Nixon's budget freeze to hit UM System core funding, appropriations

By Claire Boston
June 28, 2013 | 7:10 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The state budget freeze Gov. Jay Nixon imposed Friday includes a $33.7 million freeze on core funding for University of Missouri System institutions.

Nixon also froze $600,000 in UM-related programs funding, a $10 million appropriation to fund a cooperative medical school program between MU and Missouri State University in Springfield and a $1 million appropriation for the MU large animal veterinary program.

Nixon announced at a Jefferson City news conference he is putting on hold $400 million of Missouri’s fiscal year 2014 budget to prepare for a possible override of House Bill 253, an income tax bill he vetoed on June 5.

Legislators could override Nixon’s veto during a special session in September, after the budget takes effect, the governor said.

Nixon said the threat of an override and a resulting budget shortfall forced him to take action. He estimates HB 253 would cost Missouri at least $800 million in lost revenue.

"House Bill 253 is a dangerous experiment we simply cannot afford," Nixon said during the press conference. "But no governor can responsibly manage a state budget on the assumption that a veto will be sustained."

The fiscal year 2014 budget for the UM System, which the Board of Curators approved earlier this month, was based on an anticipated 1 percent increase in state appropriations.

The fiscal year 2013 budget estimated state appropriations would account for 14 percent of budget revenue, while the 2014 budget assumed 15 percent.
UM System President Tim Wolfe expressed particular concern Friday about the possibility of cuts to the cooperative medical program, saying he hoped the General Assembly would not override the veto.

"We are looking forward to September when the governor's veto of this legislation is sustained so that funding for such projects as the University of Missouri medical school expansion in Springfield, which addresses the vitally important, urgent need for doctors in southwest Missouri, will be released," Wolfe said in a statement.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.
JEFFERSON CITY — Gov. Jay Nixon froze $400 million of spending Friday for education, building repairs and state services because of concerns that legislators could override his veto of an income tax bill that he contends would drain state revenues. Nixon announced the spending restrictions while signing a nearly $25 billion operating budget for the 2014 fiscal year that starts next Monday. He also said he has directed his budget chief to prepare a plan to eliminate 1,000 employee positions if the tax-cut veto is overridden.

The income tax cut "would undermine our fiscal foundation now and for years to come," Nixon said at a Capitol news conference. It is "a dangerous experiment we simply cannot afford. These costs are real and immediate if my veto is not sustained."

**Governor vetoed tax reduction**

Earlier this month, the Democratic governor vetoed a Republican-backed bill that would have phased in a tax deduction for business income over the next five years. That bill also would have gradually reduced the income tax rate for individuals and corporations over the next decade. Legislative projections presume the bill would reduce state revenues by more than $700 million annually once fully implemented. But the immediate cost would be smaller and each incremental tax rate reduction for individuals and corporations would take effect only if state revenues continue to rise by $100 million annually.

But Nixon says the annual cost would be higher and could hit as much as $1.2 billion in the short term, based on other provisions in the bill that link Missouri's tax rates to federal legislation about online sales tax collections. Lawmakers would need a two-thirds majority vote in both chambers to override Nixon's veto during a September session.
Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer says he still wants to override the veto of the tax-cut legislation and accused Nixon of "playing politics with taxpayer money."

"He's using it as leverage to basically further his opposition to giving Missouri taxpayers back any of their money," said Schaefer, R-Columbia.

**Hold on funds for public schools and colleges**

Nixon put a hold on a $66 million increase — which he originally recommended to lawmakers — in Missouri's $3 billion funding formula for public schools. He imposed a 4 percent spending freeze on public colleges and universities, which essentially wipes out a funding increase and dips into the institutions' core budgets. And Nixon froze a $10 million appropriation that would have funded a cooperative medical school program in Springfield between the University of Missouri and Missouri State University.

The governor particularly emphasized the cuts to education.

"Members of the General Assembly can either support House Bill 253 (which cuts the income tax) or they can support education, but they can't do both," Nixon said. Nixon's actions received an instant endorsement from the Missouri School Boards' Association, which is part of a coalition urging lawmaker to sustain the veto of the tax cut.

"The withholdings are just the first indication of how devastating the tax cut bill will be for the public school students in our state for years to come," Carter Ward, the association's executive director, said in a written statement. Schaefer disputed such assertions. He said Missouri's revenues have grown by nearly 10 percent for the 2013 fiscal year, meaning the state should carry over at least $350 million into the new budget year. He questioned Nixon's claims that the tax-cut would have an immediately negative effect on the state budget. Schaefer said Nixon's budget actions "make up a speculative budget shortfall, which doesn't exist and will not exist."

In addition to the education spending, Nixon froze $184 million for building repairs and construction, including money that had been targeted for the state Capitol, a new office building, state parks and the design of a replacement facility for a mental hospital in Fulton.

