MU aims for high achievers with revised scholarships

By Karyn Spory

Friday, September 6, 2013 at 2:00 pm

With a goal of attracting more high-achieving students, the University of Missouri on Friday announced new scholarship initiatives, including a Chancellor's Award that will be worth $6,500 a year for in-state students with the highest ACT scores.

"We want to continue to ensure the high-quality education and diversity and growth that has been" at MU "in the past," Chancellor Brady Deaton said. "The scholarship program was designed to help attract those students."

Deaton said for the first time in a decade, the university did not see growth this year — instead, enrollment remained fairly flat.

"We knew … that many other universities were offering very significant scholarship levels for high-ability students," he said, adding that if MU didn't update its scholarship program, it ran the risk of losing more high-ability students later.

He said the university hopes to continue to grow by 300 to 500 students per year, and he said the ability to do that hinged on revising the scholarship package offered.

"We evaluate our scholarship offerings on an ongoing basis through a modeling process, which has resulted in a number of minor changes. … However, we have known for a while that we needed to make some major changes in our awards," said Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment management.

She said the new awards are the most significant scholarship changes the university has made in about 20 years.

The Chancellor's Award, a new scholarship, will be awarded to in-state students who graduated from an accredited high school in the top 10 percent of their class and have an ACT composite score of 31 or higher or a combined critical reading and math SAT score of 1360 or higher. The scholarship is worth $6,500.
Two existing scholarships are being updated: the Curators Award and the Mark Twain Non-Resident Scholarship. The Curators Award was previously worth $3,500 and was awarded to Missouri residents with an ACT score of 28 or higher or an SAT score of at least 1250. In fall 2014, the scholarship will be worth $4,500.

The Mark Twain scholarship, awarded to out-of-state students with an ACT score of 27 or higher or SAT score of 1220 or higher, will roughly double next year. Previously, the scholarship range was $2,000 to $5,500; in fall 2014, out-of-state students can receive anywhere from $5,000 to $10,000.

"We want to continue to attract a range of out-of-state students that can give us a range of diversity in our student body, geographically and socioeconomically," Deaton said.

He said the Mark Twain scholarship increased so significantly because of the higher cost of out-of-state tuition, as well as the desire to stay competitive with bordering states' institutions.

Deaton said the university's goal is to distribute the scholarships to all qualified students, and the increased scholarships will be available to first-time MU students starting next fall.

Campus spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said the scholarships will be recurring and will depend on students meeting requirements such maintaining a certain grade-point average.
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - The University of Missouri's flagship campus is sweetening the pot for high academic achievers.

The university announced a new $6,500 scholarship Friday as well as increases to two existing grants that reward academic excellence. The Columbia school calls the changes its most significant scholarship increases in two decades.

The new Chancellor's Award will go to Missouri residents who graduate in the top 10% of their class from an accredited high school and have a composite ACT score of 31 or higher.

The Curators Award increases by $1,000 to $4,500. And the Mark Twain scholarship for talented out-of-state students will roughly double next year.

The Twain scholarship range was previously $2,000 to $5,500. Starting with the fall 2014 semester, out-of-state students can receive anywhere from $5,000 to $10,000.
MU increases value of 2 scholarships, adds award

Friday, September 6, 2013 | 6:57 p.m. CDT
BY T.J. Thomson

COLUMBIA — In an effort to remain competitive and increase enrollment, MU is rolling out financial aid changes effective fall 2014 for eligible, first-time college students.

The plan includes introducing one new scholarship and raising the award value of two others.

MU administration expects the changes will bring in about 350 new students, spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said.

The three scholarships cover 22 percent to 69 percent of tuition, depending on academic ability and the student's residential status. They are:

- The new Chancellor’s Award scholarship, for in-state students, which provides $6,500 to qualified applicants, or about 69 percent of the total yearly tuition cost.

- The Curators Award, available to eligible in-state students, up from $3,500 to $4,500.

- The Mark Twain Non-resident Scholarship award ranges from $5,000 to $10,000, or about 22 percent to about 44 percent of the total yearly tuition cost. Previously, this scholarship awarded $2,000 to $5,500, according to the MU News Bureau. The range depends on class and standardized test rank, Banken said. "The highest award would require at least a 30 ACT and top 25 percent of the class," she said.

