University administrators worried about luxury off-campus housing

COLUMBIA, Mo., June 15 (UPI) -- Missouri educators say luxury off-campus student housing complexes could be detrimental to students' academic performance.

In Columbia, Mo., a college town surrounding the University of Missouri, apartment developers have created 3,800 beds of student housing since 2011, The New York Times reported.

Students pay an average $700 a month to live in one of the complexes, which boast tanning salons, spas, pools and bars.

"These are sort of more social environments," said Arthur J. Lidsky, the president of Dober Lidsky Mathey, a campus planning consultancy. "It takes away from sort of a community of learners, and it creates more of a separate living environment that doesn't support that mission."

Although some of the complexes have tried to create better learning environments, with study rooms that have flat-screen monitors for students to connect their computers to, they do not compare to the academic amenities offered on a campus, administrators say.

"We're trying to integrate our facilities with the academic mission," said Frankie Minor, Missouri's director of residential life. "You don't see the same types of educational programming going on in those facilities as you do in ours."

Some students say the environment of the off-campus buildings is a nice escape from the stresses of academia.

"It lessens the stress," said Sam Tchen, 22, who has lived in a complex in downtown Columbia for the past two years. "You just feel more comfortable in your environment."

Other students say they don't think they would do well in school living in that sort of environment.
"It's like a vacation, almost," said Brenden Heiland, 19, who is currently looking for off-campus housing. "I'm not going to go to class -- that's how I look at it."
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Deaton announces plan to lead institute on global food security

By Brendan Gibbons
June 14, 2013 | 7:53 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe stood before curators Friday morning and unveiled what’s in store for Chancellor Brady Deaton after he steps down on Nov. 15.

Deaton will lead the newly christened Brady and Anne Deaton Institute for University Leadership in International Development at MU. The institute will focus on leveraging public universities to work on global issues of food security, water quality, health care and social and economic well-being.

“It’s hard to think of more important topics facing our world today,” Wolfe said.

Deaton received a standing ovation from the crowd as he stood, embraced his wife, Anne, and went to the front of the room to describe his future role as chancellor emeritus.

Deaton said land grant universities have an opportunity and a responsibility to fight poverty, hunger and environmental degradation in the world’s poorest countries.

“When you look at the faces of the hungry children in these settings, it inspires you to do something about it,” Deaton said.

A slideshow Deaton prepared for the meeting stated that one of the goals of the institute is to position MU as a leader in this field.

In a news conference after the meeting ended, Deaton named two reasons public universities are not contributing as much as they could to solving major global issues: limits on research funding and breakdowns in communication.

To grapple with global issues of food, health and the environment, universities will have to work closely with governments, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector, Deaton said.
“The university is part of that milieu,” Deaton said. “It’s very exciting, and we can do much more of it than we’re now doing.”

Wolfe said $50,000 of the system’s investment fund will be used as seed money to start the institute, and he anticipates it will attract outside funding. Deaton’s salary will be $200,000, Wolfe said.

Wolfe offered few details about the search for a new chancellor, except to say that a search committee is being formed that will include “all important constituent groups” and that the field of candidates will be national.

Wolfe said this curators meeting was unusual given the announcement of Deaton’s new role and approval of the first system budget that includes five-year strategic plans for each of the four campuses.

“There is no doubt in my mind that this is a historic board meeting,” Wolfe said.

For the first time, each campus in the system submitted a five-year plan UM administrators could use to gauge the performance of each school on its own terms. Each campus offered a broad statement of its goals:

- The University of Missouri, St. Louis plans to confer 20 percent more degrees annually by 2018.
- The University of Missouri, Kansas City plans to grow enrollment to 20,000 and increase graduation rates 10 percent.
- MU plans to move up four places in the Association of American Universities’ ranking by 2018.
- The Missouri University of Science and Technology plans to increase undergraduate starting salaries by about 8 percent, improve its U.S. News and World Report score, enroll 38 percent more long-distance and online students, increase employer satisfaction with hires from 92 percent to 95 percent and improve donor satisfaction.

Wolfe said this year will be the first time their strategies are tied to the UM System’s budget, which for fiscal 2014 totals $2.8 billion.

“We passed our first budget firmly rooted in the strategic planning process,” Wolfe said.
Wolfe credited the four chancellors for creating plans tailored to each campus and UM System Vice President for Finance and Administration Nikki Krawitz for her work on a system-wide plan.

Krawitz retired this month after 10 years as vice president, and she, too received a standing ovation as well as a resolution of support from the curators Friday morning. She offered her thoughts about the importance of a public university.

“Be diligent and protective in defending it, and advocate strongly for public investment to ensure its quality,” Krawitz said.

Supervising editor is Scott Swafford.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU Faculty Council members will miss Chancellor Deaton

By Allison Wrabel
June 14, 2013 | 6:37 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Members of the MU Faculty Council reflected positively on the tenure of MU Chancellor Brady Deaton on the heels of his Wednesday announcement that he will retire on Nov. 15.

"Most faculty would consider it as a loss to the university and a loss to the faculty," said Craig Roberts, chair of the Student Affairs Committee and the next Faculty Council chairman, of Deaton's retirement.

"I'm already down about it," Roberts said. "As the next Faculty Council chair, I was counting on Brady because of his honesty and his principles."

Roberts attributed Deaton's bottom-up administrative approach and his supportive nature to his agriculture and grass-roots background.

"Brady was very much a proponent of shared governance," Roberts said, referring to the idea of allowing faculty input on major decisions regarding MU and the four-campus University of Missouri System.

Clyde Bentley, chairman of the council's Diversity Enhancement Committee, said that both Brady and Anne Deaton are "two of the most gracious people I have ever met."

"I'm sure it would have been easier to get angry these past two years. There is less money, more students, not enough classrooms and underpaid faculty," Bentley said in an email. "But (Deaton) never lost his temper. I haven't always agreed with the chancellor, but I always appreciated his calm style and friendly smile."

