University of Missouri spending $100,000 in search for new chancellor

20 hours ago • Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. • The University of Missouri will pay a southern California search firm $100,000 to guide the hiring process for the next chancellor of its Columbia campus.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates of suburban Los Angeles will screen prospective candidates to succeed Chancellor Brady Deaton, who is retiring in November. His replacement will be chosen by the university's Board of Curators and system President Tim Wolfe.

The California company's recent work includes the chancellor search at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and presidential searches at Carnegie Mellon and California State University, Los Angeles.

As with its recent presidential searches, Missouri won't disclose the names of finalists. Wolfe has set two meetings this week to solicit comments on desired qualifications for the next MU chancellor.
MISSOURI CHANCELLOR SEARCH GETS OUTSIDE HELP

The University of Missouri will pay a southern California search firm $100,000 to guide the hiring process for the next chancellor of its Columbia campus.

The Columbia Daily Tribune (bit.ly/12ZydT7) reported Monday that Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates of suburban Los Angeles will screen prospective candidates to succeed Chancellor Brady Deaton, who is retiring in November. His replacement will be chosen by the university’s Board of Curators and system President Tim Wolfe.

The California company’s recent work includes the chancellor search at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and presidential searches at Carnegie Mellon and California State University, Los Angeles. The headhunters also helped locate Hank Foley, the Missouri system’s new vice president for academic affairs, who came from Penn State.

That search took just three months - a timetable not much shorter than what Wolfe laid out for finding Deaton’s successor at his June retirement announcement.

On Monday, Wolfe said he’s willing to prolong the search if necessary.

"We do have a schedule, but that schedule is flexible if we can’t find the right candidate,” he said after the first of two campus meetings this week designed to solicit input from professors, students, administrative employees and the general public on the new hire’s desired qualities.

As with its recent presidential searches _ including the one that turned up Wolfe, a Missouri graduate and former software company executive _ the university won’t publicly disclose the names of its finalists.

"I and my team are committed to being transparent and accountable about the process, but we cannot, however, disclose any details related to candidates, which will complicate our intent on securing the very best talent in the industry," Wolfe said.

Wolfe also said he expects to name a broad-based search committee this week that will assist him and the nine curators in the hiring process. The committee will likely serve in an advisory role rather than actively approve or reject candidates.

Several speakers at Monday’s campus forum emphasized the need for a chancellor who includes faculty members in the decision-making process. Others emphasized a candidate’s academic credentials, or an existing or previous connection to university or the state of Missouri.
The Columbia Missourian reported Tuesday that Wolfe expects an outside candidate to rise above any internal applicants, though he didn't rule out that possibility.

“I would suspect the bar that is going to be set would suggest an outside candidate,” he said.

Deaton arrived at MU in 1989 as an agricultural economics professor and department chair before rising through the ranks as a deputy chancellor and provost. He was named chancellor in 2004.

The 70-year-old Kentucky native will remain in Columbia as 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.
Scientists gather for global nuclear fusion conference

MU plays host to global meeting

By Karyn Spory

Tuesday, July 23, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Sun streamed Monday through the glass walls of the University of Missouri's Bond Life Sciences Center, illuminating academic posters on the third floor as added light was shed on a science that was kicked back into the dark two decades ago because it was not understood.

The science deals with low-energy nuclear reactions, previously referred to as cold fusion, and the Bond Life Sciences Center is playing host this week to the 18th International Conference on Condensed Matter Nuclear Fusion.

A low-energy nuclear reaction — or LENR — is a tabletop nuclear reaction that was first discovered in 1989 by university researchers in Utah.

However, as researchers were unable to duplicate those results, the science was written off, and researchers, such as MU's Mark Prelas, were told to stop their experiments.

Robert Duncan, vice chancellor of research at MU and co-chairman of the conference, said those in the early 1990s who called cold fusion a fluke had violated the scientific method. He said when people follow a path that says, "Our findings don't match what we think; it must not be right," that can be dangerous.

"I think we need to be empirical; we need to be data-driven. Science is empirical and is driven by surprise," Duncan said.

