and our fiscal year begins July 1," said KWMU general manager Tim Eby. "And while that may be our goal, it is not a drop-dead date."

In October 2012, KWMU and the Beacon signed a letter of intent to negotiate a more permanent union.

Eby said any plan devised by the two sides would then need to be reviewed in detail by administrators from the University of Missouri, which owns the station.

Some of the main issues on the table is how to merge the two news staffs — about 25 with the Beacon and 13 with KWMU — and how to deal with different technology being used by both sides.

"There would be one website to go to for our news, but we would still need to work out branding on that," Eby said.

Fundraising would likely be easier, a source said, because the two publicly-funded entities would not have to compete against each others quite as hard for donations.

"The Beacon would certainly benefit because it hasn't gotten to the point where someone will pay $35 for a coffee mug," the source said, referring to the well-known public-radio and TV fund drives.

Eby agreed that financial concerns are important to both sides. "As you may have noticed, journalism is not an easy endeavor to find funding for," he said.

The Knight Foundation gave the two sides $40,000 to help pay for consultants, who have worked on the negotiations, Eby said.

Beacon editor Margaret Wolf Freivogel was unavailable for comment.

KWMU is the public-radio NPR affiliate in STL. The Beacon is a non-profit news service started by former Post-Dispatch employees in 2008 and is supported by grants and donations.

The two sides worked together last year, along with KETC-Channel 9, on the "Beyond November" project, a website for election/political coverage. Funding for that effort ended in January.

"Joe's St. Louis" appears online Monday-Friday and in print on Saturday. Holleman's "Life Sherpa" column appears Sundays in Everyday. On Fridays, Holleman is a guest at 8:10 a.m. on FM NewsTalk 97.1, and at 2:20 p.m. on KTRS AM-550. Follow him on Facebook and Twitter.
The Obama administration on Wednesday proposed a budget for the 2014 fiscal year that suggests slowly rebuilding federal support for science, with an emphasis on favored fields that include clean energy and biotechnology.

The administration’s 2014 spending plan includes a total of $33.2-billion for basic research, an increase of about 4 percent over fiscal-2012 levels. It proposes total research-and-development spending of $143-billion, about 1.3 percent more than the fiscal-2012 amount.

The White House, throughout its annual budget, avoided making the usual direct comparisons to current-year spending because agencies are still calculating the full effects of the cuts from the sequestration measure that took effect last month.

Over all, the sequestration measure cost federal agencies about 5 percent of their budgets, leaving the administration struggling to meet earlier promises of expanded spending on research.

President Obama, in announcing his budget for the fiscal year that begins on October 1, repeatedly emphasized his hope that Congress would reverse the “foolish across-the-board spending cuts” required by the sequestration law.

He listed research spending as one of the areas where greater federal spending was needed to help expand the economy. The president’s governmentwide 2014 budget totals $3.8-trillion, an increase of nearly 5 percent, given estimates of about $3.6-trillion in 2013 spending after sequestration is included.

Among specific agencies, the administration’s 2014 budget proposes $31.3-billion for the National Institutes of Health, the leading provider of basic research money at universities. That’s about 1.5
percent above its 2012 level. The president’s budget proposes $7.6-billion for the National Science Foundation, up 8.4 percent from 2012 levels.

The administration proposed more than $5-billion for the Department of Energy’s Office of Science, an increase of nearly 6 percent. And one of the smaller agencies that spend money on science, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, was recommended for a budget of $928-million, up 23 percent over 2012 levels. Part of its increase would finance a new NIST program to help universities work with companies and government agencies to develop advanced manufacturing technologies.

**Specific Goals**

In recent days, Mr. Obama has sought to build interest in scientific investment by describing plans for projects that include a comprehensive study of the brain and the capture of an interplanetary asteroid. In his budget outline on Wednesday, he listed “clean-energy technologies, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, and new materials” as additional areas of emphasis.

Advocates of federal spending on science have said that such specific goals may help generate enthusiasm in Congress for their priorities, but might hinder more open-ended scientific investigations that could be more useful to the country in the long run.