For the 2013-14 academic year, in-state, undergraduate students enrolled in 14 credit hours can expect to pay $9,430 per year, according to the MU Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Conversely, out-of-state undergraduate students can expect to pay $22,822 annually.

Depending on the award, students can use the scholarship for other educational expenses besides tuition.

"The Mark Twain awards are only applied to the out-of-state portion of tuition. The award is reduced if the out-of-state portion is paid by other means," Banken said. The other awards can be used for other educational expenses, such as housing, in addition to tuition, she said.
There are 9,199 out-of-state students at MU, according to the 2013 University of Missouri Fact Book. Out-of-state students make up about 26.5 percent of MU’s total enrollment.

All three scholarships require a composite ACT score of at least 27 or higher.

The average ACT score of MU students is 25.7, the state average is 21.6, and the national average is 20.9, according to the fact book.

MU’s scholarships have remained relatively unchanged for the past 20 years, Banken said.

"We have made some small modifications to the Mark Twain award over the last five years or so, but nothing nearly as significant as these changes," she said. "In fall 2011, we raised the Mark Twain slightly, and we added smaller awards for those who were in the top 50 percent of their class. They could get either $3,000 or $2,000 depending on their test score. Prior to that, we had only awarded the Mark Twain to those in the top 25 percent of their class."

MU is covering the cost of the scholarships in hopes that the new students it attracts will fund the increases.

"We’re funding scholarship increases from our own revenues, which will increase as the result of our ability to attract more students," MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said. "We may find ways of getting private support. We’ve made the commitment to reallocate funds in that direction as appropriate. We expect the attraction of new students will provide new revenues to support this."

Deaton said that as measured by undergraduate enrollment, MU has been the fastest-growing public university among Association of American Universities members. He said he hopes funding the scholarship changes will promote his goals of maintaining growth, consistency and quality among MU students.

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
Tax-bill rally draws crowd on MU campus

UM president calls for opposition to measure.

By Rudi Keller

With a Republican lawmaker bashing Gov. Jay Nixon for using "fantasyland projections" and a Democrat defending him as "precisely correct," University of Missouri students Thursday night heard a preview of the debate that will take place next week over a tax-cut bill.

More than 400 students showed up for free pizza and political debate in the MU Student Center, where UM President Tim Wolfe asked them to join him in opposing the measure.

"When there is something that threatens our mission, I have to speak up about that," he said.

The issue is a bill Nixon vetoed that would cut income tax rates for individuals and business. It also would exempt half of most business profits from taxes. Official estimates project a $700 million annual reduction in state tax revenue when fully implemented.

State Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, one of three lawmakers who took part in the discussion, said the bill undermines chances for restoring college funding to past levels.

"The fact is the legislature, both Democratic and Republican, has had a thin wire around the neck of this place for 15 years, and it is drawing it inexorably tighter," he said. "If this place does not only quit getting cut but get some serious more money, it is going to continue to decline."

The bill also would repeal sales tax exemptions for prescription drugs and college textbooks, provisions sponsors have said were mistakenly included. Lawmakers meet Wednesday, and Republican leaders have made overriding the tax-cut veto their top priority.

The discussion was sponsored by the Missouri Students Association. Its president, Nick Droege, said everyone attending wanted a top-quality education and the tax cut "threatens Mizzou's ability to provide that education."

MU College Republicans brought out about 20 students in support of the bill. Jake Loft, executive director of the group, said he doesn't believe the dire predictions of lost revenue and that he thinks the mistakes in the bill are fixable. "Even though those are in the bill, that is not the meat of the bill," he said.
Kelly was joined by Reps. Caleb Rowden and John Wright. Rowden, a Republican who supported the bill in May, would not say yesterday how he will vote. He used his time to bash Nixon for his methods for fighting the bill.

"Let's not lose our credibility and our chance to have a voice on much more important issues because a lame-duck governor says one bill is the end of the world and some of us were duped into believing that is true," Rowden said.

