MU faculty, community members express opposition to museums' move

By Brendan Gibbons
June 6, 2013 | 8:10 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Dozens of MU faculty members and Columbia residents attended the MU Faculty Council meeting Thursday evening, where they expressed concerns with how the university handled the decision to move two museums off its main campus.

Jackie Jones, vice chancellor for administrative services at MU, started the meeting by explaining why the university's administration chose to renovate Jesse, Swallow and Pickard halls all at once.

Jones said it costs less for Campus Facilities to renovate whole buildings instead of replacing pieces bit-by-bit. Jesse needs a sprinkler system, a new fire alarm system, a second elevator and better heating and cooling, Jones said, and Swallow needs more classroom and multipurpose space.

The situation with Pickard is more complicated because of lingering radiation from experiments conducted there in the early 20th century. Jones said the university has a commitment with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to have the building empty by Dec. 31 so radiation testing can begin in January.

Pickard is now home to the Museum of Art and Archaeology, and Swallow contains the Museum of Anthropology. Both will have to move two miles north to the former Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, which the university has renamed "Mizzou North."

When the university announced the renovations May 23, it stated that the museums would be located off the main campus "for the foreseeable future." The former hospital has more space and better parking than the museums' current locations, Jones said.

"At the end of the day, this is going to be much, much better," Jones said.
Several faculty members said moving the museums off campus would limit the number of visitors they receive. Mike Urban, associate professor of geography, said he knows plenty of faculty members and Columbia residents who are worried about what will happen to the museums.

“Just saying that we have plans for them to go back (to Pickard) would alleviate a lot of the concerns,” Urban said to applause.

University administrators will not know what will become of Pickard until testing is complete, Jones said. She did not specify whether the university or the commission would be conducting the radiation testing. MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken also said she was unsure.

Jones said the former hospital is the best location the university could find for the museums.

"This is a way to keep the museums open," Jones said. Several faculty members said the university should have asked for their input on the decision to move the museums.

"I think a lot of people in this room are here because of the decision process," said Nicole Monnier, an associate teaching professor of Russian. "It's the end of the semester, the end of the academic year, and you dumped this information on us now."

Jones said the administration did not intend to make faculty feel left out. She also said she agreed that faculty should have a say in which departments or programs would become permanent residents of Mizzou North. At the end of that portion of the meeting, Faculty Council Chair Harry Tyrer took a raised-hand vote to see how many attendees would be interested in setting up another meeting with administrators. Most raised their hands, and Tyrer said he would do so.

Most of the crowd, including Jones, left the meeting after the discussion was over. Several of the council members who remained could be heard comparing this decision to last year's decision to close the University of Missouri Press. Soon after the spring 2012 semester ended, University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe announced the University of Missouri Press would be closing. The decision was met with backlash from faculty, staff and community members. About seven weeks later, the university announced plans to reopen the press.

Supervising editor is Jake Kreinberg.
Facebook, Divorce Linked In New Study

New research suggests that Facebook could be detrimental to your relationship status.

The study, which will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking, found that people who use Facebook excessively (interpreted by the researchers as checking it more than hourly) are more likely to "experience Facebook-related conflict with their romantic partners, which then may cause negative relationship outcomes including emotional and physical cheating, breakup and divorce," according to a press release.

Russell Clayton, a doctoral student in the University of Missouri School of Journalism, and his colleagues at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and St. Mary's University in San Antonio surveyed 205 Facebook users between the ages of 18 and 82 -- 79 percent of whom reported being in a romantic relationship -- about their use of the social media site and whether or not it had instigated conflict with their current or former partners.

"Previous research has shown that the more a person in a romantic relationship uses Facebook, the more likely they are to monitor their partner's Facebook activity more stringently, which can lead to feelings of jealousy," Clayton said. "Facebook-induced jealousy may lead to arguments concerning past partners. Also, our study found that excessive Facebook users are more likely to connect or reconnect with other Facebook users, including previous partners, which may lead to emotional and physical cheating."

The correlation was strongest among newer relationships; Clayton told Huffington Post Divorce via e-mail that "high levels of Facebook use is associated with negative relationship outcomes for newer couples (three years or less)."