Bentley said Deaton's passion for diversity made it easy for the Faculty Council to enact the cultural competency review program.
Harry Tyrer, current Faculty Council chairman, said he hopes the new chancellor will be as scholarly as Deaton.

"We'll definitely miss him," Tyrer said. "He accomplished a lot for the university."

Tyrer cited the increased fundraising goal for For All We Call Mizzou and continuing the Chancellor's Fund for Excellence as some of Deaton's major influences at MU.

Initially, For All We Call Mizzou's goal was to raise $600 million by the end of 2005. Under Deaton, the goal was increased to $1 billion by the end of 2008. The money went to specific entities, such as scholarships, research and the creation of faculty positions and facilities.

"These are enormous resources that come to bear on the campus," Tyrer said. "He has had a great impact."

Tyrer and Roberts think the Faculty Council will have some say in helping select a new chancellor. That could mean helping form and participating in a search committee and providing opportunities for faculty to meet candidates.

"What the nature of that say is, we don't know yet," Tyrer said.

Roberts said he would like to see someone like Deaton succeed him.

"I'm hoping we get to weigh in on the qualities that we are looking for in a chancellor," Roberts said. "Hopefully Faculty Council can have some impact on administration."

Supervising editor is Scott Swafford.
UM chief unveils plan to honor Deatons

By Karyn Spory

Saturday, June 15, 2013 at 2:00 am

Although University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton announced his retirement Wednesday, he is far from being done with his work in academia or at MU.

During the UM Board of Curators meeting yesterday, UM System President Tim Wolfe announced plans to open the Brady and Anne Deaton Institute for Leadership and International Development.

"I can’t think of a couple more deserving than MU Chancellor Brady Deaton and his wife, Anne," Wolfe said, adding that the two have worked together for nearly a quarter of a century to improve the university and the state.

The institute will focus on how the university can be more effective in influencing international development in the areas of food security and safety, water quality and health, among others.

Deaton said, among other things, the work would include solving the question of how to feed nearly 9 billion people by the year 2050. Deaton said besides working with the "tremendous" talent and programs already at MU, the institute will allow him seek external partnerships.

No location for the institute has been identified yet. The UM System is using $50,000 to help start the institute.

"Brady and I are looking at what additional resources are necessary to get this up and running," Wolfe said, adding that he feels the institute will attract "a lot of resources."

When Deaton announced his plans to retire, effective Nov. 15, he said he would continue to be active with MU and international development.

After his retirement, Deaton plans to spend time with his family before taking on his new role of executive director of the institute. Deaton’s annual salary will be $200,000, Wolfe said, and Deaton will report to Wolfe.
As the announcement of the institute was made, Anne Deaton gasped with surprise as tears welled up in her eyes.

"My heart was swelling with gratitude," she said. Anne Deaton said her nine-year tenure as first lady of MU "has been so rich in so many ways." She added that she is proud of her husband, and the mission of the institute is a fruition of his work, starting with his time in the Peace Corps.

As his retirement was announced, Wolfe said it would be a "high priority" to fill Deaton's position. During a news conference yesterday, Wolfe said he hopes to have a new chancellor named by Nov. 15. Wolfe said a search committee has not been formed yet, but the search will be a private, national search.

Wolfe said he knows a four-month search is ambitious, but in the end they will not "sacrifice quality for time."

This article was published in the Saturday, June 15, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Deaton to lead new institute."
Deaton's legacy has SEC theme

By Joe Walljasper

Sunday, June 16, 2013 at 2:00 am

In an alternate reality, Missouri would still be in the Big 12 with its original dozen members, the Big East would still be a massive collection of basketball powerhouses and the Pac-12 would be a typo.

All of the above might be true if Brady Deaton was never the chancellor at the University of Missouri. At least it might be true if you believe the dubious theory that Missouri created the instability in the Big 12 that encouraged widespread conference swapping in recent years.

Deaton announced Wednesday he is stepping down after nine years as chancellor. In my interactions with him, I have found him to be a good and decent man, and I think he’s leaving the university in a better spot than he found it. Although he never intended it to be this way, his most notable legacy will be leaving MU in a different conference than he found it.

The decision to leave for the Southeastern Conference had some painful repercussions — traditional rivalries were collateral damage — but it was a sensible business choice, then and now.

To review the blame game referenced above, when Nebraska announced it was leaving the Big 12 for the Big Ten in 2010, its chancellor, Harvey Perlman, said his school had no intention of defecting but got jumpy after Missouri flirted with the Big Ten. Colorado had announced its decision to leave for the Pac-10 a few hours prior, but the Buffaloes were seen as replaceable in a way the Cornhuskers were not.

Conferences are either predator or prey, and at that point the Big 12 was wounded. The next year, the SEC snapped up Texas A&M and Missouri as assets for its planned television network, the ACC avoided its own demise by plundering the Big East and the Big Ten expanded again into the East Coast to expand its TV footprint.

Deaton never publicly led a charge for Missouri to go anywhere, but he was always a staunch supporter of Athletic Director Mike Alden. In fact, without Deaton in his corner, Alden wouldn’t
have escaped 2006 with his job. UM system President Elson Floyd and his faction of curators wanted Alden out for mishandling the firing of basketball Coach Quin Snyder.

In the ensuing years, when other athletic directors were either satisfied or silent about the Texas-centric direction of the Big 12, Alden started to speak out. The decision against forming a Big 12 Network that would be a similar cash cow to the Big Ten Network was a major source of frustration. Texas opposed that idea because it wanted to start its own lucrative Longhorn Network. There were other lesser grievances — including unequal sharing of television revenue and a passive commissioner who didn't try to stop the Orange Bowl from passing over Missouri to pick Kansas in 2007 — that hardened the feelings of MU and its fans toward the Big 12.