Some of the proposed increases in basic research would be enabled by cuts in military-related research, which would be reduced by 5.2 percent, to $73.2-billion, the administration said. The Pentagon’s spending on basic science, however, would hold level at nearly $12-billion.

The president also affirmed in the budget his earlier pledge to increase research into gun-related violence. His proposal includes $10-million for research on the topic by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and $20-million to build a database of violent-death reports that could help researchers identify causes and solutions.

Mr. Obama also proposed expanding federal efforts to improve the teaching of science at all educational levels, including college. His budget suggests consolidating programs for science education that are scattered across various federal agencies, and spending $123-million on research into how new technologies could be used to improve science instruction. The administration’s plan includes $79-million, an increase of $13-million over 2012 levels, for a program to give undergraduates more exposure to hands-on research.
The plan to consolidate science-teaching programs may be premature, said Carl E. Wieman, a Nobel laureate in physics who worked in the White House science office in Mr. Obama's first term. The plan appears "too sweeping," without enough thought to the types of programs that actually deserve separate treatment, said Mr. Wieman, now a professor of physics at the University of British Columbia.

A 'Lifeline for Medical Research'

The administration's budget also includes $714-million for a high-security federal laboratory for studying food-related pathogens at Kansas State University, reversing its decision last year to end support for the project. And the Humane Society of the United States said it was pleased the president's budget contains a plan to finance increased sanctuary places for government-owned chimpanzees no longer needed for research.

University representatives and other advocates of science spending typically take a few days to analyze a president's budget before offering detailed assessments. Research!America, an association of companies, universities, and other supporters of federal spending on science, called the administration's budget a badly needed "lifeline for medical research."

If Congress doesn't endorse a similar plan, sequestration and 10 years of across-the-board spending cuts "will drag our nation down from its leadership position in research and development as other countries aggressively ramp up investments," the group said. A leading representative of research institutions, the Association of American Universities, said it was encouraged by its initial review of the proposals.

Mr. Obama's budget "offers hope that the nation will continue to make science and education investments a top national priority while taking serious steps to reduce budget deficits," Hunter R. Rawlings, the group's president, said in a written statement.

Congressional Republicans were widely critical of Mr. Obama's overall budget recommendations, and those involved in science policy followed along. The chairman of the House science committee, Rep. Lamar Smith of Texas, said he was especially skeptical of the asteroid mission and of the proposed subsidies for alternative energy. The committee plans hearings in coming weeks to explore the ideas, Mr. Smith said.
Federal Research Cuts Have a Multiplier Effect on U.S. Economy

By Don Troop

In releasing his administration’s budget for the 2014 fiscal year on Wednesday, President Obama said the proposal would replace “the foolish across-the-board spending cuts that are already hurting our economy,” a reference to the effects of the federal sequester that began last month.

John Nelson, managing director of the health-care and higher-education rating teams at Moody’s Investors Service, the credit-rating agency, observed in a recent interview that few politicians at any level of government favor the way the sequester’s $85-billion in automatic cuts will affect research universities. “I think most elected officials recognize the importance and growing value of research universities to economic development,” he said. “They don’t want to hurt research universities.”

Most of damage, at least in the short term, The Chronicle learned in conversations with deans and vice presidents for research at a number of large public universities, is being inflicted upon graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and principal investigators.

In the long term, data suggest, it is the United States itself that stands to lose the most.

The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation, a nonpartisan think tank that seeks to advance technological innovation and productivity, has pointed out the multiplier effect that basic research has on the economy. ITIF, as the foundation is known, has calculated that the $9.5-billion reduction in federal research-and-development financing in the 2013 fiscal year will reduce the gross domestic product by $154-billion to $654-billion over the next nine years. The total number of jobs lost or not created by 2016 as a result of the budget cuts will be 342,000, the foundation estimates.

Thomas Baldwin, executive associate dean of the University of California at Riverside’s College of Natural and Agricultural Science, likes to point out that a little company called Google was conceived with the help of a National Science Foundation grant. The federal money went to a group of Stanford
University researchers who used it to develop a new algorithm that someone had suggested could be used in database searches.

“It came from one NSF grant,” Mr. Baldwin said. “Today the economic output from Google would fund the entire National Science Foundation for many, many years. ... Not every grant is that kind of a blockbuster, of course, but you never know where they are.”