He recommends limiting Facebook usage in order to achieve a healthy, lasting relationship.

Clayton said, "Cutting back to moderate, healthy levels of Facebook usage could help reduce conflict, particularly for newer couples who are still learning about each other."

It's not the first time Facebook has been linked to divorce. In 2012, divorce lawyers surveyed by Divorce-Online UK said that the social network was implicated in a third of all divorce filings the previous year.
3 teens killed, 2 injured in crash near Union

9 hours ago  •  By Margaret Gillerman mgillerman@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8126

MU MENTION P. 2

UNION • A teenager who had graduated from high school two weeks ago was among three killed in a crash early Thursday in Franklin County.

Cole W. Weddle, 18, of Union, was a new graduate of Union High School, friends said. Also killed were his pals James T. Curran, 19, of Union, and Derek J. King, 19, of Beaufort, who had already graduated Union High.

Curran and King were pronounced dead at the scene, according to the Missouri Highway Patrol.

Weddle died later in the morning at Mercy Hospital St. Louis in Creve Coeur.

Two other teens survived the crash with serious injuries. Isaac L. Clark, 19, was taken to Mercy Hospital in Washington and Lucas D. Schulze, 19, was taken to Mercy Hospital in Creve Coeur. Both are from Union.

The five young men were in a 2001 Pontiac Grand Prix that crashed about 2 a.m. on Porterford Road at Cardinal Lane, according to the Missouri Highway Patrol. The car traveled off the road, striking a culvert and a tree.

Curran was driving. It was unclear whether he was wearing a seat belt, but authorities said the other teens were not.

“This is a small town and this touched a lot of hearts today,” said Jake Osseck, a friend who was in Weddle’s graduating class. “All three of the boys had an important role” in life in Union.

Weddle had finished high school a semester early and already was taking classes at East Central College in Union “to get a head start,” said Osseck. He participated in the formal graduation ceremony May 23.

“He was a good student,” Osseck said.

Osseck said he was with Weddle and other friends over the weekend.

“We had a great time,” he said. “We all hung out and listened to music at his house and in his truck.”

He and Weddle liked to free-style rap together.
King was working in Washington, Mo., and attending East Central College, Osseck said.

Curran had attended the University of Missouri in Columbia.

“All of them are really outgoing kids and were friends with everybody,” said Alex Weinhold, 21, a friend who plays bass in Six Gun Charade, a band made up of Union High School graduates.

“It’s pretty much everybody knows everybody here,” Weinhold said.

Weinhold was especially close with King. They played baseball together in high school and Weinhold works for King’s father at a local glass factory.

Weinhold posted a picture of the baseball team on his Facebook page as a tribute.

King’s page has photos of his girlfriend in her prom dress and at a Cardinals game.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Zoning panel endorses six-story student apartment building near MU

By Missourian Staff
June 6, 2013 | 10:55 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — A proposal to build a six-story building with 103 student apartments on Conley Avenue near MU won the recommendation of the Columbia Planning and Zoning Commission on Thursday evening.

Commissioners praised the project as an example of smart growth and applauded Collegiate Housing Partners for its innovative parking solutions and its willingness to work with city planners. Although they disagreed about how close the building should be to surrounding streets, a majority in the end decided to follow city staff's suggestions.

Collegiate Housing Partners is the St. Louis company that wanted to erect an apartment building on property occupied by the Niedermeyer house. Public angst over the potential loss of the Niedermeyer prompted it to find a different property.

The Residences on Conley would line the south side of Conley Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets. The building would accommodate as many as 354 students and include first-floor parking, 90 bicycle parking spaces and second-floor pool and study decks.

"This would be our most intense development within a planned district in the city of Columbia," city planner Pat Zenner told the commission.

What is the request?

Collegiate is asking that the city rezone the 1.25-acre tract from R-3, medium-density multi-family housing, to PUD-90, a planned unit development with a density not to exceed 90 dwellings per acre. Collegiate also wants the city to approve its development plan that calls for several variances from city zoning codes, including:
- A variance allowing the building to be 80 feet tall, 35 feet taller than the city normally would allow.
- A variance allowing it to provide only 115 on-site parking spaces, rather than the 249 that normally would be required. Collegiate hopes to have 124 on-site spaces but is not ready to commit to that number.
- A variance eliminating a requirement that its building be set back 25 feet from the property lines, and technically much more given that the building would be so tall. Collegiate wants no setback at the front and sides of the building and a 4-foot setback from its south property line, or the rear of the building. This proved to be a point of disagreement among commissioners.
- A variance to reduce the amount of landscaping required.