He said it is surprise findings like LENR that keep science evolving. During his opening remarks at the conference, Duncan reminded his colleagues of another recent scientific surprise, the production of antimatter in thunderstorms, which is another example of nature creating its own fusion.
"For people who are convinced there is nothing to condensed matter nuclear science, I refer them to what was discovered there — thunderstorms creating a nuclear process, antimatter," he said.

Such surprise discoveries, he said, lead scientists to modify their understanding of physics, which is "the way it should be."

Duncan said although not everyone at the conference agrees on facets of the science, it is a "wonderful time to think, discuss and compare data."

Paul Hunt of Hunt Utilities Group in Pine River, Minn., said he had been learning a lot at the conference this week. His company focuses on research and development of technologies to support sustainable living and alternative energy.

"I've been learning little hints and tricks on how not to be foiled on my next experiment," he said.

Sveinn Olafsson of the Science Institute University of Iceland said it has been interesting to see how differently scientists see things, as well as how they explain and refute their findings.

Prelas, who presented a paper during the conference, said though it might have taken 20 years, it is wonderful to see the university embracing condensed matter research. In 1991, Prelas' funding was stripped, and he was told to stop his experiments.

"That's the beauty of science: Eventually, reason prevails," Prelas said.

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Posted in Education on Tuesday, July 23, 2013 2:00 pm.
WASHINGTON • Grants and scholarships are taking the lead in paying college bills, surpassing the traditional role parents long have played in helping foot the bills, according to a report from loan giant Sallie Mae.

College costs are driving decisions about which schools to attend, what to study once there and even where to live. While the recession has largely passed, economic worries have not and many families are making college choices driven by fears of tuition hikes and job losses, according to the survey.

"Parents are willing to stretch themselves," said Sarah Ducich, Sallie Mae’s senior vice president for public policy. "It’s not that they’re unwilling to pay. It’s that their income is not keeping up.”

College spending per student was about $21,000 during 2012, down from a peak of $24,000 in 2010, according to the Sallie Mae-Ipsos Public Affairs report.

The annual survey of student financial aid found students earned about $6,300 in grants and scholarships to help pay for college costs, taking the top spots from parents.

Parents chipped in $5,727 on average, a decrease of 35 percent since 2010.

Student loans were the third most common source to pick up the bill for courses, housing and books. The average borrower collected $8,815 in federal loans.

The rate for those loans was the subject of debate in the Senate last week, as lawmakers considered a compromise that would offer some students lower rates for the next few years but would prescribe higher rates for future classes. The Senate is expected to vote on that White House-backed compromise this week.

Last year, the average family turned to grants and scholarships to cover 30 percent of college costs. Parents’ income and savings covered 27 percent of the bill and student borrowing covered 18 percent.

“We have moved into a post-recession reality in how people pay for college,” Ducich said.
'NEW NORMAL'

Parents’ enthusiasm for college has not shriveled, though. The survey found 85 percent of parents saw college bills as an investment in their children’s future.

“We’re in a new normal where big ticket items like college, families will pay for them but won’t stress about them too much,” said Cliff Young, managing director at Ipsos.

One-fifth of parents added work hours to pay for college and half of students increased their work hours, too. The report found 57 percent of families said students were living at home or with relatives, up from 41 percent last year and 44 percent in 2011.

Among other strategies employed to deal with costs:

• One-fifth of students from low-income families chose to transfer to less expensive schools.

• About one-fifth of students said they changed majors to fields that were expected to be more marketable upon graduation.

• In all, 67 percent of students and their families eliminated colleges at some stage during the application process because of costs, up from 58 percent in 2008.

“It forced them to adopt new behaviors of savings and ways to find nickels and dimes,” Young said.

The tuition sticker price at public four-year colleges is up 27 percent beyond overall inflation over the last five years, according to the latest figures from a separate study from the College Board. This past year it rose nearly 5 percent to an average of $8,655 nationwide. Including room and board, the average sticker price at public colleges is now $17,860, and students pay on average $12,110. At private four-year colleges, the average full tuition price is now just under $40,000, with the average student paying $23,840.

What does that mean for the average college student?

About two-thirds of the national college class of 2011 had loan debt at graduation, and their debt averaged $26,600, according to the most recent figures from the California-based Institute for College Access and Success. That was an increase of about 5 percent from the class before them.