Opponents argue that the bill has a major flaw that could cost the state $1.2 billion in the coming year if Congress passes legislation requiring Internet and catalog sales companies to collect income tax. Rowden said that argument represents Nixon's "fantasyland projections of what may or may not happen in Washington, D.C."

Wright, a Rocheport Democrat, said he was worried the university would lose 15 percent or more of its state funding if the worst-case scenario occurs. The bill was "well-intentioned," Wright said, but needs more work.

Kelly called the bill "a disgrace to the legislature" because of its unintended impact. "They need to thank their lucky stars that their work is not judged either by academic or business standards."

The $1.2 billion potential loss of revenue is the portion of the bill that could do the most harm to the university, Kelly said.

"The Republicans very often like me because I have gone after Jay Nixon very, very hard when he has not been good for this institution," he said. "He is precisely correct about this legislation and its effect on this institution."
MU athletics added $188 million to economy last season, study says

By Jacob Barker

Saturday, September 7, 2013 at 2:00 am

The economic impact of University of Missouri athletics on the local economy grew by 27 percent in the 2012-13 season, according to a study conducted by MU.

The study, conducted by graduate students at MU's College of Business, estimated total economic impact from athletic events from July 2012 through June was $188 million. That was up $41 million from the prior year's estimate, and $3 million more than a study last year estimated the economic activity would be.

The study is based on a survey of about 1,200 people during athletic events and is used to estimate their average spending. Out-of-towners spend a lot more than Columbians — roughly $93 on average during football game days and $30 at other events, the study's authors said.

"When fans come into Columbia, they spend money in a number of ways, including hotels, restaurants and events around Columbia," said the study's author, former MBA student Cameron Byrd. "We wanted to get a handle on that."

Direct spending, which includes ticket sales, hotel rooms and restaurant dining, was estimated at $114 million during the past season. The nearly $75 million in additional economic impact comes from secondary effects of that spending — things such as additional hiring and new hotel construction, for instance.

Not surprisingly, the largest share of the impact comes from football game days — roughly 40 percent, the study reckons. With seven home games last year versus six in the 2011 season and a lot more out-of-towners checking out Columbia for MU's debut season in the Southeastern Conference, the resulting impact estimate grew quite a bit.

MU Athletic Director Mike Alden, who was on hand for an event announcing the study at the Columbia Chamber of Commerce building, pointed to the authors as an example of the real importance of the university: academics and research.

"What goes on at the University of Missouri ... it's a lot more important than sports," Alden said.
But, he said, MU athletics are "one of the best advertising vehicles" for the university and its work.

Columbia Mayor Bob McDavid said advertising is a big factor in convincing students to attend the university, live in Columbia, spend money and generate city sales tax revenue.

Making sure the MU brand is out there through MU athletics grows enrollment, which leads to housing development for students. And that, he said, pays property taxes.

"We are dependent on the residential campus concept," McDavid said. "We need students to live in Columbia."
COLUMBIA — Participation in MU athletics events contributed to $188 million of economic stimulus in the city for the 2012-13 fiscal year, according to a recently released study.

That estimate for 2012-13 — MU’s first year in the Southeastern Conference — was more than $41 million higher than the estimate from the 2011-12 fiscal year, said MU graduate Cameron Byrd, a member of the research team that found these numbers, on Friday night.

Graduate students in the Trulaske College of Business Crosby MBA Program conducted the study, which was commissioned by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce and the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The MU athletics department provided the researchers with data from ticket sales records, donor contributions, television revenue and money spent by fans. The researchers then surveyed 1,216 people to find out what they spent outside of game tickets, parking and stadium purchases, Byrd said.

The researchers found that out-of-town fans spent an estimated $93.30 per person per game and that in-town fans spent an estimated $47.42.

Byrd — with Jordan Hawley, Andrew Crecelius, Duncan Kincheloe and Natalie Gerhart — also interviewed Alabama fans in the Columbia Regional Airport as they prepared to return from the Missouri home game against Alabama. They used a smaller survey with open-ended questions and found that more than 30 restaurants were mentioned. Of the restaurants visited, local restaurants were visited twice as much as chain restaurants, Byrd said.