In the late summer of 2011, the Big 12 again seemed destined for destruction. Texas A&M definitely was departing for the SEC, and Texas, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State were possibly leaving for the Pac-12. Deaton agreed with Alden that Missouri should hop on the SEC lifeboat. Even after the Pac-12 presidents rejected the idea of adding the Big 12 quartet and the Big 12 got serious about stabilizing itself, Deaton didn't change his mind. The Big 12 schools finally agreed to grant their media rights to the league for more than a decade to ensure that no schools would leave — a move that had been discussed but not acted upon in previous years.

Another chancellor with another athletic director might have decided to stay, but Deaton and Alden decided to go. The UM Board of Curators agreed. Thus, Missouri's athletic future was forever altered, and its ties to its former rivals were severed.

But I've never bought the notion Missouri was responsible for the end of the Big 12 as we knew it. One-third of the original members have left. That should tell you something. Ultimately, the only school other than Texas that was highly sought and did not leave the conference was Oklahoma, and OU President David Boren made it clear in 2011 that he was interested in bolting for the Pac-12 if that league would welcome the Sooners.

Texas could have made the Big 12 a conference nobody wanted to leave if it didn't insist on the Longhorn Network, which would make it richer, rather than the Big 12 Network, which would make every school in the league richer. The Longhorn Network directly led to Texas A&M's departure and played a role in Missouri's exit.

We'll never know for certain how the college sports landscape would be different if Deaton wasn't at the helm at MU. We'll just know Missouri's spot in that landscape changed on his watch.
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - University of Missouri curators are planning their search for a new chancellor for the Columbia campus to succeed the retiring Brady Deaton.

The governing board met behind closed doors Friday morning, two days after Deaton announced he will retire in November after nearly a decade as chancellor.

He will be executive director of a new research center bearing the name of the chancellor and his wife: the Brady and Ann Deaton Institute for University Leadership in International Development.

The 70-year-old Deaton is a former Peace Corps volunteer and agricultural economist who leads a presidential panel on global development.

University system president Tim Wolfe and curators' chairman Wayne Goode planned to discuss the search for Deaton's replacement later Friday.
MU Health to reduce staff, eliminate 90 vacant positions

Federal cuts are cited as reason.

By Rudi Keller

Saturday, June 15, 2013 at 2:00 am

University of Missouri Health Care will lay off or cut the hours and pay for 35 employees and eliminate 90 unfilled jobs in the coming year as it reacts to cuts in federal health care payments from Medicare and the failure of legislators to expand Medicaid eligibility, spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said yesterday.

Of the 35 current employees, 29 have been told their hours or salaries will be cut, Jenkins said. The other six have not been offered new jobs and will be given assistance finding new employment, she said.

Many of the 90 jobs that will be eliminated have been unfilled for most of the past year, she said.

"Like other hospitals in our community and across the state, University of Missouri Health Care has been affected by today's changing health care environment," Jenkins said.

News of the cuts came a day after one of the state's biggest hospital systems, BJC HealthCare, announced it would lay off 160 employees, including 13 full- and part-time workers at Boone Hospital Center. Like MU Health, BJC's announcement pointed to declining government payments.

Hospitals are facing cuts because of the federal budget sequestration that began in March. That trimmed 2 percent from Medicare payments. The 2010 Affordable Care Act included further cuts to Medicare and cut a program known as disproportionate share payments, which provides support to hospitals that care for poorer populations.

An expansion of the Medicaid system to cover people up to 138 percent of the federal poverty standard — about $35,000 for a family of four — was rejected by state lawmakers during this year's session. Gov. Jay Nixon and other supporters had warned hospital job cuts would occur if Medicaid expansion did not replace the loss of other government support.
"I would certainly concur with their reasons, that as we plan for the future, declining reimbursements are definitely a factor in the actions we are taking to reduce costs," Jenkins said.

MU Health employs 5,200 full- and part-time workers, not including medical staff, she said.

State Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, had joined in the predictions that hospitals would cut jobs and said the reductions at BJC and MU Health are the beginning of that process. Both systems are financially strong, he said, and their actions represent small changes in employment. At hospitals where margins are thinner, Kelly said, he expects entire programs to be cut, and the likely place that will start is mental health services.

Medicaid expansion was blocked by Republican leaders who oppose the 2010 health care law.

"As people start to feel the effect come home to roost, rational Republicans will come to understand what" Arizona Republican Gov. "Jan Brewer understood, that the state cannot afford to sacrifice our economic well-being for some kind of political posturing," Kelly said.

Brewer called her state's legislature into special session this week to pass a Medicaid expansion bill. In Missouri, Medicaid expansion would have provided about $2 billion a year to support the cost of caring for the uninsured.

"The math is now absolutely clear," Kelly said. "The failure to expand health care will cost us big, big dollars."

This article was published in the Saturday, June 15, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "MU Health to reduce staff, not fill jobs: Federal cuts are cited as reason."
MU Health to reduce staff

COLUMBIA, MO (AP) -- University of Missouri Health Care will lay off or cut the hours and pay for 35 employees and eliminate 90 unfilled jobs in the coming year.

MU Health Care spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said the job losses are due to cuts in federal health care payments from Medicare and the failure of legislators to expand Medicaid eligibility.

She says many of the 90 jobs that will be eliminated have been unfilled for most of the past year.

Hospitals are facing cuts because of federal budget cuts that trimmed 2 percent from Medicare payments. The 2010 Affordable Care Act included more cuts to Medicare and cut a program that provides support to hospitals that care for poorer populations.

MU Health employs 5,200 workers, not including medical staff.
MU Health Care to reduce staff

By The Associated Press
June 15, 2013 | 6:04 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU Health Care will lay off or cut the hours and pay for 35 employees and eliminate 90 unfilled jobs in the coming year.

MU Health Care spokeswoman Mary Jenkins told The Columbia Daily Tribune the job losses are due to cuts in federal health care payments from Medicare and the failure of legislators to expand Medicaid eligibility.

She says many of the 90 jobs that will be eliminated have been unfilled for most of the past year.

Hospitals are facing cuts because of federal budget cuts that trimmed 2 percent from Medicare payments. The 2010 Affordable Care Act included more cuts to Medicare and cut a program that provides support to hospitals that care for poorer populations.