He also put a hold on $14 million of general revenue expenses that would have helped finance a $500 pay raise for state workers and nearly $46 million that would have provided a pay hike to medical professionals who treat low-income patients covered by the state.
Creative higher-ed approach best for state

By CHARLES McCLAIN

Missouri has long been the beneficiary of a decentralized system of governance of higher education that enables and promotes public colleges and universities to carve out distinctive missions in a coordinated plan approved by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. A vital part of that decentralization is the current method of funding for higher education.

Under the current funding method, each public four-year college and university must annually develop a case for its portion of the state dollars and obtain approval from its governing board. The request is then presented to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, which, in turn, makes recommendations to the governor and General Assembly. If there are major changes in enrollment patterns, they are addressed by recommendations from the Coordinating Board for Higher Education as equity adjustments below the line of the regular appropriations.

In a healthy dialogue, the appropriations committees of the House and Senate hear the institutions present their budgets and question the presenters about the requests. Their recommendations go then to the governor, who has already made his budget proposals to the General Assembly. This very decentralized and democratic approach encourages institutions to be creative and to strive to maintain their uniqueness in a decentralized system. The current system is not perfect, but it does encourage innovation, creativity and healthy competition. Further, it requires the General Assembly to think about funding for each college/university every year. It does not rely inordinately on averages to determine public policy.

A fixed formula set in the statutes will serve to discourage innovation, creativity and healthy competition, not to mention the constructive interchanges among the institutions and the legislature and the governor. The General Assembly and the governor would no longer review each college and university. In a recent article about the state of California, author Jack Mathews makes the case that fixed rules, often in the form of constitutional amendments, have removed much of the power from the governor and legislature. It is his conclusion that, when given the choice of rules or human judgment, rules will be chosen every time. He argues such has caused many of the problems in California.

Putting a formula for funding higher education in the statutes moves Missouri into a rule-oriented condition, making the appropriations process much less dynamic and much more centralized. The major decision-making process rests with people who develop the algorithms for the formula. In a recent article by Steve Lohr, "The Promises and Perils of the Data Driven
Society," he says, "In a Big Data world, the data mining for patterns and insights to guide policy will be done automatically by software algorithms. Of course, algorithms are created by people and they contain inferences and assumptions coded in. These coded in values shape the output." A formula using algorithms would supplant the judgments of those appointed and elected public servants — judgments that might vary as the context changes. Such is the peril of turning the funding of higher education in Missouri into a formula that is set in the statutes.

The legislative and executive branches should not relinquish their respective roles and authority in funding higher education in Missouri. No system is perfect; all processes are subject to legitimate criticism. Missouri's process of allowing well-considered input from the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, however, in concert with the final exercise of judgment and authority by the governor and the General Assembly, best serves the students and the people of Missouri.

Charles McClain has been a teacher, administrator and leader in education issues his entire career. His positions have included founding president of Jefferson College, the president of Truman State University, Missouri Commissioner of Higher Education and head of Columbia Independent School, among others.
MU Art Museums to Move From Main Campus

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The upcoming move of two University of Missouri art museums from the main campus to a satellite location in north Columbia is raising concerns that fewer people will be able to visit the attractions.

The museums of Art and Archaeology, Anthropology and a museum support center will move to the former Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, now known as Mizzou North. The move is part of a $22.85 million project dubbed Renew Mizzou that will include major renovations to Jesse Hall, which is the main administration building; and Pickard and Swallow halls, site of the two museums. University officials said the museum moves could be permanent.

Still, the old hospital will itself need major upgrades to serve as a proper repository for rare and valuable collections filled with thousands of ancient artifacts, famous paintings and archaeological remnants, museum supporters counter. They also worry that the more remote near Interstate 70 will mean fewer visitors and less administrative support. At the same time, the Ellis Fischel building could offer more space to display collections that are now in storage.

“This is the jewel and crown of the university,” said Larry Stebbing, an assistant preparator for the Museum of Art and Archaeology. “It’s a beautiful little place.”

Stebbing said the former hospital is rife with “steam lines, water lines and duct valves in every place we would put the art” – conditions that could threaten the collections. And while Ellis Fischel has more square footage, the amount of available display space will lessen, he said.

“This move will put the whole museum at risk,” Stebbing said.

Despite the concerns, Michael O'Brien, dean of the College of Arts and Science and the director of the Museum of Anthropology, is optimistic the move will work out.
“I think in the end, this will be an excellent arrangement for everybody,” he said. “At least I hope so.”