Byrd said the team also found that out-of-town fans stayed in Columbia an estimate of one to two nights, sometimes booking hotel rooms in surrounding areas on the busiest game weekends.

The total number of fans — both out-of-town and in-town — who attended games increased from the 2011-12 fiscal year to the 2012-13 fiscal year, Byrd said.

Supervising editor is Allie Hinga.
University of Missouri Press seeks new leader after failed bid to shut down

OLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri Press is considering three finalists for the job of leading the 55-year-old academic publishing house, which nearly shut down last year.

The candidates include press editor-in-chief Clair Willcox, who initially lost his job after university administrators disclosed plans May 2012 to shutter the publishing venture. He was later rehired when University of Missouri system president Tim Wolfe backtracked on those plans.

Also being considered are Leila Salisbury, director of the University Press of Mississippi, and David Rosenbaum, director of project management at the American Heart Association.

Both visited Columbia recently for interviews and public forums. The publishing house is now part of the flagship Columbia campus rather than the university system.
MU police respond to medical emergencies amid heat

September 8

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Soaring temperatures are getting the blame for an unusual number of medical emergencies at the Missouri-Toledo game.

University of Missouri police Capt. Scott Richardson says at least 110 medical emergencies were reported Saturday, and most of them were heat related.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that none of the injuries were serious.

Temperatures had risen to nearly 96 degrees on campus during the mid-afternoon game at Faurot Field. Nearly 57,000 people turned out to watch Missouri beat Toledo 38-23.
MU bolsters stormwater treatment plan

Monday, September 9, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CDT; updated 6:54 a.m. CDT, Monday, September 9, 2013

Campus Facilities employee Micheal Burnett works to make a storm water treatment cell Aug. 26 at the corner of Stewart and Providence roads. The storm water cell is expected to be completed by the end of October. © Fareeha Amir

BY T.J. Thomson

COLUMBIA — Every time precipitation falls over MU’s 1,440-acre main campus, about a third of it can’t soak into the ground. It instead collects over impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, picking up pollutants before making its way to nearby water sources like Flat Branch or Hinkson Creek.

Rapid development during the past 43 years has rendered 32 percent of the campus impervious, increasing pollution concentration and danger to local water sources, according to the 2013 Stormwater Master Plan, the first of its kind for MU.

"The threat with stormwater runoff is related to development," Jason Hubbart, MU assistant professor of forest hydrology and water quality, wrote in an email. "More people equals more development equals increased stormwater runoff, which leads to multiple effects in receiving waters like Hinkson Creek (erosion, scouring, loss of physical habitat)."
Since 1970, Columbia’s urban land use and population has almost doubled, according to the master plan.

Because impervious surfaces don’t allow liquids to pass through them, they concentrate contaminants — such as heavy metals manganese and cadmium — as stormwater travels over them on their way to nearby water sources.

Stormwater runoff not only threatens the physical landscape, but also the thousands who use the area’s water sources for sport and recreation.

"Diffuse pollution transported by runoff is a leading threat to waters in which we fish and swim," the master plan states.

To combat these hazards, MU rolled out its 2013 strategic stormwater plan in April with three main goals: raising stormwater quality, ensuring regulatory compliance and increasing water retention and reuse.

MU’s current stormwater collection and treatment options aren’t adequate for the need, said Enos Inniss, an assistant professor in MU’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

"We have more to go, and the campus will be the first to admit that," Inniss said.

**Six ways to manage runoff**

Because MU lies in the lower Hinkson Creek watershed and intersects 10 additional subwatersheds, ranging in size from 22 to 292 acres, one solution won’t work for every issue.

Thus, MU’s stormwater master plan lays out six strategies, mostly based on topography, to accomplish the university’s goals:

**Bioretention cells** — Placed primarily in or adjacent to parking lots, these cells feature shallow, depressed trenches that are vegetated and mulched to capture and retain excess stormwater runoff. These features are similar to rain gardens, except the retention cells have drains in them, Inniss said.

"The rain garden typically allows infiltration to happen and then it just goes into the native soil," he said. "There is no drain at the bottom."