MU Health employs 5,200 workers, not including medical staff.
Curators OK building plan

Chair questions museum move.

By Karyn Spory

Friday, June 14, 2013 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri Board of Curators yesterday approved the first phase of a $71 million project to fund two new residence halls and a dining hall.

The Residential Life Master Plan, which was updated in 2012, calls for the renovation or replacement of existing housing facilities in five-year cycles. Cycle Five of the plan proposes the replacement of the Dobbs Group — Jones, Lathrop and Lewis residence halls. The Campus Dining Services Master Plan also proposes the replacement of Dobbs Pavilion. The Dobbs Group is located south of Kentucky Boulevard between Tiger Avenue on the east and South, Center, and North halls on the west.

The project is funded by $54 million from Residential Life revenue bonds, $12 million from Campus Dining Services reserves and $4.5 million from Residential Life reserves.

The remaining phase, which would come before the board for approval in 2016, would cost about $69 million.

Phase One includes the demolition of Jones Hall and construction of a new hall, demolition of Dobbs Pavilion — the existing dining facility will remain open until the new one is built — and the construction of a new residence hall in the space now occupied by Lathrop and Laws.

The construction will result in a net increase of 259 beds.

Curator Don Downing said he doesn’t doubt the project is necessary, but he wondered whether the timing was prudent. "My main concern is maxing out our debt capacity," he said.

Nikki Krawitz, system vice president of finance and administration, said the university is in good financial standing.

Besides the project’s presence on the master plan, Deaton said, the infrastructure — the elevator and sewage systems, for example — runs the risk of collapse.
“These particular residence halls are particularly low-quality, and the maintenance and repair on them is building very rapidly,” he said.

The board unanimously approved the plan.

Curators also approved the renovation of Jesse and Swallow halls. Krawitz said projects costing more than $5 million must be presented to the board for approval. In late May, MU announced plans to renovate Swallow and Pickard halls and replace the sprinkler and fire alarm system, the elevator and heating-and-cooling system in the iconic Jesse Hall.

The $9.85 million Jesse Hall project was approved immediately. Before a vote could be called on Swallow Hall, however, board Chairman Wayne Goode asked what plans the university had to bring back the Museum of Anthropology in Swallow Hall, as well as the Museum of Art and Archaeology in Pickard Hall. Both museums are scheduled for relocation to the former Ellis Fischel Cancer Center on Business Loop 70, dubbed Mizzou North.

Goode said MU officials should consider keeping the museums on or around the central campus because “they’re not going to be utilized elsewhere.”

Jackie Jones, vice chancellor of administrative services, said the project was in the early planning stages. “Part of the museum issue, frankly, has to do with Pickard,” Jones said, where radiation from decades-old research persists. Jones said she would have a better idea about what to do after the first round of testing on Pickard Hall.

Members of the MU Faculty Council last week expressed frustration with a lack of public discussion about the planned move.

Chancellor Brady Deaton said the university “values very much” the locations of the museums, but Mizzou North gives the university the transition space needed for the renovations. “It is a complex web we’ve gotten into, but certainly the teaching needs of the museum are vital for us to maintain,” he said.

Goode said he felt the “whole thing” needed to be managed very carefully and in a public way.

The board unanimously approved the $11.5 million renovation to Swallow Hall.
UM Board of Curators gets look at campuses’ strategic plans
The goal is to move up in AAU rankings.

By KARYN SPORY
UM Board of Curators gets look at campuses’ strategic plansKaryn Spory

Saturday, June 15, 2013 at 2:00 am

The key to the University of Missouri’s five-year strategic plan is bolstering its status within the Association of American Universities.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton presented the plan to the UM Board of Curators on Thursday. He said increasing the university's rank from 32 to 28 would be a top priority and at the heart of the five-year plan.

The strategic planning process began a year ago, when University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe said funding for each campus would be dependent on its strategic plan and its ability to implement the plan.

Final drafts of the plans will be presented at the Board of Curators meeting next month and then finalized in the early fall. Thursday’s presentation focused on defining the metrics, which will gauge progress of the strategic plans.

The AAU, which was founded in 1900 to advance the international standing of U.S. research universities, counts 62 public and private universities in the United States and Canada as members. MU currently ranks 32 out of 34 public universities.

Deaton said the AAU ranks members by four measures — federally funded research, National Academy of Sciences membership, citation of scholars and awards for quality work — and those measures are the ones the UM System can use to judge if MU is implementing its plan.

Deaton said the plan is to hire 100 new tenured, tenure-track and non-tenure faculty members to help meet this goal. Deaton cited several areas from which money would come to fund the plan: $10.4 million in divisional reallocation/revenue growth, $7.9 million from the changes in enrollment, $5.9 million in consumer price index increase in tuition and $8.5 million from the state funding increase.
He said it is the first — divisional reallocation — that is key.

"The group taking on the real responsibility ... is that group of deans and department chairs" who will work with administration to move funds around, Deaton said.

Deaton said non-tenure track faculty would be funded by research grant money.

Amy Johnson, the UM Board of Curators' student representative, asked Deaton what would happen if the anticipated $8.5 million from state allocations didn't come through. Deaton responded the university would "readjust accordingly."

Goals for the University of Missouri-St. Louis are to increase the number of degrees conferred from 3,000 to 3,600. The University of Missouri-Kansas City plans to grow enrollment from 16,019 to 18,824 and increase six-year graduation rates from 47.5 percent to 52 percent.

Cheryl Schrader, chancellor of Missouri University of Science and Technology, said that campus' strategic plan centers on giving students and employers a good return on investment.

The UM Board of Curators also approved a $2.9 billion spending plan for fiscal 2014. Wolfe said the budget includes salary and wage increases of 1.5 percent to 3 percent for the four campuses, with exact amounts to be determined by the campuses.

Wolfe said the fiscal 2014 budget is the first to include state money from a new performance funding model. The UM System is in line to get $12.4 million of a $25 million pool that was disbursed based on performance measures.