In Pickard Hall, the Museum of Art and Archaeology houses more than 15,000 pieces from the Paleolithic period to modern times. The building was once home to the university’s chemistry department, and experiments have left lingering radiation in the walls, its attic and beneath the floor boards. Although the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2011 said the amount of radiation in Pickard Hall was safe, university officials asked for more time to clear out the entire building and conduct further tests.

In Swallow Hall, the Museum of Anthropology contains the largest holding of prehistoric Missouri artifacts in the world, including millions of items dating from 9,000 B.C. to modern times. Basketry, weapons, masks and textiles are among its ancient artifacts. That includes the Grayson Archery Collection, which contains about 3,000 arrows and 2,500 bows from six continents. The oldest item is a Persian bow from 1300 A.D.

Plans call for completing the initial relocation of some collections by the end of the year.

Local school groups are among the museums’ most frequent visitors, including some groups that can walk to campus. Some Columbia educators worry that their students will no longer have easy access to the more remote location on Business Loop 70, a commercial corridor several miles away.
Balance without bias

Court’s affirmative action ruling will spur widespread review of efforts to ensure diversity in higher education.

By NICK ANDERSON

The Washington Post

No MU mention

The U.S. Supreme Court’s decision Monday to force another look at the legality of race-conscious admissions at the University of Texas is likely to intensify debate about affirmative action at colleges and universities nationwide.

The high court affirmed its precedents on the use of race in college admissions but ruled that courts must consider whether “workable race-neutral alternatives would produce the educational benefits of diversity.”

Several states have banned racial preferences in public university admissions since the 1990s and instead have sought to achieve diversity through other means. Experts said the ruling is likely to spur widespread internal reviews of school policies to ensure they comply with the law.

Some analysts said that initiatives already in use, on the whole, show that it is possible to assemble a balanced class of incoming students by focusing on factors such as family income and geography instead of skin color and ethnicity. Others said that race remains an essential ingredient for admissions officers seeking to ensure diversity.

At public colleges in Maryland and Virginia, admissions officers have repeatedly defended the use of race in what is known in the field as a “holistic” review of applications. They had been awaiting the ruling in the Texas case to find out whether those policies would be struck down. For now, the court has left them intact.

“We have not been told through this ruling that anything we’re currently doing is contrary to law,” said Henry Broaddus, dean of admission at the public College of William & Mary in Virginia.

Shannon Gundy, director of admissions at the University of Maryland, said she was pleased that the ruling continued to allow the consideration of race and ethnicity among 26 factors in UM admissions.
But Gundy predicted that schools everywhere will review their policies.

"Conversations have to be had," Gundy said. "What are we doing? How are we doing it? And are we doing everything we possibly can to be sure we're doing it appropriately in the legal framework?"

Richard Kahlenberg, an analyst with the left-leaning Century Foundation, contends that viable alternatives to race-based admissions are underway in places such as Florida. Since that state banned the use of race in admissions in 2001, the University of Florida has managed to increase the number of Hispanic students significantly, according to a foundation report. The black share of enrollment has been up and down.

In an effort to maintain diversity without considering race, the report found, the university stepped up outreach to minority high school students and bolstered scholarships for first-generation college students from low-income families. Florida also began a "Talented 20" program to ensure that students in the top 20 percent of their high school graduating class could obtain slots at state universities — regardless of race — and it took steps to consider students' socioeconomic backgrounds.

Kahlenberg said that, after Monday's ruling, "universities are going to be really pushed to justify the use of race." He added, "I think this will push universities toward alternatives: class-based, economic affirmative action."

Other analysts, contending that racial affirmative action remains necessary, point to the experience of California.

The nation's most populous state banned racial preferences in public university admissions through a 1996 voter referendum. The share of black and Hispanic students at the University of California's prestigious Berkeley and Los Angeles campuses fell significantly and has not recovered. The stagnant population of Hispanic students at UCLA and UC-Berkeley stands in sharp contrast to the state's booming Hispanic population.

The UC system has increased minority outreach, built partnerships with K-12 schools and banned "legacy" preferences for alumni, which are often considered an obstacle to racial diversity. The nine-campus system considers socioeconomic background, and it seeks to guarantee admission for those ranked at or near the top of their class.

But analysts said those steps have not raised the share of black and Hispanic students at the system's top two schools.

"The record shows we tried pretty much everything that seemed feasible," said Patricia Gandara, an education professor and co-director of the Civil Rights Project at UCLA. "The university tried to be responsible in this. But the diversity challenge is getting more and more difficult."

Many public and private universities had urged the Supreme Court to preserve the status quo in admissions.
Monday’s ruling “is a complex one, but it does make clear that colleges and universities will have work to do,” said Molly Corbett Broad, president of the American Council on Education, which represents college presidents. “Each institution will need to show that any process that considers race and ethnicity as part of a holistic admissions review is precisely tailored to meet the goals of achieving the educational benefits that flow from diversity.”
MU uses race-neutral admissions standards

By Karyn Spory

In its decision Monday to hand a higher-education affirmative action case back to the lower courts, the U.S. Supreme Court noted universities and colleges should use race-neutral alternatives in considering diversity in admissions, something University of Missouri officials said the school already does.

