JEFFERSON CITY — Missouri senators gave first-round approval Wednesday to a proposed state higher-education funding formula that would tie some state funding for public colleges and universities to performance goals and career placement.

Under the Senate legislation, 10 percent of what the legislature appropriates to colleges and universities would be tied to whether a school meets performance goals. Institutions meeting all five targets would get the full amount while those meeting at least one would get a portion. The Coordinating Board for Higher Education and each school would collaborate on developing their performance measures by July 2014, and they would be updated every five years.

Another 10 percent of funding would be linked to career placement. The Department of Higher Education would develop a system to track career placement rates. It also would account for students accepted into graduate schools, professional schools and four-year institutions. The rules would be developed by July 2014.

The current approach for higher education allots money based largely upon how much colleges and universities received in the past and how much Missouri has available for the future. A state law requires development of a funding formula for higher education institutions that is similar to what exists for public K-12 education in Missouri. Senators added the career placement portion into the formula during their debate Wednesday. Supporters said they want higher education institutions working to ensure graduates are getting jobs.

Senators gave the funding formula legislation initial approval by voice-vote Wednesday, and it needs another round of approval before moving to the House. The legislature has until May 17 to pass new bills.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Columbia man found guilty of 2011 Ellis Library arson

By Samantha Sunne
April 24, 2013 | 2:00 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — A federal jury found Christopher Kelley guilty of arson Wednesday for setting fire to MU’s Ellis Library and a Stephens College building in 2011.

The jury deliberated for two hours and 20 minutes before declaring him guilty of two counts of arson, according to minutes of the trial. His conviction follows a three-day trial in the Missouri Western District Court in Jefferson City.

Kelley, 27, could face up to 20 years in prison and a $250,000 fine for each count, according to his federal indictment.

Kelley had pleaded not guilty, despite being identified by video surveillance and later confessing to his friends.

Firefighters found 10 separate fires burning on the main floor of Ellis Library on Sept. 10, 2011. No one was injured, but the arson damaged the library’s circulation area and left it closed for several days. The cost to repair the damage was estimated at between $750,000 and $1 million, according to a release from the Kansas City U.S. Attorney’s office.

The State Historical Society of Missouri, which is housed in the building, sustained water damage. Responders also found damage to computer screens, broken windows and fecal matter on a table on the fourth floor.

They found a note: “Welcome the bunghole, we’ve got fun and games.” A court document states Kelley’s handwriting matched that on the note.

"The combination of the video and fire alarm systems show that Chris Kelley was in the back circulation room when as many as eight separate fires were set,” a court document filed by his attorney, federal public defender Troy Stabenow, stated.
Kelley turned himself into MU police after the department issued a Clery release. He was working for the department at the time as a part-time events assistant, according to previous Missourian reporting.

Kelley was also found guilty of setting fire to the Audrey Webb Child Study Center on the Stephens College campus in May 2011.

Kelley reportedly broke into a computer lab and set fire to a box under a table. He is also suspected of stealing a Mac mini computer from the lab.

*Supervising editor is Richard Webner.*
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - The University of Missouri School of Medicine is again training doctors in Joplin.

The university has resumed its Rural Track Pipeline Program two years after it was stopped when a tornado hit Joplin.

The May 2011 tornado destroyed housing for university medical students who were training with physicians in southwest Missouri.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that the housing for the medical students has been rebuilt.

Mercy Hospital Joplin and the university's School of Medicine celebrated the reopening of the training site on Tuesday.

The program for third-year medical students started in Joplin in 2005, when a Missouri Foundation for Health grant helped establish training sites in southeast and southwest Missouri.
Marriage Research Shows That Couples Who Split Chores Are Happier

The next time your spouse hides out in front of the TV instead of helping with chores, you might want to show him (or her) this research.

In a study published last month by the Journal of Family Issues, researchers from the University of Missouri, Brigham Young University and Utah State University found that married couples are happier if they share household responsibilities.

The researchers surveyed 160 heterosexual couples married for an average of five years with at least one child under age five. Most of the couples were between 25 and 30 years old, and about 40 percent of the women had full- or part-time jobs.

The University of Missouri's Adam Galovan told the MU News Service that the more wives perceived that their husbands were participating in family work tasks, the better the relationships were for both spouses. Couples' relationships also improved when wives felt that their husbands were close with their children.

However, couples don't need to divide chores exactly equally in order to see benefits, said Brigham Young University professor Erin Holmes.

"We found that it didn’t matter who did what, but how satisfied people were with the division of labor," Holmes told BYU News. "We found that when wives are doing work together with their husbands, they are more satisfied with the division of labor."

The link between a couple's division of labor and marital satisfaction has been found before. According to a 2007 Pew Research Poll, sharing household chores was ranked as one of the top three issues associated with marital satisfaction (the other two top issues were faithfulness and good sex). But a study published in January by the American Sociological Review found that while husbands who do more chores have more sex, there was a catch -- only husbands who engaged in traditionally male tasks, like yardwork, experienced this benefit.

Discover more interesting marriage research findings in the slideshow below.
Mark Milliron, chancellor of Western Governors University in Texas, will be the keynote speaker for the University of Missouri's Celebration of Teaching next month.

Western Governors University, a not-for-profit online university, was founded in 1997 by governors of 19 states to provide affordable, accredited and high-quality online and blended degree programs in high-demand fields. Milliron stepped into the role of chancellor in 2011, and his visit follows the establishment of WGU in Missouri in February.

Milliron's address will be the sole keynote and will revolve around online learning and the use of technology in learning.

Sebastian Thrun, a co-founder and CEO of online education site Udacity, originally signed on to deliver the keynote address, but he canceled because of scheduling conflicts.