The potential return on investment of university research projects is astounding, he continued. “The number that I heard most recently on return on investment on the Human Genome Project was $140 of economic return for every dollar invested.”

Mr. Baldwin, who spoke grimly of the prospect of research teams’ being dissolved after years of federally supported work—never to be reassembled again—was frank in his assessment of the damage from the budget cuts.

Not everyone with whom The Chronicle spoke was as forthright. Some seemed to take pains to project a can-do spirit in the face of adversity, and still others failed to respond to repeated invitations to describe how they were confronting the prospect of budget cuts.

The silence did not surprise Mr. Nelson, of Moody’s, who noted that continued federal cuts could damage institutions’ abilities to attract private researchers and donors.

“Private philanthropists want to give money to places that are successful,” he said. “They don’t generally want to be seen as white knights rescuing stressed organizations. They instead want to give money to a place that’s actually the opposite, a place that’s robust, where they can really have an impact.”

Are the worst-hit institutions simply not advertising the severity of the budget cuts on their research mission lest they frighten away prospective donors and would-be faculty members? Only time, and the outcome of negotiations over the president’s budget, will tell.
Obama's Budget Would Increase Pell Grants and Add Incentives on Some Student-Aid Money

By Kelly Field

NO MENTION

In his long-awaited budget for the 2014 fiscal year, released on Wednesday, President Obama asks Congress to increase the maximum Pell Grant by $140, to $5,785, and spend $8-billion on job-training programs at community colleges.

The spending plan, which comes roughly three weeks after the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives passed budgets outlining their own priorities, repeats the president’s call to expand and remake the Perkins Loan program, an idea he first offered in 2009. It would raise spending on Federal Work-Study by $150-million, doubling the number of recipients over five years, but would provide no increase for Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants.

Minority-serving institutions would receive level funds, as would the TRIO and Gear Up college-preparatory programs.

Typically, the president releases his budget in February, shortly after his State of the Union address, and the House and Senate follow suit. The White House has blamed this year’s delay on uncertainty created by sequestration, which cut billions from the current year’s budget and will slash $1.2-trillion over the next decade unless Congress intervenes.

The president’s budget for the 2014 fiscal year, which starts on October 1, does not reflect sequestration cuts for that year because Mr. Obama would replace the automatic across-the-board cuts with more targeted reductions.

Like the president’s last two budgets, the blueprint for 2014 would provide $1-billion for “Race to the Top”-style grants to states and millions more for a “First in the World” innovation competition for nonprofit organizations and colleges. It would also replace the Teach Grant program with a
Presidential Teaching Fellows grant program for the states, an idea that Mr. Obama first floated in 2011.

None of those programs has received funds to date, largely because of budget constraints. Community colleges have received $2-billion of the $12-billion that the president first sought for them in 2009.

Under the president’s perennial Perkins Loan proposal, the program would grow from $1-billion to $8.5-billion. Some of the additional aid would go to colleges that kept tuition down, provided “good value,” and served low-income students effectively. The 2014 budget would extend those incentives to the Work-Study program.

Wrestling Over Rates

New this year is a proposal to peg student-loan interest rates to U.S. Treasury securities, an idea that’s popular with Republicans in both chambers of Congress. Under the president’s plan, students with subsidized Stafford loans would be charged a rate equal to the 10-year Treasury note—currently 1.75 percent—plus 0.93 percentage points. Students with unsubsidized Stafford loans would pay an additional two percentage points, while parents and graduate students with PLUS loans would pay three percentage points more. Interest rates would be set annually and fixed for the duration of each loan.

The plan is similar to a bill, introduced by Senate Republicans on Tuesday, that would set the rate on all newly issued loans at the rate on 10-year Treasury notes plus three percentage points, though the president’s proposal is significantly more generous to borrowers with subsidized loans, and slightly less generous to parents and graduate students.

Neither plan would provide an interest-rate cap—a safeguard student-advocacy groups are insisting on. In a statement issued on Wednesday, several groups warned that the plan “risks spiking the cost of college for future generations.”