Barbara Rupp, director of admissions at MU, said the university does not employ affirmative action when attracting and admitting students. Instead, the university admits students based on published admission requirements, Rupp said.

In the requirements outlined on its website, MU decides admissions for freshmen based on college-entrance exam results and high school coursework: the completion of four units of English and mathematics, three units of science and social studies, two units of the same foreign language, and one unit of fine arts. Test scores require a composite ACT score of 24 or higher or a combined SAT score of 1090 or higher.

"If they meet those standards, they are automatically admitted. If they do not meet those standards, then those files get a full review, and we admit some of those students on probation," Rupp said.

MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said even if MU used affirmative action, the university would not be affected in the same way as the University of Texas — the school whose race-conscious admissions were at the center of the Supreme Court case — because MU does not have enrollment caps.

"We do not have to deny admissions to one student because we admitted a minority student," Banken said.

Rupp said even when files receive a second review, race is not a factor. Instead, she said, admissions staff looks at whether a student had been disadvantaged or attended a school in an area that struggled economically.

"We might take that into consideration, but we don't specifically look at race," she said.
Rupp said in an effort to have a diversified campus, the admissions office has an employee — the coordinator for culturally diverse recruitment — who does outreach work in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas as well as in Columbia. That work does include specific outreach to minority students.

"We do special mailings to students who have identified themselves as being an underrepresented minority on the ACT/SAT, encouraging them to apply to Mizzou," she said.

Rupp said MU also participates in a number of college fairs and programs that are specific to minority students, such as Infinite Scholars in St. Louis and Target Hope in Chicago.

She said once students come to campus for a visit, there isn’t a need to market the school’s diversity.

"We have enough minority students on campus now that" visitors “can visually see that,” Rupp said.
MU's Residential Life Master Plan calls for renovation, replacement of existing housing facilities

By Karyn Spory

Saturday, June 29, 2013 at 2:00 am

Adam Callahan admired the view of Faurot Field from the eighth-floor balcony at Jones Hall on the University of Missouri campus. It’s a view that will be gone in less than two years.

“This is the only place you can get this kind of view,” Callahan said while he watched construction crews doing work at Memorial Stadium.

Construction cranes have become a staple of the Columbia skyline in recent years. The university is no exception as campus construction booms, specifically the remodeling and rebuilding of residential halls on campus.

Callahan is the hall coordinator for Jones Hall and has been living and working in the dormitory for two years. Jones is an all-female residence hall that houses approximately 330 students and is slated for demolition in January 2015 as part of the Residential Life Master Plan.

On June 13, the UM Board of Curators 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 last year, 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 Laws 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.
Phase One includes the demolition of Jones Hall and construction of a new hall, demolition of Dobbs Pavilion 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, said Frankie Minor, director of Residential Life.

Callahan said he will be sad to see Jones go. The building — as well as Laws and Lathrop halls — has been part of the Mizzou skyline since they opened in 1957.

Callahan said one of the main draws for people to live in the three halls is that they are the most inexpensive on campus. Callahan said another draw for Jones is that it is the only all-female building on campus while another — Johnston — is under construction.

Callahan added that Jones Hall’s proximity to Greek Town has made it quite popular with rushing freshmen. “In my two years here, over 90 percent of the students have been affiliated with a Greek organization,” Callahan said. Women are not allowed to live in sorority houses until their sophomore year.

Callahan said maybe because of the hall’s affiliation with Greek Town, Jones tends to be a very active building. “It’s not a building where you struggle getting people out of their rooms and getting people talking,” he said.

“Jones is also very high-achieving academically,” Callahan said. In his two years of working at Jones, the building has had one of the highest grade-point averages. Callahan said Jones usually is in the top three building GPAs of any building on campus. “Any given night, there is going to be people studying in the lounges. … They take it very seriously,” Callahan said.

Jones, Lathrop and Laws are listed at $6,160 for a single room or $4,625 for a double room for the 2013-2014 academic year, according to the Department of Residence website.

Minor said after construction, the new resident halls likely will cost about as much as Gillett, Hudson, Hatch, McDavid and Schurz, which come in at $7,280 for a single room and $5,750 for a double room. Minor added the new buildings will look similar to North Hall.

Jones, Lathrop and Laws were built in 1957 and are now the oldest residential halls on campus and thus the final phase of the master plan, Minor said.

