Missouri eyes changing intellectual property rules

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The University of Missouri System is considering changes to its rules on intellectual property in an effort to boost entrepreneurial research.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reported that Hank Foley, the newly hired executive vice president for academic affairs at the four-campus system, discussed ways to promote entrepreneurialism at last week's Board of Curators meeting in Columbia. That includes possible changes to how the system licenses intellectual property.

Current policy stipulates the university — as the employer and as representative of the people of the state — owns and controls of any invention or plant variety developed in the course of an employee's service.

Foley, who came to the UM System from Penn State University, steps into a new job created to oversee campus academic functions as well as research and economic development efforts. Those had previously been the province of separate administrators.

At Penn State, a review of seven years of data found that the university only received $80,000 from four licenses, and that came from nearly 1,300 invention disclosures, Foley told curators. When Penn State changed the rules, the university saw growth in research.

Missouri University of Science & Technology Chancellor Cheryl Schrader noted the governing board agreed last year to allow individual campuses to determine intellectual property ownership under certain circumstances rather than have a one-size-fits-all rule.

"The idea is we don't negotiate every single agreement that comes through," she said.
A new University of Missouri administrator wants to promote the four-campus system as a haven for entrepreneurial research.

The Columbia Daily Tribune (is.gd/v5pT6Z) reports that executive vice president for academic affairs Hank Foley discussed ways to promote entrepreneurialism at last week's Board of Curators meeting in Columbia. He suggested the university system consider changes to how it licenses intellectual property.

Foley came to the UM System from Penn State University. His job was created to oversee campus academic functions as well as research and economic development efforts. Those had previously been the province of separate administrators.
Missouri football players sound off on compensation debate

By Alexander Smith
September 16, 2013 | 7:41 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — When Evan Boehm was a high school senior in Lee’s Summit, he created a PowerPoint presentation with a theme that seemed slightly far-fetched at the time: “Why College Athletes Should Be Paid.”

Now a sophomore offensive lineman at Missouri, Boehm’s vision could actually be a reality by the time he graduates. Last week, coach Gary Pinkel posted a YouTube video that called for Missouri college football and men’s basketball players to receive money for their service. Pinkel, who once opposed the idea, said the Southeastern Conference was moving forward with a potential solution.

“The more we talk about it, it’s just changing,” Pinkel said at the team’s media day on Monday afternoon. “For me personally, if I didn’t go home and work in the summer, I didn’t have spending money ... Now, our players are year-round. They train year-round. They don’t have time to get summer jobs.”

Pinkel said that the current summer system helps get players through school at a high graduation rate but that the student-athletes need “a little bit of additional money ... to help them function a little better.”

What sorts of things do they need the extra money for?

“Gas is a big one,” Boehm said. “Especially when you live off campus. The food, the rent, you know. Rent’s getting high nowadays, and that’s something we have to pay for. We get two meals (at the athletics complex), but we have to pay for the weekends. We have to pay for lunch.”
Two years removed from his PowerPoint presentation, Boehm does not want to create the misconception that he is ungrateful for the current perks, including a full scholarship.

“I’m very fortunate, don’t get me wrong,” Boehm said. “I’m very fortunate and very thoughtful and thankful for everything that we receive and everything that we have.

“At the same time, we get paid below minimum wage, and this football stuff is a job. But I’m not gonna be upset if I don’t get paid or I do get paid. We’re very fortunate and lucky for what we have.”

Defensive lineman Markus Golden agreed.

“A lot of guys back from where I’m from (St. Louis) didn’t even have the chance to come here and play,” Golden said. “I would never let money ruin something that I’m enjoying. That ain’t me. I’m just a hard worker. Money hasn’t ever been a big thing for me when it comes to playing football. I feel like it’s a blessing just to be here playing.”

One point of contention in the “pay the players” debate is whether or not the smaller-budget sports’ athletes should also be paid if football and men’s basketball players receive dividends. Boehm argued that while sports such as cross country and soccer don’t make as much money as football, those athletes are just as deserving.

“We have to think about the other sports and the other teams, too, and what they get,” Boehm said. “They need to get a lot more recognition, too, because they do just as much if not more than what we do.”

Right now, though, the national conversation on player compensation revolves around football. And the football team’s most prominent figure — Pinkel — has now made it clear that change is needed.

“If that’s what he wants,” said defensive lineman Lucas Vincent, “I’ll go along with him.”
Stand up, Norm

Confronting the enemy

By Henry J. Waters III

Monday, September 16, 2013 at 2:00 pm

A new bronze statue was unveiled the other day in Springfield at the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame depicting former University of Missouri basketball Coach Norm Stewart jumping from his sideline chair to confront someone or something on the court. The statue is complete with a toppling metal chair of the type used by the team. Nice touch.

Stewart’s statue stands alongside those of other famous athletes Stan Musial, Payne Stewart and Jackie Stiles outside the Missouri Hall of Fame.

Norm was out of his chair so often during his days on the MU bench that opposing fans took to shouting out, "Sit down, Norm!" The shouts never had much effect.

But on a flight to Oklahoma in 1989, the indomitable coach collapsed, laid low by colon cancer.

He fought back but, in typical fashion, saw another enemy to be beaten rather than feared. He solicited help from peers and started Coaches vs. Cancer.