**What was the pitch?**

Attorney Robert Hollis and Collegiate Director of Development Brandt Stiles pitched the project to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Stiles said the proposal is a model for smart growth in the city center. He and Hollis spent much of their time explaining their thoughts about parking and their attempts to accommodate the demand. They noted:

- That the project would include 90 spaces for bicycles.
- That the complex would be so close to MU and to other amenities that most residents would not need cars.
- That there is additional parking available close to the property and that the developer is working on a contract with the city to lease 50 spaces in nearby parking garages.
- That the developer will buy at least 100 passes for the city's FastCat buses downtown.
- That the apartment complex would establish a shared-car program for residents.

Hollis said at the hearing that student housing is appropriate to the area and that Collegiate has acted in good faith by working with MU and surrounding neighborhood associations.

"They did it right, is what they've done so far," he said.

**What did the city staff recommend?**

The staff recommended the project be approved, and it offered no resistance to a taller building or less landscaping than codes allow.

Zenner said Collegiate is proposing more on-site parking than other student apartment complexes downtown and that the project offers an opportunity to learn whether less
stringent parking requirements might work in the central city if proper strategies are in place. In this scenario, Collegiate would be providing about 70 percent of the parking that normally would be required in an R-3 zone.

The staff differed with Collegiate on setbacks, but not by much, saying it could go along with no setback along Conley Avenue and with 1-foot, 4-foot and 5-foot setbacks on Fourth Street, Fifth Street and the rear of the property, respectively.

“The mass of the building and its placement on the site is of greater concern than its overall height,” the staff wrote in its report to the commission. “The taller structures surrounding the site will allow the proposed construction to blend more naturally into the neighborhood.”

The setbacks also would give the city room to install a mini-roundabout at Conley and Fifth street. The developers say they aren’t convinced a roundabout is a good idea. Further studies of the potential impact on people who walk through the neighborhood will be required before building permits are issued.

**What did the public have to say?**

Two others spoke during the public hearing. Pat Fowler, an MU employee and north-central Columbia resident, favored the project. She worried about on-street parking in the area, though, and she lamented the idea that Collegiate might buy 100 FastCat passes. FastCat, she said, isn’t working well.

**What did commissioners have to say?**

Commissioners unanimously praised Collegiate’s plan but asked a lot of questions about its parking strategies. Commissioner Anthony Stanton and others wondered how long some of the alternative parking strategies would last. Stiles said they would remain in place as long as they succeed. Opting out of a contract to lease city garage spaces, he said, would require Collegiate to demonstrate that there is no demand.

Commissioner Andy Lee wasn’t sold on the idea that the parking plans are adequate. The leased spaces and FastCat passes, he predicted, will go away quickly.

“I think parking’s gonna be a huge issue,” he said.
A motion by Commissioner Ray Puri to approve the project and grant Collegiate's setback requests died on a 4-5 vote. A second motion by Commissioner Ann Peters to approve the staff recommendation passed.

**What's next?**

Collegiate's request is subject to a final vote by the Columbia City Council. Because the Planning and Zoning Commission's vote was 7-2, it would be slated for the council's consent agenda and therefore not scheduled for further public discussion.

Planning and Zoning Chairman Doug Wheeler predicted that will change.

"This will now go to the consent agenda," he said, "but I have no doubt there will be discussion at the council level."

*Supervising editor is Scott Swafford.*
McCaskill discusses student loans with MU students

Sixteen MU students met with Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., Thursday to discuss their concerns about student loan interest rates, which are set to increase July 1.

Federally subsidized Stafford loans have interest rates that are capped at 3.4 percent for undergraduate students, a rate Congress approved in 2007. Barring further congressional action, the rate is set to double to 6.8 percent when the old legislation expires. McCaskill called the impending increase “a crisis of sorts.”