Minor said since 2004, MU has built 11 new residence halls and renovated nine as part of the master plan, which was developed in 2001 and has been reviewed every five years. Minor said at every stage of the master plan, the question is asked, “Do we keep, retain or replace those
buildings?” The remaining phase, which would address Laws and Lathrop, would come before the UM Board of Curators for approval in 2016 and would cost about $69 million.

“The final recommendation was that we replace” the Dobbs Group, Minor said.

Minor said the decision to rebuild really came down to beds. “The cost to renovate was less than the cost to build new, but in addition to that, we had issues of being able to add more bed space,” Minor said. Minor added that when you renovate, you lose space. “We wouldn’t have been able to maintain the current number of bed spaces in there,” he said.

Bed space has been a continuing problem for the Department of Residential Life. In 2008, MU received a freshman class of 7,065 — more than a thousand more students than the previous year. With an already limited space, the Department of Residential Life began leasing two apartment complexes — Campus View Apartments and Campus Lodge — off campus to house all the freshman students. Since 2008, MU has continued leasing at Campus View Apartments.

Minor said **MU holds a 10-month lease agreement with Campus View Apartments for 432 beds — about half of the complex. This costs the university around $2 million annually.**

Minor said even if the number of incoming freshmen levels off or decreases, he is not worried about the rooms being filled.

Minor said there is always interest from returning students and transfer students to live on campus, but in past years, many have had to look off campus because of the lack of beds.

Although the university is looking toward the final phase of the master plan, there’s still work being done on the fourth phase, which includes the closure of Wolpers Hall and the reopening of Mark Twain Hall, which will house 380 students, said Harriet Green-Sappington, assistant director of facility operations.

Wolpers is the next building on the schedule for renovation. Wolpers, which is located in the heart of campus, will close for renovations in December. Green-Sappington said residence halls close after the fall semester because the demand for housing is less during the spring semester because of graduations, internships or transfers.

Green-Sappington said Residential Life tries to make the move as seamless as possible for students. Students will box up their possessions and inventory everything on a sheet before turning in their keys and going home for winter break. During break, a moving company, which is contracted after a bid process, will move possessions to new rooms. Once back for spring semester, students will receive their entry code — all new and remodeled buildings use codes instead of keys — and be ready to start classes.
Although Residential Life and Campus Dining Services are two separate entities, the two tend to work together on projects, including the Dobbs Group project.

Julaine Kiehn, director of Campus Dining Services, said “We serve the same customers. We’re kind of joined at the hip.”

Kiehn said the new dining facility will add 700 to 750 seats and is expected to feed 1,500 to 1,800 students. About 1,000 to 1,200 students now are being served at Dobbs Pavilion.

Kiehn said nothing is confirmed yet, but she believes the new dining facility will feature more restaurant-style options. Kiehn added she thinks the new dining facility will attract more students from Greek Town.

Dobbs Pavilion will remain open until the new facility is up and running.

Callahan still has a year and a half before students will be moved out of Jones Hall and the building will be wiped away from the Mizzou skyline.

“This is my first apartment out of graduate school, my first professional job, so I think it will be a little sad,” Callahan said of losing his home.

Callahan said he hopes the new buildings keep some of Jones’ quirky spirit. He said he also hopes one of the buildings will be an all-women one because that has been such an intricate part of that section of campus. “Socially, I think it would be good for” students “to have that, but that’s” several “years down the road,” Callahan said.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU to go smoke-free Monday

By Allison Wrabel, Julia Sumpter
June 29, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The smell of cigarette smoke lingered in the parking lot behind MU's Stewart Hall long after the smoker had gone back inside. Cigarette butts lay scattered across a corner of the lot on the east side of the campus, some old and faded, others freshly stomped with ashes near by.

Bucket in her purple latex-gloved hand, Diane Oerly searched the grounds around the Fine Arts Annex and Waters and Stewart halls picking up every cigarette butt she could find. She dug through the brush to find even more hidden among the twigs and leaves.

Participating in cleanups is nothing new for Oerly, an MU information technology employee and president of Friends of Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. She has attended other park and stream cleanups in the area and has been heavily involved with the local Missouri Stream Team Association.

"Since Mizzou is going smoke-free, it's like, if we pick up the butts, they shouldn't come back," Oerly said. "When you do cleanups and stream cleanups, you always know that they'll be replaced. Although, it's getting better."

MU will be going entirely smoke-free Monday, when a campus-wide ban on smoking cigarettes, cigars, hookahs, pipes, water pipes and e-cigarettes will take effect. All students, staff, faculty and visitors are expected to comply with the policy while on campus, but MU will rely mostly on education and peer educators to enforce the ban. MU also will offer help to those who want to take the opportunity to quit smoking.