Bioretention cells require adequate soils for infiltration and relatively flat land. MU’s 11.4 acres of parking lots face 1.66 million cubic feet of runoff. Coupled with retention cells, these parking lots could annually recoup 80 percent of total runoff.
Vegetated swales — Normally featured in open spaces, parks and roadsides, swales are marshy depressions covered with low-lying vegetation that slowly and uniformly process water throughout a large area. They don’t work well with steep slopes and require more maintenance than curb and gutter approaches.

Planter boxes — Often found next to buildings, planter boxers receive water from downspouts and then filter and drain the water to underground piping. Planter boxes are used heavily because they can remain in close proximity to buildings without compromising foundations.
**Cisterns** — Usually attached to buildings, cisterns can collect stormwater from building roofs and pavement. They are valued because they can be used on any type of soil, both above and below ground.

**Permeable pavement** — Placed on low-use roads and pedestrian paths, permeable pavement allows stormwater to filter without collecting and concentrating pollutants. Because it lacks the strength of impermeable pavement, it has to be placed in light-traffic areas and demands higher maintenance than its traditional counterpart.

**Constructed wetlands** — Slated for large-scale open spaces, golf courses and parks, wetlands are engineered pools that can create additional habitat areas and treat large volumes of water, but require high capital costs.
Current treatment efforts

A larger and more complex retention cell is forming on the campus’s western edge and will join three others when completed in October. Nestled opposite the university’s block-long power facility at the corner of Stewart and Providence roads, this retention cell’s construction costs $64,400, wrote Karlan Seville, campus facilities communications manager, in an email.

"This budget does not include replacing plants over time and maintaining the bioretention, which will come from MU Campus Facilities Landscape Services funds," Seville wrote. "This project is more extensive than others MU has done because it is a larger area and there are many underground utilities in the area."

Inniss said the stormwater treatment features need to be large enough to handle the initial surge of stormwater, which is usually the most contaminated.

"Oftentimes when you first get the runoff to happen, you have rainfall come, and if not enough of the water goes into the ground, it starts to run off the site, and that’s usually when you pick up a lot of your contaminants, pollutants," he said.

"That initial pulse of water is really what you want to capture, because that probably has the higher concentrations of anything you’re concerned about," Inniss continued. "Then as the water continues to come, that water may wind up overflowing into your storm sewer."

Seville highlighted other runoff treatment and conservation features already in place at MU:

- A rain garden at the Rollins Group housing complex
- Two bioretention cells at the Animal Resource Center
- A swale at the intersection of East Stadium Boulevard and South College Avenue, designed to manage runoff from parking lot CG-1
Additionally, Seville wrote MU plans to install a bioretention at Virginia Avenue South Housing.

Columbia accumulates 40 inches in precipitation each year, on average, according to data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

If MU implements its stormwater strategy for its parking lots, roads and roofs, the institution anticipates recapturing 2.5 million cubic feet of runoff per year, about 53 percent of total accumulation, according to the master plan.

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
Investigation Discovery to feature 2004 murder of MU student Jesse Valencia

Former Columbia police officer Steven Rios was convicted in the murder of 23-year-old MU student Jesse Valencia twice after the first conviction was overturned.

Sunday, September 8, 2013 | 6:04 p.m. CDT; updated 6:28 a.m. CDT, Monday, September 9, 2013

BY Missourian Staff

COLUMBIA — The Investigation Discovery show "Deadline: Crime with Tamron Hall" will feature the 2004 murder of Jesse Valencia, a 23-year-old MU student.

On June 5, 2004, the pre-law student was found dead in a neighbor's yard at the corner of Wilson Avenue and William Street, according to previous Missourian reporting. His throat had been slashed.

Steven Rios, a former Columbia police officer, was convicted of murder in 2005. Rios was married at the time of the murder and admitted to having an affair with Valencia in open court.

Joan Sheridan, Valencia's friend, testified he had threatened to tell the Columbia police department about the relationship if Rios didn't "take care of" a parking ticket. Sheridan said Valencia was going to ask if Rios was married, because he didn't want to have a relationship with a married man.