The Ipsos telephone poll was conducted between April 10 and May 9 with 802 parents of undergraduate students aged 18 to 24, and 800 18- to 24-year-old undergraduate students. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.
WASHINGTON — The White House is urging Congress to pass a bipartisan compromise on student loans that would offer lower interest rates for the next few years.

The White House on Tuesday released a statement urging swift passage of the deal, negotiated over the last few weeks by Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Republican Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina. Under the deal, interest rates would be linked to the financial markets.

Interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans doubled to 6.8 percent on July 1 because Congress did not act. Lawmakers say the rate is unacceptably high but they differ on how best to restore them.

Lawmakers are set to consider the bipartisan fix Wednesday. It would overhaul the entire federal student lending program.
Big 12 commissioner calls for NCAA overhaul

Staff Kansas City Business Journal

Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby unveiled a new logo for the league as part of the conference’s rebranding effort, but not before offering a stern criticism of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, The Topeka Capital-Journal reports.

Bowlsby called for a complete reconfiguration of the NCAA after it faced a number of hurdles, including a situation in January when the association tried to issue charges against current University of Missouri basketball coach Frank Haith, but instead the investigation was halted by its own misconduct.

Bowlsby said the way the organization governs needs to be addressed, and said sports should be separated and governed by their own set of rules.

As part of his post, Bowlsby said he will provide his input on shaping the NCAA’s national agenda.
University Of Florida Students' Lobbying Firm Helps Put Issues In Front Of Congress

WASHINGTON -- When students have wanted to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill, traditionally they've delivered petitions to Congress, organized a rally or started a grassroots advocacy campaign. But the University of Florida's student government is trying to get lawmakers' attention by means more often available only to big industries -- by hiring a federal lobbyist.

The students at UF hired Cardenas Partners in 2012, and pay $1,500 a month to reach out to lawmakers about interest rates on student loans, Pell Grants, education benefits for veterans and STEM visas.

Christina Bonarrigo, student government president, said having a lobbyist to represent their interests has enhanced their influence in Washington, particularly on the issue of student aid.

"We were pushing this year for a long-term solution to ensure that students have stability and security in the loan that they are taking out," said Bonarrigo.

Butch Oxedine, executive director of the American Student Government Association, said students typically travel to Capitol Hill with a state association or individually to speak about higher education issues with members of Congress.

"There are probably a handful that will pay an outside lobby firm to do it," Oxedine said of student groups. "But generally it's the students themselves, they'll have a lobby director who's a student herself."

Unlike many schools, the university administration does not have a D.C. office and uses an outside firm for its federal lobbying efforts. This left the students without a connection to Capitol Hill, says Bonarrigo, which made hiring a lobbying firm seem like a fruitful endeavor.

"It was hard to find out what is going on in D.C. 'What stances should we take? How should we handle it on social media? And how do we effectively convey our message to these members?' And since [hiring Cardenas], we've been way more streamlined," she said. "Every year since we've had federal representation, we've had better and better and better meetings."

Cardenas Partners, a lobbying firm home to multiple UF alumni, reached out to the school's student government about helping with its lobbying efforts, according to Carl Chidlow, a partner at Cardenas.
"They were able to rejigger their budget slightly," he said. "I think it's a very humble amount, but we still appreciate it, and I think we do good work for them."

The UF student government has unusual spending power with an annual budget of between $4 million and $5 million, which comes from student fees rather than tuition or state funds, according to Bonarrigo. And the student government decides how to spend it, primarily on student activities like intramural athletics and campus concerts.

"We take it very serious when it comes to ensuring that students are represented when it comes to their fees and to not just arbitrarily give out money for no reason," said Bonarrigo.

Cardenas representatives do not meet with lawmakers on behalf of students. Instead, when students are in Washington, the firm puts them in touch with lawmakers, and during the year, informs the student government about issues of interest that are happening on the Hill.

"It's student run, it's student led, and it's student focused," Bonarrigo said. "[The lobbyists] don't even speak in our meetings. They just help us set up the meetings. And then they brief us on the issues."

Bonarrigo stressed how crucial it is that students go to the Hill themselves, and said that members have thanked the students for coming in personally.

"It means a lot to them to have a student go there, as opposed to administration or an outside organization," she said.

She added that because student government has been using a lobbyist, she feels the university's students are really being heard, through meeting with members outside of the Florida delegation and having their statements read into the congressional record -- feats the students had not accomplished without representation.