A bold step

In December 2008, MU made its first move toward a smoke-free campus by banning smoking within 20 feet of any building entrance and setting a goal of a smoke-free campus by 2014. Designated smoking areas were put in place in July 2011. In November, students, staff and
faculty decided to expedite the move to a smoke-free campus by moving the target date up six months from Jan. 1, 2014.

The MU Sustainability Office coordinated with the local Missouri Stream Team Association and Landscape Services to host the Big Butt Recycling event Friday morning in preparation for the smoking ban. Volunteers targeted areas across campus that were heavily littered with butts.

"Part of the idea was to have the campus as clean as possible before the urns go away," sustainability coordinator Steve Burdic said. Many of the volunteers were staff, but there are plans for other cleanups involving mostly students in the fall. The cigarette butts will be sent to TerraCycle, a New Jersey-based company that will recycle the filters into plastic furniture, Burdic said.

A former smoker, Oerly thinks making the MU campus completely smoke-free is a "bold step."

"This is something that's changed a lot," Oerly said. "When I started working at the university we were all issued ash trays, and we smoked at our desks. So now, not only can you not smoke at your desk, you can't smoke on the campus."

MU senior Andrew Jones, who smokes, thinks the new policy is a "waste of time."

“I agree with the first move to make designated smoking areas, but to make it completely smoke-free is stupid,” Jones said. He thinks many people will continue to smoke even after being told to stop.

“It might cause less people right in front of the library (a popular place to smoke) but as soon as winter hits, people will be back by the doors,” Jones said.

MU employee Jeffrey Friel, another smoker, agreed with the prediction that students will not stop smoking, but he thinks faculty and staff will comply.

"I've talked to a couple (students), and they said they're here for an education and that it's not illegal to smoke," he said.

Friel has been smoking for 25 years and feels indifferent about the policy. While he has no plans to quit, he plans to follow the rules and not smoke on campus. He said he figured it was going to happen eventually.
"It's a sign of the times," he said. Tiffany Bowman, coordinator at the MU Wellness Resource Center, thinks a complete ban on smoking will make the rules more clear for everyone.

"The majority of people want to comply with the policy and may violate out of ignorance of the policy, not because they are attempting to be difficult," Bowman said.

Having designated smoking areas made it hard for people to identify precise boundaries. Bowman cited Speakers Circle, where a small area designated for smoking grew over time to envelop the entire area.

"I think we'll see less of a problem now because we actually have a really clear cut 'no smoking on campus' policy. You'll have to go off campus to smoke," she said. Peer educators, students who present programs on everything from fitness and nutrition to responsible alcohol use, have been trained on how to approach somebody they see violating the anti-smoking policy.

"It's meant to be educational and courteous," Bowman said. "It's not meant to be any type of punishment. It's strictly to remind people of the policy."

Educating MU students and staff on the policy is important, as is educating visitors the campus will see throughout the year.

"It's the type of education that's going to need to be ongoing," Bowman said. "People are going to come onto campus and not know that's our policy, and we need to remind them."

"We expect that there will be a learning phase and a reminder phase," Kevin Everett, associate professor in the MU School of Medicine and a member of the Smoke-Free Mizzou Committee, said. "We're going to try to do some stuff working with student organizations handing out fliers that announce the policy in the next week or so. We'll probably have to do it again in the fall."

Policy violations

Violations of the policy will be dealt with case by case.

"A goal would be to treat it like any other policy violation on campus and use progressive discipline strategies that are already apart of university policy," Everett said. This means that students would go through the Office of Student Conduct, as they would with any other policy violation. Faculty and staff would meet with their supervisor to discuss the policy and what the next step will be.
“We already have a progressive discipline process that applies to any policy,” said Laura Schopp, director of Healthy for Life: T.E. Atkins University of Missouri Wellness Program.

Fining is not part of the policy. Everett said the Smoke-Free Mizzou Committee would like to see how the current enforcement plan works before making any changes.

“At this point, we're working towards strategies that achieve following the policy first, and our committee is going to continue to monitor to see what we need to do as time goes on," Everett said.

**Help with kicking the habit**

The Wellness Resource Center hasn’t seen an influx of people wanting to use its smoking cessation program, but its staff is prepared if that happens. Smoke-Free Mizzou isn't about getting people to quit smoking, but the programs are an option, Bowman said.

"People don’t have to quit smoking if they don’t want to," Everett said. "Certainly we’ve made resources available for people to do that, but there are strategies that they can use to not smoke while they are on the campus."

If students or staff quit through the center, they can receive up to 12 weeks of free nicotine gum, lozenges or patches and six to seven office visits.

"We are committed to supporting any employees who want to use this policy change as an opportunity to quit smoking," Schopp said. "The university offers tobacco cessation through its medical benefit plans and pharmacy plan, which are the primary resources for cessation support. We have also partnered with other groups such as Phoenix House programs and the Columbia/Boone County Health Department to provide additional resources."