During the 2005 trial, Rios was convicted of first-degree murder and armed criminal action. He was sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole in 2005 for the murder.

The conviction was overturned in 2007 because of the two hearsay comments from Sheridan and a new trial began in 2008. Rios was convicted of second-degree murder and second-degree armed criminal, and received a lighter sentence. Rios appealed but was denied a trial in 2012.

The show will air at 8 p.m. Sunday on Investigation Discovery, Mediacom channel 271 and Century Link Prism HD channel 1260.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Stephens.
Colleges throwing up internship roadblocks

Christina Jedra, USA TODAY Collegiate Correspondent 8:29 a.m. EDT September 9, 2013

MU MENTION P. 2

Employers are looking for a lot more than just good grades from recent grads. According to a recent survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 57% of employers prefer applicants who have experience from an internship or co-op. But in an effort to gain this coveted professional experience, students are facing obstacles imposed by their own colleges and universities.

The U.S. Department of Labor has six regulations to determine the legality of internships, the main one being that the internship is "educational." For this reason, many employers who are aware of the recent lawsuits involving allegedly overworked and under-compensated interns are not taking chances.

For example, Harper's Bazaar — whose publishing company was sued last year by a disgruntled former intern — says not to bother applying if credit approval isn't an option: "You MUST be able to receive college credit for this internship. NO exceptions," blares their internship website.

Some universities cap the amount of credit that students can earn through internships, which creates challenge for students who have already "used up" their internship credits but want positions that strictly offer credit as the only form of compensation.

Amanda Gomez, a junior journalism major at Emerson College, is one such student.

This fall, Gomez is working at a full-time internship at Voice of America in Washington, D.C. There, she will use up all eight internship credits that Emerson allows.

As for what she'll do if future internship opportunities require academic credit, she's not quite sure.

"I'm hoping another internship doesn't care. I'll cross that bridge when I get to it," said Gomez, adding that she'd be disappointed if she were unable to continue getting workplace experience. "Now that I've got the ball rolling, I want to keep doing it. I can't imagine stopping."

Students at Cornell University also hit this roadblock.
Torrey Jacobs, the registrar at Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, says it is not uncommon for his agricultural students to ask about exceeding the college's strict six credit allowance.

"We do have lots of students who want to go over that," said Jacobs, who has worked for the university for nine years. "Vineyards want students for a semester's worth of time. It is problematic."

Jacobs said that unless an influx of students came to her addressing this problem, the school will likely keep its policy in place to emphasize academics.

"We are course-based," she said. "[We] want that structure where students are learning from professors."

**University-imposed internship credit limits are not unusual. Schools all over the country — including Brandeis University in Massachusetts, Siena College in New York, Sierra Nevada College in Nevada, Wayne State University in Michigan and the University of Missouri — all have similar provisions.**

Laura Pavlo, a senior graphic design and English major at the University of Maryland, is grateful for her school's unlimited internship credit policy and said she feels its flexibility has given her an advantage over competition at other colleges.

"Other schools should rethink their internship policies if the policies are limiting what a student can do outside of the classroom," said Pavlo, who has earned nine credits through four internships so far. "In my experience, the projects I worked on during my internships provided more insight to my career path than what I have learned sitting in a classroom."

Carol Spector, the director of career services at Emerson College, said that while Emerson's eight-credit cap aims to focus student attention on class work, the school is conscious of the policy's limiting nature for students like Gomez.

Starting this semester, Emerson is adopting a pilot program called the Professional Development Experience that allows students to intern up to two times for one credit instead of the standard four.

"It's an alternative for students if they don't have internship credit available or they don't meet the guidelines for the internship credit, so they can satisfy what the employer is asking for and be able to have that experience," Spector said, adding that the trial program will be observed throughout its first year.

While Gomez may find relief in Emerson's new program, she said she would rather do away with limits altogether.

"Personally, I don't really care about the credit," she said. "I'm interested more in the experience and the resume boost than the credit itself."