Celebration of Teaching is a two-day event that includes workshops and discussion sessions and is open to all faculty, staff and graduate instructors at MU. Milliron's address will take place at 1:30 p.m. May 21 in Jesse Auditorium.
Chievous takes reins of MU academic program

Athletic department has graded out well in classroom rankings.

By Steve Walentik

No matter how Missouri's athletic teams have fared competitively, their academic performance has remained strong over the past decade.

The school consistently ranked at or near the top of the Big 12 in graduation success rates, academic progress rates and grade point averages and has continued those trends since moving to the Southeastern Conference last summer.

Joe Scogin, the director of academic services in the athletic department since 2006, is moving on after 12 years and will become senior associate athletic director at Tennessee beginning next month. **MU is promoting Tami Chievous to take his place as the director of academic services.**

"You don't like to lose a staff member like Joe Scogin, but the opportunity that presented itself to him was too good to not take," MU executive associate athletic director Bryan Maggard said. "We're just very fortunate to have Tami here to step in."

Maggard, whose own rise through the ranks of the athletic department included time in the academic director's chair, said he spoke with several candidates before he and Athletic Director Mike Alden settled on Chievous. She was the logical replacement after spending 12 years with Missouri's Total Person Program.

As assistant director of academic services, Chievous has been working closely with men's and women's basketball and softball. She monitored the academic progress of the players, assigned them mentors and tutors, coordinated their study halls, advised them on courses and majors and communicated with faculty.

She'll continue to work closely with the men's basketball program, but her new job will bring more responsibilities.
"The most exciting thing is to be able to work with all of our sport teams, build relationships with all of the programs and just kind of help the program go further," she said, "to look at it more globally and really enhance this to make sure that we are doing things the right way and all of our student-athletes are getting touched at some point during every day."

As familiar as Chievous is with the program, Maggard said she'll still need time to adjust.

"A month ago, her problems were her problems," he said. "Now, everybody's problems are her problems with regard to the academic support staff."

The director of academic services works with groups that sometimes have competing goals — faculty responsible for teaching athletes and coaches who need them to be eligible. Chievous said both groups at MU are generally supportive of each other.

"Tami has that skill set that she'll absolutely be sensitive to needs and desires," Maggard said. "But she's not going to compromise her integrity or the program's integrity."

He could sense she had some of those skills when he hired her in 2001. The former Tami Schaffer grew up in the northwest Kansas town of Hoxie, with a population of roughly 1,200. Her father was a high school basketball coach and her mother a second-grade teacher. She planned to become a public school teacher when she enrolled at Fort Hays State and pursued a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

But Chievous also got involved with the athletic department, first as a student assistant charged with compiling recruiting and scouting tapes and breaking down game film for the women's basketball team. She later served as the assistant to the academic counselor/compliance coordinator for three years and worked as an administrative assistant for the school's senior woman administrator while completing her master's degree in education administration.

She had no connection to Columbia when she landed a job at MU in 2001. Not long after, a friend introduced her to Derrick Chievous, the Tigers' all-time leading basketball scorer, and they started dating. The couple married in 2003 and they now have three children, sons Tahki and Aven and daughter Malia.

She's seen the emphasis of academic services change. Top priority used to be making sure athletes were eligible at the start of every school year. Things shifted with a push by the NCAA and conferences to increase graduation rates. In 2004, the NCAA adopted the academic progress rate to keep track of eligibility and retention of players. Today, more attention is paid to making sure athletes are ready to use their degrees in the real world and helping them manage their personal finances.

Through it all, Missouri has continued to perform well in academic metrics. The Tigers have an 84 percent graduation success rate, which trails only Vanderbilt among SEC schools.
"Mizzou's got great things going forward," Chievous said. "We've got a great staff, a great athletic department. ... My biggest responsibility is to keep pushing and keep what we've got going in the same direction."
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

'Angels in America' playwright Tony Kushner discusses homosexuality, theater

By Miguel Sola
April 24, 2013 | 8:25 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Tony Award-winning playwright and screenwriter Tony Kushner had a dream about a friend who had just gotten the AIDS virus and an angel crashing through the ceiling. Then, he wrote a poem about it called “Angels in America,” and he has never looked at it since that day.

However, the poem inspired him to write the 1993 Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes," which chronicles the beginning of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s in New York City.


“The reason why 'Angels in America' has such a good life is because it is not an issue play, but talks about gay men and Reaganism, which we are still struggling with,” Kushner said.

The playwright also emphasized how 20 years later, silence about AIDS has become more intense and people don't think or read about it.

“Bringing AIDS back to the public consciousness is not what the power of theater is for,” Kushner said.

Kushner, who is gay, said he encourages other homosexuals to be open about their sexuality.

“I always thought being a member of a minority is a good position to spread out the epistemological knowledge of the oppressed,” he said.
The first part of Kushner's play, "Millennium Approaches" will be performed by MU students Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights this week and next week at the Rhynsburger Theatre. A free reading of the second part of the play, "Perestroika," is scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

Many people in the audience knew Kushner and have been following his work for a long time.

Joe Geist, curator of The Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art, had seen "Angels in America" in New York and London but never seen an amateur production before.

“He is a very insightful person,” Geist said. "His subjects matters are out of the ordinary.”

Emma Fountain, an MU theater student, has read the play and plans to see it next week.

“What I like about the play is the LGBTQ aspect and the issues he talks about,” Fountain said.

In addition to Kushner, MU Director of Libraries James Cogswell announced the inclusion of playwright Lanford Wilson’s personal papers to MU. Extensive materials, such as letters and photographs, will be available at the university’s library.

He also joked to Kushner not to burn his personal writings, as Kushner had mentioned before.

“You may not,” Cogswell said as the audience laughed.

*Supervising editor is Zach Murdock.*