COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

General Faculty meeting discusses shared governance

By Molly Duffy
October 2, 2013 | 9:35 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — After planned presentations wrapped up at Wednesday's General Faculty meeting, a discussion concerning the lack of shared governance in the 2012 decision to reorganize MU's Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute took center stage during the comments section.

The conversation revolved around the administrative decision to reorganize the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute without speaking to affected professors beforehand in March 2012.

Chemical engineering professor Galen Suppes put a resolution before the faculty asking for the Nuclear Engineering Program — which means to replace the institute — to be reconstituted.

His proposed resolution also asked that all faculty be appointed to programs "through appropriate reviews and processes."

Nuclear engineering professor Sudarshan Loyalka spoke in favor of the resolution, saying that faculty governance was "violated terribly" by administrators when they decided not to involve faculty in the decision to close the nuclear institute.

Biochemistry professor Frank Schmidt proposed amending the resolution to allow it to be sent to faculty and put to an electronic vote.

Nicole Monnier, associate teaching professor of Russian, opposed the resolution. She said she would prefer to wait for information from the MU Faculty Council's ad hoc
committee, which is tasked with piecing together the recent history of the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute.

By the time faculty voted on Schmidt's proposed amendment to the resolution, enough faculty had left that there was no longer a quorum. Without a quorum, faculty also couldn't vote on the resolution itself. Although the vote was void, plant sciences professor Bill Wiebold, who also serves on the faculty council, said the council will still try to resolve the issue.

"Even though we can't vote here, I think you can take away at least some victory that it's still an issue in front of Faculty Council," Wiebold said. "And we will try to do our best to resolve this in a way that makes sense to faculty."

**Other highlights from the General Faculty meeting:**

**Faculty Council update**

Faculty Council chairman Craig Roberts briefed faculty members on the council's plans for this semester. Topics included:

- student cultural competence
- college and division reporting of diversity
- use of time during the last week of classes and exams period
- teaching evaluations
- MU's standing within the Association of American Universities

Roberts said most of the newsworthy issues the faculty council deals with are more spontaneous issues. Recently, those events have included the University of Missouri Press, Renew Mizzou and the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute, he said.

Out of a vested interest in the UM Press, the faculty council will be examining financial documents it recently received from the press, Roberts said.

"Faculty council is not attempting to direct the press," he said. "But we stood up for the press and have two representatives on the press advisory committee. So we are going to do this work to the best of our ability, to contribute."
Roberts also addressed faculty's exclusion from decisions made under the Renew Mizzou initiative. Calling the issue "hard to address," he said the faculty council is not a group that "head hunts" administrators, but he hopes faculty will be more included in upcoming decisions regarding spacing and renovation plans on campus.

Addressing revenue concerns, Roberts said low salaries for faculty are "damaging" to the university. A survey conducted by the American Association of University Professors in April showed that, on average, MU professors, associate professors and assistant professors earn less than their counterparts at other public universities with AAU standing.

"It's one thing to go at it in the state and say the University of Missouri is one of the most efficient universities in the United States, and there's so much bang for the buck," Roberts said. "Faculty can feel that bang for the buck. And that's not really a good recruiting tool."

Roberts also addressed:

- the benefits of multifaceted disciplines
- Faculty's desire for an open provost search

**Campus update**

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton talked about changes to MU and the One Mizzou initiative.

Changes included:

- Expansion in the arts, including the acquisition of the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts and the Confucius Institute
- Growth in MU's international scope
- New and larger scholarships, including a new $6,500 Chancellor's Award for Missouri high school students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class and earn a 31 on the ACT or a 1,360 on the SAT. The Curators Award increased to $4,500 from $3,500, and the Mark Twain Nonresident Scholarship increased to a $5,000 to $10,000 award from $2,000 to $5,500.
Deaton said the plan for One Mizzou from 2012 to 2020 will focus on endowments, including developing a $1 million or greater endowment for Mizzou Advantage.

One Mizzou has raised $313.4 million so far, and Deaton said it is raising more money than it is spending — a dollar for every 12 cents it spends. One Mizzou has a 36-member campaign team, and a funding goal has not yet been set.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.
Jackie Jones announces retirement from MU

Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 3:40 pm Comments

Jackie Jones, University of Missouri vice chancellor of administrative services, announced Wednesday that she will retire at the end of this year after 34 years at MU.

Jones was appointed to her current position in 2001. She is responsible for the administrative oversight of financial and service operations and for planning, business operations, and facilities operations.