**Efforts throughout the year**

Everett recognizes that large events that bring a lot of visitors to campus, such as MU football games, will be a challenging time to enforce the policy.

"People, for the most part, are very good at following university guidelines," Everett said.

There are plans with the Athletics Department to put announcements on the Jumbotron at Memorial Stadium and to place signs throughout the stadium reminding people not to smoke.
They also have sent the policy to football season ticket holders, and information has gone out to new students and their families in the Summer Welcome packets, so many people will know about the policy well in advance, Schopp said.

"It's not in place yet, but there are discussions about having patches and gum available in concession areas so that people will be able to, during those temporary hours at a football game, stay in compliance with the policy," Everett said. At this point, there are no plans to enforce the policy during tailgate events.

Other universities

Campus smoking bans are nothing new. More than 1,100 colleges and universities throughout the country have smoke-free or tobacco-free policies, according to the Americans for NonSmokers Rights.

"We've talked a lot with people from the University of Kentucky," Everett said. "They have a tobacco-free campus that is similar in size and nature to our campus."

The University of Arkansas campus is tobacco-free, and students who break the rules are subject to fines of $50 to $500.

"The policy works — very well, actually," Arkansas student Laura Cochran said. "I can count specific times on one hand the times I have seen smoking on campus. Those times were either custodians in the back corner of a building or a visitor on campus. Never students."

Chapman Williams, another Arkansas student, agreed.

"If you look around campus, you will see very little smoking," he said. "Most of the students walk off campus to smoke, which isn't very far. I guess that means the policy is working."

Oklahoma State University has a compliance policy closer to MU's. It relies more on student involvement to enforce the rules. Repeat offenders can be fined $10 for the second violation and $50 for the third violation. Appeals work the same as a parking ticket appeal. Oklahoma State junior Taylor Spooner thinks that students might be more willing to accept the rules if they understand them.

"I think that many students do not take the 'no smoking' rule seriously and feel as if it is an empty threat," she said.

Supervising editor is Scott Swafford.
The University of Missouri School of Journalism announced this week that among the recipients of its 2013 Honor Medals for Distinguished Service in Journalism would be FleishmanHillard Inc., the St. Louis-founded-and-based global public relations firm.

This is a little like the Vatican announcing that Martin Luther had been elevated to sainthood.

Which is not to say that FleishmanHillard (this spring the firm dropped the hyphen that used to separate the names of its founders and adopted, without irony, the motto “the power of true”) isn’t a fine company and good at what it does. Many of our former colleagues have found refuge there.

It’s just that journalists (including many Missouri j-school alums) find that FH’s interests and those of its corporate clients are often antithetical to theirs. Around our building, it’s commonly known as “The Great Satan.”

We kid because we love. We can only assume that there’s no one on the journalism school faculty who ever had to call a FleishmanHillard flack on deadline with a difficult question.

Students at Mizzou’s j-school can, in fact, specialize in “strategic communications,” which is what public relations people, with their gift for obfuscation, renamed public relations. If this were a medal for Distinguished Service in Strategic Communications, it wouldn’t sting so much.
A recent study has taken a stand about the dangers of sitting. The October 2012 *British Journal of Sports Medicine* claims that for every hour a person spends sitting in front of their television or computer, they are cutting about 22 minutes from their life span. By contrast, it's estimated that smokers shorten their lives by about 11 minutes per cigarette.

Some University of Missouri nutrition and exercise specialists are making strides to change their workday behavior and set a good example for others. They're working at treadmill desks.

According to Steve Ball, an associate professor of nutrition and exercise physiology, the desks, which let workers walk at 1 to 2 miles per hour, benefit employees with weight loss, improved posture, reduced back stress, improved focus, reduced mental stress and anxiety, and enhanced job satisfaction.

Ball and other faculty in MU's College of Human Environmental Sciences plan to conduct research on the treadmill desks' long-term health effects.
For Tigers, getting there isn't any fun

MU's first year in SEC includes travel hassles, extra expenses.

Welcome to the SEC, Missouri.

"I think we have to do some things moving forward to be able to compete for SEC championships, and travel is a part of that," Missouri soccer Coach Bryan Blitz said. "I'm never going to question the SEC move. It was a no-brainer. But like everybody knew, there's a learning curve and adjustment."

Many Missouri teams found traveling in Year 1 in the SEC to be an exhausting hodgepodge of plane flights and bus trips. Getting to and from distant rural SEC towns was a costly grind that blew past the school's estimated budget and may force future changes.

MU estimates that it spent $7.1 million on travel this past year, $1 million more than it projected and nearly $2 million more than it spent in its last season in the Big 12.