Lauren Berger, CEO of InternQueen.com and author of No Work, No Pay, said that while she sees why colleges have internship credit limits, employers should be more lenient when hiring interns who can't necessarily earn credit.
"I think that there's a big miscommunication with the whole credit issue," said Berger.

"A lot of companies think they need to require credit to make their program safe and legal, and I don't think that's true. I usually tell the employer, if the student can get credit, great, but don't make it mandatory."

Berger added that although credit limits and requirements may be a challenge for some students, there are sometimes ways around them, such as having the college write a letter of academic support or receiving "transcript recognition," written credit that doesn't count toward degree requirements.

Basically, she said, it comes down to how badly the student wants the job.

"Most of the interns that come to Intern Queen break the rules and they go after what they want regardless of whether they can get credit or not."

Christina Jedra is a junior at Emerson College.
New Senate Bill 53-1 aims to include all students in full Senate meetings

By Steven Chaffin, Jr.

The Missouri Students Association Senator Devin Kelsey proposed a new bill, named Bill 53-1: “An Act to Permit Any Member of the Missouri Students Association to Speak during MSA Senate.”

This bill would permit any student to attend full Senate meetings on Wednesday and, if recognized by Senate Speaker McKenzie Morris, bring proposals and opposition to the floor.

Currently, any non-senator who wants to speak during full Senate must ask a senator to defer his or her speaking rights during the meeting, Kelsey said.

“I definitely support open dialogue,” Kelsey said. “I thought it would be a good idea for Senate to be able to hear from anybody on campus without some deferment process as it currently stands.”

Ben Levin, campus president of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, held an advisory role in the formation of 53-1.

“Devin had an idea, which I thought was a good one, and so we talked about what the justifications were and what the potential critiques would be,” Levin said. “He showed me a text of the bill, and I gave him my input there.”

The current system, implemented by former Senate Speaker Jacob Sloan, was put in place in an effort to professionalize the Senate. It is often viewed as too complex and restrictive.

“A lot of times individuals who aren’t members of MSA Senate don’t understand how to follow that procedure and go about getting deferment rights to speak,” Kelsey said.

Bill 53-1 would radically simplify the process.

If the bill is passed, “(students) would just raise their hand, and I would simply recognize them,” Morris said. “It’s a lot more informal.”

Levin, in response to concerns that the bill will inspire pandemonium and inefficiency during meetings, said he thinks that a disciplined Senate with a strong speaker will transcend these problems.
“I think that there are concerns that when you let potentially 30,000 students speak that meetings could get a little out of hand, but I think that it is clear that the Senate Speaker (McKenzie Morris) will still have full control over the Senate floor,” Levin said. “I don’t think that critique has much merit.”

Morris said she is confident than she can use her authority effectively so that the Senate remains professional and productive.

“It could quite possibly make meetings longer if more people come in to speak, but as a representative student government that’s a risk we need to take,” Morris said. “If it makes our meetings longer, but more fruitful, it’s absolutely worth it.”

Levin explained that students and faculty will have no greater speaking rights than senators, and that they will not possess any voting rights.

“I think that students are going to show up when Senate picks up legislation that could affect them,” Levin said. “That's going to have to do with more than whether they have the ability to speak or not. As far as getting students more involved with MSA Senate, I think it has less to do with speaking rights and more to do with doing important work that concerns them.”

Kelsey, confident that the bill will pass, said he has practical expectations for the future of student involvement within the MSA.

“Last year there were a lot of concerns with the MSA budget, and while I did support the MSA budget as it was, there were a lot of people there who would have liked to express their concerns but didn’t fully understand how,” Kelsey said.

Kelsey said he is not concerned that current Senate procedures will be hindered by the passage of this bill and enthusiastically awaits the addition of new voices in Senate discussions.

“It’s not going to be where Senate is going to become all of campus showing up and talking every session, but there are going to be times … when the student body actually takes interest in what the MSA Senate is doing,” Kelsey said. “When those times come up, I’d love it if those individuals were able to express their concerns and opinions.”

Senate Bill 53-1 will have its second reading and be decided upon Wednesday, Sept. 11.
Is an allowance child abuse or a learning tool?

September 08, 2013 12:15 am • Jim Gallagher jgallagher@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8390

When your kid asks for an allowance, what should you do?