“I wanted to take some time this afternoon to talk about your lives and your futures and frankly the futures of many future students at this university and others,” McCaskill told the student panel.

The students, many of whom represented the Missouri Students Association and Graduate Professional Council, shared their perspectives on their student loans with McCaskill, who said she would consider their advice when the Senate debates the interest rate in June.

MSA Legislative Advocacy Officer Camille Hosman said she has watched the dialogue surrounding student loans change during her time at MU.

“Student loans aren’t seen by students as an opportunity anymore, but more as something where (students) know their hands are going get tied, Hosman said. “It’s less of an opportunity and more of a trap.”

Fifty-six percent of MU’s 2010 graduates had student loan debt, according to the Institute for College Access & Success. The average debt burden of a 2010 graduate was more than $22,000. Although most MU students graduate in debt, McCaskill said most students are able to pay off their loans. Four percent of students in Missouri default on their loan payments, compared with an average 12 to 13 percent of students nationwide.

Members of the Graduate Professional Council told McCaskill that they felt the Senate was neglecting the debt burdens of graduate students. These students do not have access to subsidized Stafford loans and pay the 6.8 percent interest rate already.

“I don’t want to be one of these four percent of people who default, but this is the first time I’m going to graduate with such a big debt that I’m not sure how it’s going to work out,” said Salama Gallimore, a graduate student in the School of Law who expects to graduate with more than $100,000 in debt. “There’s just a lot of questions that we have, and I feel like we should be part of the conversation.”

MSA Director of Student Communications and former Maneater staffer Jimmy Hibsch said the thought of paying off his student loans after graduation is “kind of scary.” He said taking out more loans to go to graduate school has made him question if he wants to continue his education at all.
“If, in fact, student loans are keeping people from continuing their education, that puts us at a global disadvantage,” McCaskill told Hibsch.

McCaskill is cosponsoring legislation which would tie the interest rate on student loans to the interest rate big banks pay on loans from the Federal Reserve. This rate, called the discount rate, is currently 0.75 percent.

The U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation that would prevent the Stafford loan rate from doubling by tying the interest rate to the market. Several students said they were concerned an adjustable interest rate would make it harder to make long-term financial plans.

“For me, that idea of a floating loan rate is scary” said Samantha Green, who will enter the School of Law in the fall. “I’m a planner. I have all my finances lined out and I know exactly how much I can spend every year for the next three years.”
Dixon announces transfer to Memphis

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Former Missouri basketball player Mike Dixon gave a verbal commitment to Memphis Wednesday and was scheduled to begin classes at his new school Thursday.

"It's Official Once a Tiger always a Tiger. Proud to be apart of The University Of Memphis. Ready to be a model citizen off the floor and ON," Dixon wrote on Twitter last night, before adding this morning, "Wheels Down in Memphis, Tennessee ready to get to work!"

Dixon's basketball career has been in limbo since he opened last season on indefinite suspension at Missouri. It was revealed in rapid succession in late November that he had been accused of two sexual assaults — the first in January 2010 and the second last August — although charged in neither instance.

The Boone County prosecutor's office declined to press charges after the August incident, citing a lack of evidence. The alleged victim in the 2010 incident, an MU athletic department tutor, decided against pursuing charges although the police report noted that a nurse believed "force was involved" after an examination to determine if a sexual assault occurred. Hours after the details of the 2010 police report were publicized, Missouri announced that Dixon planned to transfer.

"The people who really know me know I'm not the person I was portrayed as," Dixon told The Kansas City Star last night. "I don't care about the people who don't know me or what they have to say. I was in some situations I put myself in, but I haven't harmed anybody."

Dixon, a 6-foot-1 senior guard, would need to win an appeal to the NCAA to be eligible to play immediately at Memphis. If he does not win that appeal, he would be eligible after the fall semester ends.

As a junior, the Kansas City native was one of the nation's top sixth men, averaging 13.5 points and 3.3 assists for a Missouri team that went 31-5.
When the school year ends and Shauna Cunningham says goodbye to the seniors she’s helped get accepted to college, the St. Louis Public Schools counselor knows many of them may not end up there by fall.

“It’s just disheartening because you know they have done the work,” said Cunningham, a counselor at Central Visual and Performing Arts High School. “It’s these small obstacles that are easy to overcome if they have the support and guidance.”