This article was published in the Saturday, June 15, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Curators get look at MU strategic plan: The goal is to move up in AAU rankings."
UM extends benefits to gay couples

'Adult dependents' are eligible.

By Karyn Spory

Friday, June 14, 2013 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri Board of Curators yesterday approved extension of benefits to domestic partners, including same-sex couples.

The change, which passed unanimously, allows "sponsored adult dependents" to be eligible for employee medical, dental, vision and life insurance, as well as accidental death and dismemberment insurance, starting in 2014. It extends to current employees and retired employees, so long as the employee or retired employee does not have a traditionally defined spouse.

UM System spokesman John Fougere said the change will cost an estimated $1.2 million annually.

To qualify for benefits, the "adult dependent" must:

• Live in the same principal residence with the employee or retired employee for at least 12 months and continue to have the same principal residence as the employee or retired employee, except for temporary absences because of special circumstances, including illness, education, business, vacation or military services.

• Be older than 18.

• Not be married to another person under either statutory or common law.

• Not be related to the employee or retired employee by blood or a degree of closeness that would prohibit marriage in the law.

• Not be eligible for Medicare.
In other benefits changes, curators learned that the Affordable Care Act will cause the UM System to pay out nearly $3.5 million in benefits to "variable employees," which are those who work less than full time.

Betsy Rodriguez, system vice president for human resources, said to comply with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the system needed to more clearly define employee groups eligible for benefits.

Rodriguez told curators yesterday that to ensure compliance, part-time employees who average 30 hours or more per week during a designated period will be eligible for medical benefits that will cost the system about $3.5 million a year. Rodriguez said the penalty for noncompliance would cost $39 million.

"We intend to be fully compliant," she said.

"Out of the almost 38,000 employees we pay on an annual basis, about half of them are what we would consider part-time, or currently eligible for employee benefits," Rodriguez said. The group includes about 1,500 adjunct faculty, 4,000 other academic and staff employees and 13,000 student workers.

"It is not our intent to withhold or keep these folks from reaching benefit eligibility, but many of them work here part time because that's what they want," she said.

Rodriguez said she believes about 500 workers hit that 30-hour mark and will be eligible for medical benefits.

"If that estimate is off, that will, of course, cost more than we're predicting," she said.

Curator Don Downing asked whether students were part of the 500 workers expected to receive medical benefits. Rodriguez said if a student works 30 hours, he or she is part of that group and must be compensated as such.

"We're just trying to put into the rule that, by definition, they shouldn't be working more than 28 hours," Rodriguez said.

Kelley Stuck, associate vice president for total compensation, clarified that "if you're a student, you shouldn't work more than 28 hours because your focus is being a student." On the other hand, she said, "if your focus is going to be on working first and being a part-time student, let's put you in a regular job title."

Rodriguez said employers also will begin paying the Transitional Reinsurance Program in the next fiscal year. The "belly-button tax" will cost the system about $2.5 million the first year. The fee, imposed as part of the Affordable Care Act, will be levied for three years and is scheduled
to decrease in 2015 and 2016. The tax is intended to stabilize the insurance market in anticipation of the number of uninsured people who will take advantage of the Affordable Care Act when state health insurance exchanges begin on Jan. 1.
UM Board of Curators approves Mizzou projects, benefits for same-sex partners

Matthew Hibbard

The University of Missouri Board of Curators on Thursday approved $92 million in improvement projects for its Columbia campus, including the replacement of Jones, Lathrop and Laws residence halls and a nearby dining hall. The board also extended benefits, including medical, dental, vision and life insurance, to same-sex partners of employees.

The projects at Mizzou will be funded by $54 million in Residential Life Revenue Bonds, $12.5 million from Campus Dining Services and $4.5 million from Residential Life reserve funds.

The board also increased salaries and wages between 1.5 percent and 3 percent depending on the campus.

Revenues grew from $2.77 billion last year to $2.89 billion. Expenditures grew from $2.67 billion to $2.76 billion. For the 2014 fiscal year, 19 percent of revenues are projected to come from tuition and fees. The board will request $494.5 million from the legislature for the upcoming fiscal year.
The Chronicle of Higher Education

U. of Missouri to Offer Benefits to Employees’ Domestic Partners

The University of Missouri’s Board of Curators has okayed a plan to extend health insurance and other benefits to the same-sex or opposite domestic-partners of university employees. The shift in policy brings the flagship in line with several of its nearby competitors, including the University of Kentucky—whose benefits plan, adopted almost exactly six years ago, has been cited as a model for Missouri’s.
University of Missouri approves domestic partner benefits

June 17

COLUMBIA — University of Missouri workers throughout the four-campus system will soon be able to receive domestic partner benefits.

The university’s Board of Curators voted unanimously last week to expand health insurance coverage and other benefits to same-sex couples. The expansion also extends to a broader group known as “sponsored adult dependents,” which includes unmarried heterosexual couples who live together.

The expanded benefits begin in 2014 and come after years of lobbying efforts by system employees.
COLUMBIA, Mo. — Jake Anderson didn’t have to delve too deep into the University of Missouri’s agricultural economics program before realizing that he was destined to return to the 1,500-acre family farm. After all, that’s been the Anderson family trade since 1891, when his great-great-grandfather came to Callaway County from Sweden.

What the self-described “farm kid” was less certain of was how to manage a volatile business in which market-price fluctuations are common, the weather is unpredictable and long-term planning — at least for his parents and their parents — often meant scratching out financial estimates on a yellow legal pad or the back of an envelope. So, each Wednesday in the just-concluded spring semester, Anderson and a dozen other Missouri students crunched numbers in a campus computer lab, the male students’ agrarian roots betrayed only by baseball caps sporting farm equipment logos.

The focus on data is intentional: While other classes teach ag students how to repair combines or learn the proper chemical mixes of common fertilizers, students in agricultural economist Kevin Moore’s “Returning to the Farm” class create business plans using financial information from their own family farms. It’s an approach more commonly found at county agricultural extension offices or in community college classrooms than at flagship public research universities.