“Jackie has been instrumental in transforming this campus into the vibrant and efficient environment that it is today,” MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said in a statement. “Through her leadership, her team has consistently investigated ways to improve the academic performance of the campus, while being mindful of our environmental footprint. I am reminded of her hard work when I talk with visitors on campus who consistently remark on how beautiful and inviting our campus is. We will truly miss her and wish her well.”

Jones began working at MU in 1979 as manager of business services.

“Being an employee of the University of Missouri has been one of the most cherished experiences of my life,” Jones said in a statement. “This is such a very special place. To be a member of the Mizzou family means having an opportunity to make a real difference in people’s lives every day, not just here on campus and in Columbia, but across the state, country and the world.”

Gary Ward, associate vice chancellor-campus facilities, will serve as interim vice chancellor of administrative services beginning Jan. 1.

Jones’ announcement comes after MU Provost Brian Foster last month announced he is retiring effective Jan. 1. Also, Deaton is set to retire Nov. 15.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU administrator Jackie Jones retiring after 34 years

By Crystal Thomas
October 2, 2013 | 6:24 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Jackie Jones, vice chancellor of MU Administrative Services, will retire Dec. 31 after working at MU for 34 years, spokesman Christian Basi said.

Jones oversees financial and service operations, including Cashiers, Payroll, Campus Facilities, Human Resources, MU Police, Parking & Transportation Services and Environmental Health & Safety.

She started her career at MU in 1979 as manager of MU Business Services. Later, she was associate director, then director, of Business Services before becoming associate vice chancellor of Administrative Services, according to a release from the MU News Bureau. She was appointed to her current position in 2001.

Jones' forthcoming retirement is among several in higher administration at MU over the past year. Budget Director Tim Rooney retired in December 2012. Chancellor Brady Deaton will retire Nov. 15, and Provost Brian Foster will retire in December.

Gary Ward, who is associate vice chancellor of Campus Facilities, will serve as interim vice chancellor of Administrative Services until the next chancellor names a successor, Basi said.

Jones received a bachelor's degree in business education and a master's degree in counseling and guidance from Truman State University (then Northeast Missouri State University) and a law degree from Southern Methodist University.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.
University of Missouri law school opens legal clinic for veterans

COLUMBIA, Missouri — Central Missouri military veterans in need of legal help can now turn to a new clinic at the University of Missouri School of Law in Columbia.

The legal clinic will help veterans while also providing law students with practical experience. The students will attend weekly lectures on legal issues surrounding veterans' benefits and also work with clinic clients.

The school planned a formal announcement of the program at a ceremony set for Thursday afternoon.
MU Law School to help veterans claim disability benefits

By Elise Schmelzer

COLUMBIA — Veterans trying to get disability benefits will be able to receive free legal assistance from a new clinic at the MU School of Law beginning in January.

Six students supervised by an attorney from the Law School will provide legal counsel for veterans appealing decisions made on their original disability benefits claims. Their work will be a part of a new three-credit class offered in spring 2014.

The clinic is not focused on helping veterans apply for disability benefits for the first time, but instead will help those whose claims were denied or were not as much as they expected. The students will help veterans appeal their cases to the Board of Veterans' Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims.

"There are already a lot of organizations to help veterans file their initial claims, and we don't want to duplicate this effort," clinic supervising attorney Angela Drake said. "We want to work where real legal skill is needed."

The clinic is funded by a $250,000 donation from an anonymous source, Drake said. The money will be distributed over five years, though Drake said it could last longer if the appeals are successful. If an appeal is granted, the federal government is responsible for paying all court costs, and that money would then come back to the clinic.

Most cases will come to the program through personal referrals in the area, but some of the cases could come from other states as well, Drake said. The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program, a national organization that works to provide legal assistance to veterans and to train attorneys in veteran law, could also send cases to the students.
Two current law students, Scott Apking and Navy veteran Larry Lambert, brought the idea of the clinic to MU after attending a simulated court competition in Washington, D.C. The idea was readily accepted because Gary Myers, dean of the Law School, had heard about similar clinics before, Drake said.

Interest in the program has been so high that potential participants will have to interview for one of the six available spots. Drake estimated that between 15 and 25 people will apply.

Unlike the five already existing law clinics on campus, the veterans clinic will give the law students the opportunity to work in appellate courts, work with medical records and immerse themselves in veteran law, Drake said.

"We want to provide real-world experience before they graduate," Drake said.

Seventeen similar university veteran clinics exist as of March 2013, according to the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program.