They call it the summer melt.

It could be triggered by a missed deadline, confusing piles of paperwork or uncertainties about financial aid. Whatever the reason, counselors and educators say far too many high school graduates who are accepted and enrolled in college fail to show up for their freshman year. Cunningham estimates it happens to 30 to 40 percent of her college-bound students.

That’s why she got involved with a new project aimed at helping recent high school graduates make college a reality. The group St. Louis Graduates has opened the High School to College Center in the Delmar Loop, targeting students who are the first in their family to pursue a degree or who face significant financial hurdles.

The center encourages students to drop in and work through obstacles to college enrollment. A team of high school guidance counselors, financial aid advisers and other experts provide assistance at no cost. Nearly 60 have signed up to help.

Efforts have been made for years to improve access to college for low-income students. But a critical time period — three months during summer before classes begin — has often been overlooked.

In the last few years, education researchers at Harvard University have studied ways to tackle the problem. By looking at different efforts across the country, they’ve found that counselor outreach to students during the summer raised the probability that students would enroll full-time at a four-year college come fall.
A campaign last summer in Dallas, for example, had counselors send personalized text messages to students with reminders of tasks to complete for college enrollment. The cost was $7 per student and the effort increased a student’s chance to get to college by 10 to 15 percent, said Ben Castleman, one of the researchers.

Nationally, an estimated 10 percent of students who intend to enroll in college for the first time in the fall do not do so. Researchers and educators say the failure rate among low-income students is much higher.

Much of the problem is thought to stem from students being cut off during the summer from the college guidance they had in high school. It’s especially difficult for students who are the first in the families to go to college.

“If they come up against a stumbling block, they are not necessarily primed to go out and seek out help,” said Lindsay Page at the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard.

High school counselors in the St. Louis area say as many as a third of students who have been accepted to college are at risk of not attending, according to a survey by St. Louis Graduates, a coalition that seeks to raise college graduation rates in the region.

The survey results inspired the formation of the High School to College Center, said Faith Sandler, executive director of The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis and co-chairwoman of St. Louis Graduates. Washington University donated space, a storefront in the Loop.

“We can be very proud because the community really came together,” Sandler said.

On Tuesday afternoon, several recent high school graduates were at the center. As four different people worked to help them with tasks such as requesting copies of transcripts and registering for classes, Terrance White, a recent graduate of Lift for Life Academy, sat with Peggy FitzGibbon, a counselor at Visitation Academy.

While finishing high school, he said he went through some family problems and spent the last four months homeless, taking shelter at the Covenant House.

He has been accepted to three colleges. Of the three, he wants to attend Lincoln University in the fall but is trying to figure out how much each will cost him. FitzGibbon was helping him check the status of his financial aid awards and the necessary documents. She offered suggestions on who might be able to provide the necessary documents.

It can all be overwhelming, White said.

“You get frustrated with the moment,” said White, 18, as he sat with Lincoln University’s website pulled up on a laptop, his cellphone in hand and several pieces of paperwork spread out in front of him.
Cunningham and other counselors sent their students information cards about the center, asking them to come in if they encounter problems. Signs posted around the center advertise its Twitter handle and Facebook page, encouraging students to tweet about their experience or check in online.

“We believe that if we can get a couple of students in the door, word will spread,” Cunningham said.

After being open only a few days, more than a dozen students have sought help.
Missouri Western offers potential tuition break for out-of-state students

NO MU Mention

By The Associated Press
June 6, 2013 | 4:27 p.m. CDT

ST. JOSEPH — Missouri Western State University is offering the equivalent of in-state tuition to students from 51 selected counties in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, potentially saving them $6,000 per year.

The university said its "Griffon Rate" will be in effect this fall. It applies to both undergraduate and graduate tuition, for new and current students.

Undergraduates taking classes on the main campus in St. Joseph will save about $200 per credit hour. Regular tuition for out-of-state students is $392 per credit hour. The "Griffon Rate" will be roughly $192 per credit hour.

Missouri Western said it also will continue to offer scholarships for out-of-state students who meet academic requirements, but the "Griffon Rate" can't be used in conjunction with them.