Norm accurately sensed that high-profile college coaches could use their fame and public events to raise money, and since then millions have been collected for cancer research and awareness.

In honor of this work, the Virginia and Norm Stewart Cancer Center soon will open at Boone Hospital Center. In Friday's Tribune, he and his wife of 57 years were pictured standing in the soon-to-be-remodeled space.

So Norm approaches the end of his career with many distinctions. After years of admonition to sit down, he ends up standing. He is primarily responsible for a legacy cancer-fighting program. He is the MU basketball coach whose record remains the goal for successors. He has a statue in
the Missouri Hall of Fame that is even larger than he is. And he is one of the few among us
known simply by his first name.

**HJW III**

If you have much, give of your wealth; if you have little, give of your heart.

— ARAB PROVERB

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Posted in [The Tribunes View](#) on Monday, September 16, 2013 2:00 pm.
Drive Missouri's economy with well-educated workforce

Economic development is undoubtedly one of the top issues facing the region and the state. The passing, veto and veto override attempt of HB253 and its support by Associated Industries of Missouri, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with assorted Missouri legislators combined with the recent St. Louis city and county economic development effort makes it clear that enticing businesses with more, better-quality jobs is a concern for all. The question is, how do you do that?

Is the state corporate tax rate really the deciding factor for any given business? Is it possible that businesses are more interested in a healthy, well-educated workforce and a modern transit infrastructure? If that is the case, then Missouri is in trouble.

Health: 29.6 percent of Missouri’s population is obese. Counting just 45-to-64-year-olds, the percentage rises to 36.9 percent. This puts Missouri as the 17th most obese state in the union. These statistics would not warm the heart of an employer worried about his share of the cost of health insurance and about the number of work days missed by a less-than-robust workforce.

Education: Missouri schools rank 41st in quality and 43rd in funding, which would not inspire confidence as the applications for employment roll in. Mix in the unaccredited school situation and the absence of legislative leadership in finding a fix. Top that with the fact that 60 percent to 70 percent of Missouri’s high school graduates who attend a state community college are unable to enroll in credit-bearing courses in math and/or English until they pass remedial courses in those subjects. Add that all together, and employers might have serious concerns about the state’s ability to supply a well-educated workforce.

Modern transit infrastructure: Think Interstate 70 … enough said.

I wonder what would happen if a very well-educated workforce became the driver of Missouri’s economic development efforts, instead of the current low-tax/no-tax furor. Sounds good, but how would you make that happen in today’s iffy educational climate?

What if the centerpiece of Missouri’s educational economic development push was neighborhood-based, free after-school and Saturday tutoring programs open to all Missouri public, private and homeschooled students? Every Missouri student would have the option, under a strict set of operating guidelines, to supplement their education. Students from poor-performing districts would have the means to “catch up” to peers in better districts, and students who already perform well enough to get by would have the opportunity to do even
better. Parents and students in Missouri would not have to wait for a legislative fix for underperforming schools or a change in the funding formula. With better-educated high school graduates, college completion rates would increase and Missouri businesses could hire with confidence.

How would you fund this effort? State legislators, state residents who spend millions to influence those legislators, mayors, county executives, state business leaders and chambers of commerce would have to all commit. The commitment from state and local politicians would be to dedicate a portion of current state and local economic development budgets to the effort. Business leaders, both for- and not-for-profits, could easily redirect a portion of their funds currently going to lobbyists in Jefferson City and throw in corporate charitable foundation dollars as well. Recent events indicate that the Missouri Chamber seems to have a huge advertising budget; they could pledge a large portion of that. Then private individuals whose deep, deep pockets have supplied funding for specific legislative agendas could donate a healthy chunk as well.

If this educational redirect included a health literacy framework, it would be at least a start on the road to improving the state’s overall health rating. Parents would be thrilled to have quality options for enhanced learning, students who really want to learn would have additional opportunities, community colleges would get better-prepared students who would persist longer and current and future Missouri businesses would reap the reward of being able to hire from a very well-educated workforce.

As for the modern transit infrastructure, I won’t lie; I have no ideas for a fix for that.

*Sally Sandy of Eureka is retired director of Parkway Area Adult Education and Literacy and has served on the boards of Grace Hill Settlement House and Episcopal City Mission.*
GPS tracker will show locations of Tiger Line buses on smartphone app

By Jordon Shultz
September 16, 2013 | 8:29 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — On Tuesday, MU’s GoMizzou smartphone app will begin offering a GPS bus-tracking system for the Tiger Line shuttle service.

Karlan Seville, the communications manager at MU Campus Facilities, said the new technology will make commuting on the Tiger Line easier for students.

“The addition of Tiger Line’s GPS map on the GoMizzou app will allow students to see where the bus is at any given time, so that they know how soon the bus will arrive at their location,” Seville said.

The GPS tracking information will be provided by DoubleMap, a bus-tracking application that is also used to track Columbia Transit’s buses.

MU senior Emily Clements said she hoped the bus tracker would make riding university buses more convenient for her.

“I never know when the bus is coming,” Clements said. “Whenever it gets cold, at least I won’t have to stand outside waiting for the bus.”

While GPS tracking for the Tiger Line had already been available through DoubleMap, its use in the GoMizzou app will make it more accessible.

“GoMizzou is popular with students, so we wanted to make sure that we brought Tiger Line’s GPS map to GoMizzou,” Seville said.