Moore says the skills are essential for the next generation of farmers for whom technology is second nature, but bringing their elders on board remains a challenge.

“For a lot of the students, the first time they actually get exposed to the real financial numbers on the farm may be through this class,” Moore said. “Generally, Mom and Dad try to make everything rosy for the kids. . . . For many, it’s really their first honest exposure to the complete financial side of things.”

The necessity of having those conversations will only increase. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the number of U.S. farmers older than 65 grew by nearly 22 percent between 2002 and 2007. Farmers 75 and older outnumber those under 25 in the country by a ratio of 5 to 1.

Anderson, a 21-year-old junior, returns to the farm, which is 30 miles east of campus, on the weekends to help out. When it’s time to harvest the rows of soybeans and corn, he makes the
same trip three to four times weekly. He also sells corn from his own small patch of land at a roadside stand in front of the family home, a part-time summer job he’s done since he was 9 that helps pay for college.

After graduation, he hopes to add 50 to 100 head of cattle and grow the family operation by 500 acres, as well as sell seeds for supplemental income. He said Moore’s class has given him the financial tools to support that decision.

“In high school, I didn’t expect to get back on the farm. It seemed like times were getting tough,” Anderson said. “And at Mizzou, I saw all these other farm kids who couldn’t come back. But this is what I’ve grown up doing — it’s what I have a passion for.”

Dale Nordquist, associate director of the Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota, said Missouri’s practical approach to understanding farm finances is relatively uncommon at large, land-grant universities where both students and professors are more likely to concentrate on theoretical approaches as opposed to practical solutions, and the use of personal data can still be seen as an intrusion.

Beyond the nuts and bolts of finances, he said such training can serve an equally valuable purpose: It forces farm families to prepare their sons and daughters to take over the business.

“You certainly hear the stories about the older generation that never really wants to let go of the reins,” Nordquist said. “Even though they might be going through the motions of letting go of the kids, they never release [control] of management. So they keep on doing the same thing. . . . Maybe they don’t ever step back.”

Garrett Riekhof, a Higginsville farmer and 2003 Missouri graduate who took the class a decade ago, said the course marked the first time he took a hard look at the business side of his family’s operation.

“A farm is more than how many dollars of seed you have in the ground each year,” he said. “These are business practices that any small business needs to go through to assess their health. I like to run my farm just like any small business would.”

For some, the statistical approach could lead to a disheartening conclusion: The family farm may not survive another generation. And other students’ parents remain resistant to opening the family’s books — even to their own progeny. In those cases, Moore encourages his students to “use me as a scapegoat.”

Anderson’s parents, though, were more than happy to hand over the books, and now their son shares his newfound insights into estate planning, asset transfer and other financial management details.

“I’m very proud he wants to come back, but I wanted it to be his decision,” said his father, John Anderson, 53, whose three daughters also attended Missouri but pursued other professions.
“Technology is taking over agriculture just like it’s taking over the world,” John Anderson said. “And he’s getting it firsthand.”
MU reactor participating in emergency drill

Local public safety agencies are scheduled to participate in an emergency simulation at the University of Missouri Research Reactor Center tomorrow morning.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission requires facilities such as the MU Research Reactor to conduct an emergency preparedness drill every two years, according to a news release from MU spokesman Christian Basi. The drills include the emergency response and support organizations outside the reactor that normally would be involved in a real emergency.

Participating agencies include the Columbia Fire Department, Joint Communications, reactor staff, MU Police Department, University Hospital and Clinics, MU Environmental Health and Safety, and the MU News Bureau, Basi said.

The MU Research Reactor Center is southwest of the intersection of Stadium Boulevard and Providence Road.
A letter from the editor

By Jim Robertson

Monday, June 17, 2013 at 6:00 am

Back in the last century, I came to Columbia straight off the farm to study journalism at the University of Missouri. I spent a mandatory year in a dorm then moved off-campus with two friends. After a false start on Fourth Avenue, where the landlord failed to finish major repairs before the move-in date, we landed in the basement of a brick house at Ross and William streets in the East Campus neighborhood.

A tribe from Sedalia had rented the upstairs, which had an expansive front porch and what was purported to be a bullet hole in a window, two facts that contributed to the cachet of off-campus life. The Sedalia crew was friendly enough, and we settled easily into life in the student ghetto.

One weekend not long into the semester, our Sedalia housemates invited a couple hundred of their friends over for drinks. That was fine with us — until they maxed out the sewer system, which backed up through the drain in our living room. We placed boards across the hallway so we could get from the living room to the bedrooms while the mess slowly subsided. But the bright green indoor-outdoor carpet that covered the concrete floor quickly became a problem. It took weeks to restore that place to its former state of near-adequacy, and it is good my mother didn’t know how we lived.

Student housing has been an issue in this college town since the days of passenger train service to Centralia. These days, Columbia offers more and better options as downtown apartment buildings seem to pop up like mushrooms. Student housing is changing the skyline and causing some angst about the evolving culture of the central district. Inside Our Town you can read about what the city is doing to accommodate the influx of bricks, mortar and matriculants.

Also in this edition, you’ll find our list of the best local places that are off the beaten path. Newcomers and old-timers alike will no doubt find nuggets of interest. Our Town is packed with features like those, plus all the information you’ll need to navigate Columbia. Enjoy.

— Jim Robertson, managing editor
New trees for Arch grounds come with their own threats

ST. LOUIS • The old ash trees under the Gateway Arch are about to die, casualties of the imminent arrival of a small green beetle.

But the sapling picked to take their place, the London plane tree, is also threatened.

A black fungus has infected and killed tens of thousands of plane trees across Europe. And the disease, commonly called canker stain, has roots in the Mississippi River valley.

The National Park Service says no species is perfect. The London plane tree, administrators noted, is unusually resilient to pests and disease.

But tree experts say the real issue isn’t the plane tree, which most agree is a decent choice. Rather, it’s the decision to plant just one species along the Arch’s walkways — a point on which arborists said they repeatedly warned the park service.