Oxedine, however, questioned how useful and effective it is for student governments to spend time and resources talking to members of Congress about issues like student aid. He said that students should instead focus on "bread-and-butter" campus issues like fixing potholes and better choices in the dining hall.

"How effective is the lobbying?" Oxedine said. "That's really debatable."

Other student governments are working to address the cost of education, albeit without lobbyists.

At the University of Maryland, the student government has placed more emphasis on working with state rather than federal government, according to Sam Zwerling, the undergraduate student body president.

"We focus a lot more on the state government, just because we're a state school and we get our budget that way," Zwerling said. "Things like Pell Grants and what we're going through right now with the Stafford student loan interest rates, and things on the federal level, are more like band-aids to the bigger problem, which is that higher education is expensive. And for public institutions, that's defined by how much funding the state gives."
The UF student government does also lobby the state government on issues, for which it has hired a separate firm. This year, it mostly focused on funding issues, and secured an increase in state funding for the university. Bonarrigo said the student government does not prioritize either state or federal lobbying, but focuses on whatever issues affect students most.

At the University of Missouri, while the student government has reached out to Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-Mo.), it has focused more on facilitating student advocacy, according to Camille Hosman, the organization’s legislative advocacy officer. She said that she feels the students can rely on the university administration’s lobbyists to represent their interests to Congress.

"I know that the University of Missouri has a lobbyist, and so I don’t see why we would need a different one,” she said.

Both Bonarrigo and Chidlow, though, feel that it’s important for students to be actively involved in federal issues that affect them.

"Students nowadays are so plugged in through social media ... so they’re getting information from all sources, and they may or may not ask their student government leaders, ‘What’s going on with student loan rates? How will this affect me?’” Chidlow said. "So we’re able to give them up-to-the-minute intel they can report back to, essentially, their constituents."

Bonarrigo sees the UF’s impact on the federal level only growing. She said that having federal representation has helped the students fine-tune their message and effectively communicate with lawmakers.

"I know that our students are being represented as best as they can be, and maybe even the best in the country,” she said.
Medicaid panel plans Columbia hearing

Columbia is one of six tour stops.

By Rudi Keller

Tuesday, July 23, 2013 at 2:00 pm

A 52-member committee studying who is covered by Medicaid and how care is delivered will have a public hearing Saturday in Columbia as it continues a six-city tour of the state.

The Citizens and Legislators Working Group on Medicaid Eligibility and Reform will begin taking testimony at 9 a.m. at the Columbia Public Schools Administration Building, 1818 W. Worley St. Committee members will stay as long as anyone wants to testify, Chairman Noel Torpey, R-Independence, said today.

"I am just keeping an open mind and want to hear what Missourians have to say," Torpey said. So far, after hearings in Independence and Springfield, testimony "has been weighted toward expansion and reform. You don't get expansion without reform."

The panel was formed in response to pressure on lawmakers to accept federal support for dramatically expanding coverage under Medicaid. The 2010 Affordable Care Act promised states that federal aid would, for three years, pay the full cost of adding everyone with a family income below 138 percent of poverty to the rolls.

During this year's legislative session, Republicans refused to go along with the expansion.

The committee includes two area lawmakers — Reps. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, and John Wright, D-Rocheport — and three citizen members from Boone County. Those are Boone Hospital Center Vice President Jerry Kennett, Missouri Kidney Program Director Leanne Peace and University of Missouri Health Care family practice resident Andrew Valleroy.

Kennett said the committee's report must balance the needs for coverage and cost containment. "I understand clearly the concern of the legislature in terms of: How do we fund this down the road and where do we find that money when so much of the money is already obligated?" he said.
Rowden said he has been lobbied heavily on Medicaid issues since the legislative session ended. As he listens to testimony, he is looking for ideas that will allow cost-cutting reforms and pay for expanding coverage.

"I think it is possible," he said. "You are going to have to find the right middle ground."

Attendance was poor in Independence but better in Springfield, and the hearing likely will take several hours at least, Torpey said.

"If someone wants to testify, get there by 9 and plan on staying awhile," he said.

This article was published in the Tuesday, July 23, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Medicaid panel will take ideas: Columbia is one of six tour stops."

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