Myers and a representative from the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program will speak at the clinic's opening ceremony at 1 p.m. Thursday in Hulston Hall at MU.

Drake said the U.S. government's shutdown could complicate the clinic's operations, though the clinic currently has no alternative plans in place. However, she does not expect it to be a problem since the program does not begin until January.

"We're monitoring the state of the current government shutdown," Drake said. "We may need to re-evaluate the plans for the clinic in the future."

During the shutdown, the Board of Veterans' Appeals will make no decisions on claims appeals, according to a document issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"These people have helped our country, and they need our help to get the benefits they have earned," Drake said.

*Supervising editor is Allie Hinga.*
Lee elementary students make final visit to MU museum before it moves

Walking trips coming to end.

By Catherine Martin

Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 2:00 pm

MU MENTION PAGE 2

Amid some college students who wandered into the Museum of Art and Archaeology on its last day in its current location, there were some young students from Lee Elementary School, the district's expressive arts school.

Lee students, many of whom have been to the museum several times through school walking field trips, came to the museum on a day off to see it all for one last time. Some students showed parents a favorite piece. Others explored with friends or sketched quietly.

Lucy Gyne, 8, filled her notebook with sketches of some of her favorite artifacts, such as a torch holder and dagger.

Lucy said she enjoyed coming to the museum with her classmates.

"I'm sad to see it leave. It has artwork, and it's fantastic," she said.

The museum is moving because of renovations to campus buildings. Originally, the move was planned for December, but it was pushed up to accommodate movers. The Museum of Art and Archaeology and Museum of Anthropology are moving to the former Ellis Fischel Cancer Center on Business Loop 70, but Cathy Callaway, educator for the art and archaeology museum, said it won't open until April at the earliest.

In the meantime, most programs will be able to continue, Callaway said, but one favorite has been canceled — Haunted Museum, an annual Halloween program.
Leaving the building where the museum has been housed for many years is emotional for Callaway. She said she started crying during the National Museum Day event over the weekend. But she knows the move is necessary.

Pickard Hall, which housed the museum until yesterday, used to be a chemistry building. Removing radiation is a key reason for closing the building.

"The radiation issue is a problem," she said. "We have to get out."

**In an ideal world, she said, she would like to see the museum open in a brand new building on MU's main campus.**

"It's so much a part of the university," she said.

The museum also was important to Lee Elementary. Callaway said the staff even jokes that it's a "Lee annex" because students frequent the building so often.

"They walk in like they own the place. It's empowering," she said.

Ann Mehr, an art teacher at Lee, said kids likely will still take field trips to the museum, but she isn't sure when or how often that will be possible. In the past, each Lee kid visited the museum at least twice a year. With the option of walking no longer available, the school has to find transportation funding, making it difficult to continue that tradition.

Mehr and Lee teachers have attended a few MU Faculty Council meetings to discuss the fate of the museum. One of the biggest frustrations for many at the meetings is the uncertainty — administrators have not said when the museum will move back to campus.

Yesterday, Mehr organized the final trip for current and former Lee students.

She said it's important to keep the issue in the public eye. It was also a chance to say goodbye.

"I feel like we have to come celebrate," Mehr said. "This is it."

*This article was published in the Tuesday, October 1, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Kids say bye to museum: Walking trips coming to end."

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Posted in [Education](#) on **Tuesday, October 1, 2013 2:00 pm**.
Ellis Library adds $10,000 treasure to its collection with 1996 Bible

By T.J. Thomson

October 3, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — A fusion of 24-karat gold, exotic German paper and parchment lies locked in a vault on Ellis Library's fourth floor. This exotic object is one of the library's newest treasures, a 1996 Bible, that has a history as rich as its trappings. It isn't just any collection of scriptures, however; it is a Pennyroyal Caxton Bible, one of 400 created by illustrator and designer Barry Moser of Hatfield, Mass.

Alla Barabtarlo, head of Special Collections and Rare Books department at Ellis Library, holds the vault's key. Barabtarlo said she was awestruck when the book, donated by New York City businessman Bruce Kovner, arrived at the library in August.

"The Bible came, and it was astonishing — just so beautiful," she said. "You will see it's an amazing pictorial effort. It's the epitome of taste." Barabtarlo praised Moser's treatment of the illustrations and his sensitivity to the theology they represented.

"You will see the work of this engraver, the artist, Mr. Moser, and you will see how he interprets many biblical subjects, especially the difficult theological points," Barabtarlo said.