“Anybody in my field would say don’t do a monoculture, because you can lose them all at once,” said Thomas C. Harrington, a professor of plant pathology at Iowa State University who studies canker stain disease.

He’d recommend no more than 100 trees of one species — far short of the 800 expected to line walkways at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.

“I don’t think they know what they’re getting into,” he said.

The park service consulted with about a dozen tree experts in recent deliberations. All of them argued against the single-species planting, said Hank Stelzer, chair of University of Missouri forestry, whose department was involved in the process.

“History has a way of repeating itself,” he said. “We lost the chestnut trees to the chestnut blight. Then we lost the American elm to the Dutch elm disease. And when all those left the urban environment, we said we’d put in green ash. It’s resistant to drought, heat. It’s pretty tough. Until this pest showed up.”

In North America, the emerald ash borer was first identified in Michigan in 2002, likely imported as an accidental stowaway in wooden packing materials.

By 2010, the beetle had been detected in 15 states, including Wayne County, about 150 miles south of St. Louis. The beetle is now in Madison County, Mo., about 90 miles south of St. Louis.
The park service has been preparing for years to find a replacement for the ash trees on the Arch grounds. It met privately with tree experts and publicly with residents, slowly culling more than 500 kinds of trees down to 68, eight, and then three.

At the end of May, it announced its decision: the London plane tree, Platanus × acerifolia, chosen for its broad leaves, peeling bark, height, hardiness and resistance to disease.

Replacing the trees will cost about $1 million, park service administrators said, part of an estimated $14 million in landscape improvements to the walkways leading to the Arch. The money is projected to come from private donations to CityArchRiver, the nonprofit agency coordinating the concurrent $380 million tax-supported renovation of the Arch grounds.

Meanwhile, canker stain is ravaging European plane trees. News reports and scientific papers outline the damage: thousands of trees already cut down in Italy; 80,000 affected in southern France; 42,000 at risk lining the 200-year-old Canal du Midi, one of Europe’s oldest man-made waterways.

And now the stain threatens the beloved plane trees along Paris’ Champs-Élysées.

The fungus travels, in part, through a tree’s water-conducting veins. And plane trees planted in rows graft their roots together.

"By the time you see one tree dying, it’s already moved to a couple of the trees down the road," Harrington said. "You just can’t get ahead of it."

Decades ago, paper companies experimented with monoculture plantations in the southeastern U.S. They planted rows of American sycamore, a parent to the hybrid London plane. But disease tore through the plantations, eventually shutting them down, Harrington said.

Planting a single species, said Stelzer, the Mizzou professor, is like playing Russian roulette.

"Who knows what the next malady will be?" Stelzer said. "All of us — the (state) Department of Conservation’s urban foresters, private consulting foresters, us — were strongly encouraging them to pick four or five different trees and mix it up a little."

The park service never considered it, said Bob Moore, a historian at the Arch grounds who worked on choosing the tree. The Arch, including its landscape, is a national historic landmark.

Other kinds of trees will be planted in other areas around the park. But the single-species planting along the Arch walkways is one of the landscape’s defining features.

Architect Dan Kiley, considered by many to have been one of the country’s leading contemporary landscape designers, used the trees to frame and highlight the Arch. The landscape, Moore said, is one of the premier examples of mid-century modern architecture. And the monoculture has become Kiley’s signature.

"The landscape was every bit as important as the Arch itself," Moore said. "What we have is an entire package that needs to be preserved."
It's a fight between history and ecology, said Andrew Wyatt, vice president of horticulture at the Missouri Botanical Garden. "A diversified landscape on one side, and a historic presence on the other," he said.

"It's whether you're willing to roll the dice and take the risk that a disease would wipe out the whole monoculture," Wyatt said.

"But I do have to say," he added, "the London plane tree is a reasonably good choice."
Sibling bullying is linked to worse mental health for kid and teen victims.

MU Mention Page 2

- Bullying of brothers and sisters is common and often viewed as normal
- But sibling aggression negatively affects kids' and teens' mental health
- The negative impact was evident for both mild and severe bullying

Bullying and aggressive behavior by a sibling can be as damaging as bullying by a classmate, neighbor or other peer, finds a new study that links it to increased depression, anxiety and anger among victimized kids and teens.

And that association holds true for the various types of aggressive behavior studied, both mild and severe, from physical and psychological aggression to property victimization, researchers say.

Although peer bullying has increasingly become a recognized problem and the focus of preventive efforts, sibling bullying has historically been viewed as "benign and normal and even beneficial" for a child's social development and ability "to learn to handle aggression in other relationships," according to the study, in the July issue of the journal *Pediatrics*, published online today.

The study "shows that sibling aggression is linked to worse mental health (for the victim), and in some cases it's similar to what you find for peer aggression," says lead author Corinna Jenkins Tucker, an associate professor of family studies at the University of New Hampshire in Durham.

Tucker and colleagues analyzed data from The National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence, focusing on nearly 3,600 kids 17 and under with at least one sibling living in the household. Kids were interviewed by phone about victimization in the past year. A parent or other adult caregiver answered on behalf of children under age 9.

Measures of mental health and four different types of victimization were assessed:

- **Mild physical assault** (hit, beaten or kicked without an object/weapon or resulting injury);
- **Severe physical assault** (hit, beaten or kicked with an object/weapon or causing injury);
- **Property aggression** (forcible theft, taking and not returning property; breaking or ruining property on purpose);
• Psychological aggression (feeling bad or scared because a sibling said mean things, called them names or excluded them).

"For all types of sibling aggression, we found that being the victim was linked to lower well-being for both children and adolescents," Tucker says.

Mental health distress scores were greater for children than for adolescents who experienced mild physical assault, but kids and teens were similarly affected by the other forms of sibling aggression, she says. And even kids who reported just one type of sibling aggression in the past year had higher distress scores than kids who reported none.