Should you open your wallet and shell out a few bucks? Or are you the tough-love type who will say, “Stop begging, kid! I feed you, and that’s enough. Go wash the dishes.”

One of those is a wrong-headed parent, but there’s debate as to which. There’s some evidence that the nice parent with the open wallet might be doing more harm than the big cheapskate.

Giving a kid an unconditional allowance is a “terrible idea,” writes Lewis Mandell, a financial economist and professor emeritus at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

“It could be considered a form of child abuse,” he wrote in a 2009 paper.

Mandell cites a study that shows kids who got a regular allowance emerged from high school understanding less about money than kids who got no allowance at all, or those who were paid for doing chores.

On the other side of the argument sit a flock of authors and educators who think an allowance is a great way to teach kids about managing money.

Mandell hangs his main argument on a 2000 survey of high school seniors by Jumpstart, the financial education organization. Kids with no allowances had the highest financial literacy score, averaging 52.5 percent, while those paid for family chores had the second highest score of 52.1 percent. Those who got a free allowance had the lowest score of 49.1 percent.

There’s not a lot of difference among those scores. But other studies showed that teens with allowances were less likely to get jobs, which teach the value of money. Ninth-graders with allowances were less likely to view work as a source of satisfaction.

That gets us into the old problem of correlation versus causation. Guys who wear hard hats to work are more likely to get hurt on the job than guys who wear business suits. But the hard hat is not the cause.

So, does getting an allowance cause financial ignorance, or is it a symptom of something else going on?
That’s where the other side jumps in. Just handing out money isn’t good, they say. Parents have to teach kids to be smart with it.

Joline Godfrey, a social worker and author of “Raising Financially Fit Kids,” tells parents to write down this mantra: “An allowance is not an entitlement or a salary. It is a tool for teaching children how to manage money.”

In other words, it’s not a way to stop the kid from interrupting soap operas or football games when the ice cream truck comes around.

For young kids, she recommends that parents sit down with a child and budget the week’s take — how much they’ll spend, save or give to charity.

“For example, you give the kids more responsibility,” she says. They learn what it’s like to run out of money before the next payday. They learn to save for big purchases.

But children don’t learn unless parents talk to them. French researchers found that allowances work best when parents discuss their own family finances with the children. Even Mandell thinks allowances can be useful with proper parental backup.

Suzanne Gellman’s 7-year-old son, Alex, spotted a baseball cap he really liked. “I’m not going to buy that for you,” she said. “Do you want to spend $20 from your allowance savings?”

Alex, who has saved $120 so far, didn’t get the hat. “My son is a saver,” she says.

**He’s like his mom. She’s a consumer economics specialist at the University of Missouri extension service, where she teaches personal money management.**

She believes in starting allowances young: “As soon as they can grasp the concept of a coin, you teach them what the different coins are and what they can buy.”

Weekly allowance payouts have two schools of thought. Some favor a buck for each year of age. Others use a dollar for each grade in school. (She thinks $7 is too much for little Alex.)

There also are two takes on whether to tie allowances to chores around the house. Gellman and Godfrey argue that kids should see chores as their part in keeping the family running. They shouldn’t be paid for them.

On the other hand, kids seem to learn money better when they earn it. Gellman splits the difference, paying extra for work beyond the normal chores.

The St. Louis County Library is offering free classes about managing money and teaching teenagers how to manage theirs. Visit slcl.org/moneymatters for more information.

Personally, I gave my daughters an allowance, but I combined it with a big guilt trip.
“Four dollars! You want four whole dollars? Do you need all four?” I’d say. Then I’d make a pained face, open my wallet and slowly pull out the bills.

I complained about the price of everything. I moaned when driving past gas stations. I acted as if spending money felt like a tummy ache.

Once, someone backed into my car door in a parking lot. A teaching moment, I thought. I didn’t get it fixed for weeks, even though it wouldn’t open. My kids liked climbing through the window.

“We’ll just have to save up until we can fix it,” I said.

My tricks worked. Both daughters are grown, debt free, employed and nearly as cheap as me.