Moser's treatment of the text abounds with significance, Barabtarlo said. The books' words are all rendered in black, save three words — "God," "Christ" and the text's last word, "amen" — which are printed in red ink.

"It's like a symphony sounding throughout the entire book," she said. Moser said in an email that though the project lacked religious motivation, it didn't lack challenge.

"When I first began designing and printing books, I discovered that, as a friend once put it, the history of printing can be walked on the spines of Bibles," Moser said. "Thus I set
my sights on this project around 1970 and spent the next 25 years getting ready to take it on."

The five-year project encapsulated a myriad of techniques and challenges he wanted to conquer, Moser said.

Quoting Michael Jordan, Moser said: "'Until you've played basketball in Madison Square Garden, you've still got something to prove.' For a book designer, printer and illustrator, that holds true for producing a Bible. There were no religious motives involved."

Scenes from the garden of Eden are overdone and trite, he said. Instead of focusing on passages that lent themselves to illustration, such as Genesis, Moser instead choose texts that are seldom illustrated, such as Ecclesiastes and Job, and focused on them.

"There were certain images that I simply wanted to do, like the Crucifixion, and others that I did not want to do, like Adam and Eve in the garden," Moser said. "The latter is a tired and hackneyed image, and I really wanted to avoid that sort of thing as much as I could."

**Uniquely crafted**

Each element of the book was crafted with purpose and accomplished sometimes through ancient techniques, Barabtarlo said.

"The binding is handmade of parchment, real parchment," she said. "There's no glue or modern technique. It was all made like it was done in the Middle Ages." The paper, too, was unique and commissioned from a paper mill in Zerkall, a village of about 200 tucked away in Germany's Eifel Hills.

"The paper, mainly handmade, too — they took the trouble to research paper mills and they found the right one in Germany, in a small place called Zerkall and they ordered paper from there," Barabtarlo said. "It is amazing paper." Barabtarlo said the paper used was absorbent enough so that the ink didn't bleed and resulted in crisp, rich tones. She said the book's use of precious metals didn't distract from its content.

"Where they used gold, it's very subdued. It's reserved only for the title on the binding, and it was 24-karat gold," Barabtarlo said. "They paid an immense attention to detail, to
the way it is crafted." The book's unique craftsmanship and exotic materials, as well as its limited edition, contribute to its $10,000 price tag.

**Historically significant**

Beyond its exotic materials and craftsmanship, the Pennyroyal Caxton Bible draws its significance from Moser's renderings, as he is the first artist since Gustave Dore in 1865 to illustrate both the Old and New Testaments.

"This work essentially is notable for its illustrations and printing," David Lachman of Wyncote, Pa., said. Lachman is an antiquarian bookseller who has specialized in Bibles for 35 years and holds a doctorate in ecclesiastical history. Lachman said the Pennyroyal Caxton Bible is "a jewel in a collection of finely printed and illustrated books."

The text, drawn from the King James version, also adds significance, for Barabtarlo.

"They used the King James version without any modern interpretations or changes," Barabtarlo said. "It's 'Thy will be done,' rather than 'Your.'" The craftsmanship speaks volumes about its message, Barabtarlo said.

"The more important the book was to people, the more effort they put into it," she said. "They didn't take any fakes. In our time of fakes, where everything stands for something else — you think it is silk but it is polyester; you think it is wood, but it is plastic pretending to be wood — here, we have real things. This is, in part, why I'm so grateful that such a Bible came here because it's a real thing; nothing counterfeit about it."

**Soon exhibited**

Right now, the text rests in a 60-degree room with no more than 40 percent humidity, but it won't remain there indefinitely. It will likely make its way downstairs by Christmas for a new exhibit, "Verba Sacra," or sacred words in Latin, the library is planning. Barabtarlo wasn't sure why Kovner donated the Bible to MU. "The donation was a great gesture of generosity, and we especially treasure the fact that they chose us as one of the few academic recipients," she said. Princeton University was another recipient.

The Pennyroyal Caxton Bible is one of many scriptures that will be presented in the library's exhibit, which aims to detail the history of the scriptures through the ages.
"As soon as we catalog it, it will be available for public view," Barabtarlo said. "Even now, if somebody shows up, we will show it. Even if it's not cataloged, we will show it. Our position is that people should see it." Barabtarlo stressed that the department's collections aren't available only to the campus community but to the larger regional and national ones as well.