Responding to that concern, Carmel Martin, the Education Department’s assistant secretary for the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, told reporters that a cap would force the government to charge current students more, as a “hedge” against rising rates.

Instead, the administration is proposing to expand its "Pay as You Go" income-based plan to all borrowers, so no one would have to pay more than 10 percent of his or her discretionary income, and
borrowers could have their remaining debt forgiven after 20 years of repayment. Currently, only borrowers who had no outstanding loans as of October 1, 2007, and who took out a direct loan after October 1, 2011, are eligible for the program.

Under Mr. Obama's plan, a subsidized loan made today would carry a rate of 2.7 percent, and an unsubsidized loan would carry a rate of 4.7 percent. Both rates are cheaper than the current rates of 3.4 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively, which were set by Congress several years ago. Barring Congressional action, the rate on subsidized loans is scheduled to double, to 6.8 percent, on July 1.

The budget also fleshes out a plan, announced in the president's State of the Union address, to provide grants to states that team up with employers and colleges to "better equip graduates for the demands of a high-tech economy," including $300-million for a "High School Redesign Program." The program would award grants to school districts that form partnerships with postsecondary institutions, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to help ensure that all students graduate from high school with college credit and "career-related experiences," such as internships.

It would provide $67-million to study the student-aid system and test new ways of awarding aid, such as through dual-enrollment programs.

The House and Senate budget blueprints differ on several proposals affecting student aid. The Senate plan calls for maintaining scheduled increases in the Pell Grant, while the House proposes a 10-year freeze, coupled with tighter eligibility rules. The House would allow interest rates on subsidized loans to double, while the Senate would extend the 3.4-percent rate indefinitely.

### Highlights of Obama's Fiscal-2014 Budget for Higher Education and Science

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<tr>
<th>Education Department Highlights</th>
<th>One-year change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pell Grants (maximum individual award)</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pell Grants (total program costs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Work-Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aid to historically black colleges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aid to Hispanic-serving colleges</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRIO programs for disadvantaged students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gear Up</td>
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### Highlights for Other Agencies

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<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>One-year change</th>
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<tr>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy Department Office of Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Endowment for the Humanities</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Endowment for the Arts</td>
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Note: Percentages are rounded.

Source: U.S. government
Providence project back under review

Saving homes is still an option.

By Andrew Denney

Columbia City Council members indicated on Tuesday that they might continue to support elements of a controversial plan for improvements to Providence Road, but not the demolition of houses facing Providence.

The plan given preliminary approval Nov. 19, dubbed Option IX, was presented to the council at a work session as one of 10 plans city staff has drafted over the past several years. The aim is to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety on Providence near Stadium Boulevard in a way that is acceptable to residents of the adjacent Grasslands neighborhood, the University of Missouri and fraternities and sororities with nearby houses.

Council members generally favored extending a right-turn lane on Providence north to Brandon Road to help move traffic through Providence and Stadium more quickly; removing a traffic signal at Rollins Road; and installing signals on Providence at Burnam Road and Turner Avenue — all of which are included in Option IX. But they also were interested in widening and improving Birch Street, a move that would allow increased traffic flow within the Grasslands neighborhood but would not involve widening Providence.

Mayor Bob McDavid said that would accomplish the goals of moving traffic more quickly down Providence while limiting westbound turns into the Grasslands and avoiding the demolition of the houses facing Providence.

"So the question now is: Who do we want to make mad?" McDavid said.

Fifth Ward Councilwoman Laura Nauser asked whether it would be possible to construct a raised concrete island for pedestrians in the middle of Providence between Bingham and Kentucky. City engineering supervisor Scott Bitterman said that could be considered but would block eastbound turns onto Kentucky from Providence.

Option IX, the most expensive of the options presented to the council, is a two-phase, $6.6 million plan that drew criticism because of its cost and its plans for the demolition of eight
Into the light

By Ryan Henriksen

From left, Bretta Gerhard, Alyssa Wesselmann, Erin Richards, Mary Willis and Kristen Allcorn read the stories of modern-day slavery survivors during the End It Movement candlelight vigil in Speaker’s Circle on the University of Missouri campus Tuesday night. The daylong movement was held to bring light to the issue of human trafficking and slavery.