Just as parental violence and marital violence occurs in families, "sibling violence happens, as well," says Nicole Campione-Barr, director of the Family Relationships and Adolescent Development Lab at the University of Missouri. "This is something we really need to be aware of." She was not involved in the new study.

One sign that a sibling relationship is troubled: When aggressive interactions are "repeatedly being done in one direction," where one sibling "is consistently the victim and the other is constantly the perpetrator," she says. "That is akin to what we see in bullying."
Sunscreen to sport new labels

By Caroline Dohack

Sunday, June 16, 2013 at 2:00 am

Your favorite sunscreen's packaging could be getting a major makeover this summer.

The FDA has issued new requirements regarding the claims a sunscreen manufacturer can make. The goal is to help give consumers a better understanding of just how well a product is protecting them from the sun, in turn encouraging smarter sun practices.

Here's a look at some of the semantics that will be changing.

Sunblock This term is something of a misnomer, as no sunscreen formula can truly block all of the sun's rays. So you won't see that phrase on labels anymore.

SPF Sunscreen works by absorbing or reflecting ultraviolet rays. A formula's sun protection factor indicates the percentage of UVB rays it will block, said Nicholas Golda, medical director of the dermatology clinics at University of Missouri Health Care. New FDA requirements will make it mandatory for formulas with an SPF below 15 to indicate that they will not protect against cancer.

Golda recommends sunscreens with a formula with SPF 30, which will block 97 percent of UVB rays. However, he adds that anything beyond 30 won't be much better.

"You hit diminishing returns. It approaches 100 percent but never reaches it," Golda said.

Broad spectrum A formula's SPF is important, but it only tells how much UVB it blocks. UVA rays don't cause the painful redness associated with sunburn, but they do cause sun damage — wrinkling and other photoaging. To claim it is broad spectrum, a formula must be proven to protect against both types of rays.

Water resistance You won't be able to find water- or sweat-proof formulas anymore, not because they've been discontinued but because they never existed in the first place.

"Nothing is really waterproof or sweat-proof unless you were encased in plastic," Golda said.
A manufacturer can claim its formula is water-resistant, but it must denote how long the formula will stay effective before it needs to be reapplied.

Golda said application and reapplication should be fairly generous and frequent — about a shot glass-worth over all exposed areas every hour or more.
Golf facility named to honor Walsworths

Friday, June 14, 2013 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri Board of Curators yesterday authorized naming the collegiate golf facility at the Club at Old Hawthorne in honor of a former curator and his wife.

In January, Don Walsworth, an MU alumnus and chief executive officer of Walsworth Publishing LLC., and his family donated $8.3 million to the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. The gift was to support improvements to athletic facilities, including renovations to Memorial Stadium, a new clubhouse for the men's and women's golf teams, and an indoor practice space.

"I would like to praise the contribution of Don and Audrey Walsworth," Chancellor Brady Deaton said during the meeting. "One could go so many ways he's been ingrained in the life of our university. ... We feel this is a deserved recognition of his contribution."

The facility will be known as the "Walsworth Family Golf Complex."

Walsworth is a former curator, having served from 2003 to 2009.
Be picky when at the plant nursery

By MILLY CARTER University of Missouri Cooperative Media Group

Sunday, June 16, 2013 at 2:00 am

BLUE SPRINGS — Are you overwhelmed when you go to the plant nursery?

"There are so many plants to pick from, gorgeous colors and interesting textures. But you've been through this in years past, and the results weren't that great when the plants got home," said Pat Miller, University of Missouri Extension agronomy specialist.

Miller offers some plant shopping tips to help you get better results.

BE REALISTIC ABOUT YOUR TIME COMMITMENT

"Container plants don't need weeding and are great for apartments and small homes, but they will probably need watering every day, sometimes twice a day, in the heat of summer," Miller said. "If you will be gone for days at a time, do you have a trusted friend who will water for you?"

You can hedge the everyday watering a bit if you use drought-loving plants like succulents or cactus, she added.

Miller also recommended starting small and seeing how it works for you before tackling something more ambitious.

"A small, well-tended garden will look better than a large, weedy bed," she said. "If you'd much rather lounge on the patio than weed flowerbeds, a few containers may be your best bet."

START PLANNING FROM THE BOTTOM UP

The bottom of the pot, that is. "Make sure your pots are large enough to give the plant roots plenty of room throughout the season," Miller said. Small pots full of roots will need lots of watering.

"Select a good-quality potting soil," she said. "Cheap mixes that won't hold water will dry out quickly."
To prevent the other extreme, the pot should have a drainage hole to prevent the plants from drowning. "Roots need air to breathe and will drown in a flooded pot. A coffee filter works great to allow drainage while keeping the potting mix from washing out."

**DO YOUR HOMEWORK**

"Selecting plants can be daunting," Miller said. "Before you go to the nursery, make a list of your needs. How many pots do you have, or how big is the area? Is it full sun or shady? Is the garden spot boggy or drought-prone? What colors do you want?"

She notes that you can make a bigger impact with your plants if you stick to large splashes of one color. "Or consider using complementary colors like yellow and purple or orange and blue."

Plan for how big the plant will get. One petunia will fill a medium pot before long, even if it looks sparse now.

It's also important to read the plant labels. "If you have a large pot for a shady porch, make sure that all the plants in it are shade-loving and have similar watering needs. If you put full-sun plants in the shade, they won't bloom well. Likewise, a shade-loving hosta will get burnt in full sun but will love a shady area under a tree."

**TALK TO A PRO**

If you are still unsure of yourself, Miller recommended you take an experienced gardener with you, at least once. Or ask employees or customers who look confident.

"Most gardeners would enjoy sharing their knowledge with a novice," she said. "They can suggest some of their favorites and dissuade you from potential mistakes."

But most of all, she said, enjoy the experience. "Plants add enjoyment to our surroundings, and that is what it is all about."

For more information, contact your local MU Extension center or download the free publication "Annual Flowers: Characteristics and Culture" at extension.missouri.edu/p/G6629.