"People from Columbia, the community, we want them to know what treasures they have," she said. The Special Collections and Rare Books department is on the fourth floor west of Ellis Library, 1020 Lowry St.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Bald eagle rescued from Missouri River doing better

By Kelly Scanlon
October 2, 2013 | 6:27 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — With no leads on what harmed the bald eagle rescued from the Missouri River in late September, the bird's future is uncertain.

"He's eating very well," Christa Moore said, the public relations worker at the Raptor Rehabilitation Project. "He's definitely more active. Not as active as a bald eagle should be, but at this point, he's doing fine."

The bird was brought in on Sept. 22 by Roger Giles, who was out fishing when he saw the eagle struggling to swim. Giles rescued it from the water and brought it to the MU College of Veterinary Medicine.

Raptor Rehabilitation Project members found no injuries to the eagle, but the bird was underweight and lethargic. It still has not been determined what is wrong with the bird, Moore said.

"We are running test after test, which takes a while to get accurate results," she said.

Moore said when the bird is cleared for release, it would be a public event "unless it's deemed too stressful for the bird."

However, should members of the project decide that the bird is unfit to survive on its own, it could become an education bird to be used by the Raptor Rehabilitation Project or another organization or humanely euthanized, Moore said.

"We will do everything we can to help him get back into the wild where he belongs," she said.

Supervising editor is Allie Hinga.
Missourians have limited options on the marketplace

By Jacob Barker

Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 2:00 pm

MU MENTION PAGE 4

Now that the health insurance exchanges are open, all you have to do is shop. In Missouri, that might not take as long as it will in neighboring states.

As the final outlines of Obamacare come into focus, there’s still a lot left to learn. But early indications from a U.S. Health and Human Services preview last week indicated Missouri, compared to its neighbors, has fewer insurance carriers to choose from and fewer qualified health plans to compare, as well as higher premiums.

The bigger problem now might be accessing a workable website to actually compare the plans. The launch of the exchanges yesterday was dogged by glitches. Tribune reporters were unable to log on throughout the day.

Regardless, the biggest provisions of the health care law signed by President Barack Obama three years ago are finally taking effect. Like any major policy overhaul, there are winners, losers and a learning curve.

People with pre-existing medical conditions no longer can be barred from purchasing insurance. Women can’t be charged more for insurance than men. People who got by without insurance on a bet they wouldn’t get sick or hurt will have to purchase it or pay a fine starting next year. Some companies are shaking up how they provide benefits, pushing spouses or other dependents off company insurance plans.

However, most Americans receive insurance through their employers, and for them, the change is expected to be minimal.
“I don’t think we’re going to have a mass exodus of employers providing coverage if they were providing it before,” said Debra Mathes, an accountant and owner at Mid-Missouri accounting firm Williams Keepers.

But there are big uncertainties surrounding Obamacare. One is whether it will do anything to tame the rising costs of medical care. Experts are skeptical, but they admit it does begin to move the system toward one that pays based on outcomes, not on the number of services rendered.

Another question is whether the ranks of the uninsured will be able to afford the new requirement to purchase health insurance. People earning between 100 percent and 400 percent of the federal poverty level ($11,490 to $45,960 for an individual) will qualify for government subsidies to help pay their monthly premiums. But that raises another question: How much will those subsidies eventually cost? In the first year, at least, the estimate is $16 billion, according to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Individual subsidies will vary, and they are calculated for you when you sign up for health insurance on the individual exchange.

“It’ll be paid directly to the insurance companies,” said Kit Wagar, a communications official at U.S. Health and Human Services, or HHS, who spoke at a Cover Missouri conference in late August. “So the consumer doesn’t even have to worry about it.”

Despite the recent focus on the individual insurance exchanges, the law is designed to keep employer-sponsored insurance as the lynchpin of the American health care system. Starting in 2015, many employers will be required to offer insurance or pay a fine. But for many people, there’s a steep learning curve ahead. The biggest challenge will be learning how to navigate the new exchanges — once they start working.

THE EXCHANGE

The health insurance exchanges, unique to each state, are online marketplaces where consumers can shop for insurance plans and easily compare prices — a new level of transparency in at least one portion of the opaque health care services market.

Answer a few questions about your age, where you live and lifestyle behaviors such as smoking, and you’ll be able to look at premiums (monthly payments for insurance) and deductibles (the out-of-pocket costs you pay before insurance kicks in) for health insurance plans offered in your state.

To better help consumers compare plans, they are supposed to be divided into easily comparable coverage tiers: bronze, silver, gold and platinum. Those plans range from covering about 60 percent of medical costs in a bronze plan to as much as 90 percent in a platinum policy.