"We didn't do anything extravagant traveling last year at all, and we never have," said Doug Gillin, Missouri's deputy athletic director. "It's always going to be a high expense line item."

The travel price tag was tied with Texas A&M for the most in the SEC among schools that had completed their annual calculations for 2012-13. Arkansas led the SEC in travel expenses in 2011-12 at $6.9 million. Missouri's travel expenses are nearly twice the amount of some SEC schools. Ole Miss spent $3.8 million and Georgia $4 million in 2012-13.

For a school that received $20.7 million from the SEC in league revenue sharing this year — and has an athletic budget of more than $60 million — the extra expense might not be the biggest issue. The constant grind is, coaches and administrators said.

Sports like softball, baseball and soccer have it the worst. They are relatively large travel squads playing numerous SEC road games, and they do not have the luxury of using charter flights.

"It's brutal," MU softball Coach Ehren Earleywine said. "It just wears on you."
So what makes SEC locations so much more difficult to navigate than Big 12 spots? They are smaller towns with fewer airport options that are farther away.

Missouri, the northernmost school in the league and the third-most western, is a combined distance of 6,745 miles away from its 13 league foes. The average distance between Missouri and an SEC school is 518 miles, nearly 100 miles more than the average distance between MU and members of the 2011-12 Big 12.

About 10 of the 14 SEC schools have a hometown airport similar to Columbia Regional, with limited commercial flights in and out. It's a double whammy for Missouri. MU teams usually can't fly out of Columbia and, even after bussing to St. Louis or Kansas City, can't fly directly into most SEC towns.

Also, Missouri joined a larger league and lost three easily drivable away sites — Kansas, Kansas State and Iowa State, all less than five hours away. Arkansas, the closest SEC school, is a five-plus hour bus trip away.

On top of all of this, Delta pulled out of Columbia Regional in February, stopping its direct flights to SEC hubs Atlanta and Memphis.

"What we miss," Gillin said, "is the Delta direct to Atlanta."

Asked for a typical route to SEC locations, most coaches shake their heads.

"There was no typical route," Earleywine said. "It was just random."

Said volleyball Coach Wayne Kreklow: "It was like a patchwork quilt of plans. You name it, and we did it."

A few Missouri teams endured seven-plus hour bus rides, something they rarely did in the Big 12. The baseball team took 10-hour trips to Tennessee and to Hoover, Ala., for the SEC Tournament. The softball team drove nearly eight hours to Ole Miss and seven-plus hours to Kentucky.

Commercial flights began with bus rides to Kansas City or St. Louis. After flying into Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis or Jacksonville, teams were forced to drive another hour or two to the schools.

The return trips were the worst, said Nicole Hudson, a senior last season on the softball team. Baseball, softball and soccer players routinely returned to Columbia after 11 p.m. on Sundays after weekend trips.

"Those are the rough ones," Hudson said. "The girls have to turn around and get ready for the next week. It's exhausting. The added stress of school and the busy schedule can kind of affect you."
Travel in the Big 12 "was not even comparable" to the past year in the SEC, Blitz said.

"We want to be on an even playing field," he said.

Is there a way for Missouri to ease the travel burden?

"Yeah," Earleywine said, "they could charter all of our trips."

Volleyball, which has a small squad size, traveled via charter flights sometimes. Football and men's and women's basketball also charter everywhere.

Missouri is exploring the possibility of chartering its other teams during more lengthy trips once or twice during the season, Gillin said. Other outlying SEC schools do this. Charter flights come at a cost, though. They're about double the price of flying commercial. A 50-person charter plane costs between $40,000-$50,000.

According to Arkansas' request for bids for travel services for the coming year, the Razorbacks plan on chartering their baseball team four times next season and will charter gymnastics once and soccer once. Texas A&M does even more chartering. Outside of football and men's and women's basketball, A&M charters its other teams about half of the time, said Jason Cook, A&M's senior associate athletics director for external affairs.

The Aggies are in a similar position to Missouri. College Station has a small airport, and A&M lost easy trips to Texas and Baylor. A&M's closest SEC school is LSU, a nearly six-hour bus ride away. No Texas A&M team bused to an SEC school last year, Cook said. They chartered out of College Station or bussed the 90 minutes to Houston and flew commercial.

"If the road trip will require a team to miss a day of class, then we typically go the charter route," he said.

That's Missouri's chief worry, too, Gillin said.

"We're taking a hard look at how much class time our kids are missing because of travel," he said. "Some of the SEC teams, what we've found, various times throughout the year they'll charter. We didn't do a lot of that this year. That'll be something that we'll look at, to charter a couple of our teams maybe once depending on how far away is it, how much class time will they miss."

That puts a smile on just about everyone's face.

"That would probably ease some things," Hudson said. "But that's easy for me to say. I'm not paying the bills."