In Missouri, relatively few insurers have signed up to sell policies on the exchange, which will primarily serve those who don’t get coverage through their employer. Only two have said they will sell plans, but that could change depending on how popular the exchanges become.
“The biggest incentive is going to be the success of the program,” Gary Cohen, a deputy administrator and director for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said in a conference call with reporters last week. “This is a marketplace. This is private commercial companies deciding whether they want to be a part of it or not. Some have decided to sit back and see how it goes. Others have decided to jump in with both feet.”

THE PREMIUMS

While technical problems on Missouri’s federally run health exchange made it difficult to compare plans, prices and provider networks yesterday, a report from HHS last week gave an early indication of what the state’s residents can expect.

Insurers can still charge different rates depending on age, and in Missouri, the average monthly premium for a middle-of-the-road health policy — the second-lowest-costing silver plan — was expected to cost around $334, slightly higher than the national average.

Comparing that price to existing premiums is difficult because health insurance plans offer different levels of coverage. Here’s a rough comparison: In 2011, the average monthly premium paid for employee coverage in Missouri was $400, according to a report released in April by the University of Minnesota and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Employees typically paid only about 20 percent of that. But that average takes into account all plans while the HHS estimate is for a middle-of-the-road policy that covers 70 percent of health care costs.

Data for average premiums that include those who buy on the individual market are more difficult to find on a state-by-state basis. The National Conference of State Legislatures says no federal agency releases those figures on an annual basis. It cites a 2007 report from the Joint Economic Committee of Congress for recent state figures. That report says Missouri’s average annual premium in 2006 was $4,186, or about $349 a month. That number has no doubt risen, but even in 2006, it was still higher than the average estimate for a silver plan on the new insurance exchange.

The estimates released by HHS tell only a portion of the story. While premiums might appear comparable, it’s still unknown how affordable the plans will be when taking into account deductibles and co-pays and the provider network of each plan. Some news reports suggest the lower-than-expected premiums are a result of smaller provider networks.

Missouri seems to have higher premium costs than all of its neighbors except Arkansas. Average premiums for a silver benchmark plan in Illinois and Iowa are around $285. Kansas is at $260, and Oklahoma is at $266.

All of those states have more insurers participating in the exchange. In Illinois, some regions have as many seven insurers and 80 plans to choose from. Kansas has only three insurers in some regions of the state and two in others, but even in the places with two insurers, consumers will have as many as 36 plans to choose from, according to a report released by HHS last week.
Missouri, by contrast, has at most 23 plans to choose from (in the St. Louis area) and only two insurers expected to participate in each of the state’s 10 regions.

“It’s just going to be really different state to state, even in regions of the state,” said Ryan Barker, vice president of health policy at the Missouri Foundation for Health.

THE PROVIDERS

In Mid-Missouri, choices seem to be more limited and premiums higher than in many areas of the state. Residents in Boone, Cole, Callaway and other Mid-Missouri counties can expect to choose from only 18 plans from two insurers initially, according to HHS.

One of those insurers is Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. It will include many Mid-Missouri health systems on its network, including University of Missouri Health Care, Moberly Regional Medical Center, Audrain County Medical Center and St. Mary’s Health Center.

It will not include Boone Hospital Center, operated by St. Louis-based BJC HealthCare, on its individual exchange plans, a spokeswoman confirmed. Nor will it include Lake Regional Medical Center in Osage Beach in its network for individual policies sold on the exchange. However, both health systems will be included in the small business marketplace, or SHOP.

A spokeswoman for Aetna, which owns Coventry Health Care, said Coventry of Missouri will provide eight plans in the region: four bronze plans, two silver plans and two gold plans. Coventry’s network will include Boone Hospital Center as well as University of Missouri Health Care.

In Mid-Missouri, a benchmark silver plan monthly premium for a 40-year-old would cost around $307 a month. In St. Louis, it would run about $263, and in Kansas City and Springfield it would be $238.

There are fewer lives to cover in Mid-Missouri and fewer providers to negotiate with than in the state’s more populous areas, said Thomas McAuliffe, a health policy analyst with the Missouri Foundation for Health.

“They can’t bargain for the rates they can in the urban areas,” he said.

More insurers that jump in as the exchanges mature might drive down health insurance rates. That might be the only way because it doesn’t look likely that new hospitals are going to start up in Columbia anytime soon.

“If there’s fewer providers in a given area, then there’s less to negotiate on because you have to have that provider,” Barker said.

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Posted in Diagnosis Confusion on Wednesday, October 2, 2013 2:00 pm.