COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Government shutdown stops MU Extension nutrition education

By Joe Dixon, Tracey Goldner
October 3, 2013 | 8:18 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — More than 100 nutrition educators will not be teaching in classrooms or community centers Friday because of the federal government shutdown.

These educators are part of an MU Extension program that operates on a $10.4 million yearly budget comprised entirely of federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (Editor's note: The program's website was not accessible at the time of publication because of the government shutdown.) That contract was "suspended as of today," said Jo Britt-Rankin, associate dean and program director of Human Environmental Sciences Extension.

These educators will receive a paycheck through Oct. 21 through a one-time payment from MU Extension. But after that, the university will be forced to lay off employees, according to an MU Extension news release issued Thursday afternoon.

Michael Ouart, MU vice provost and director of cooperative extension, said in the release that he does not want to lose employees and the investment MU Extension has made in them.

Britt-Rankin said the 1,000 low-income Missourians the extension program serves will not receive nutrition education this month. In addition, 130,000 families will not be receiving nutritional brochures.

As part of the MU Extension program, nutrition educators are responsible for helping Missourians make better food choices. Schoolchildren learn about the importance of choosing healthy snacks such as apples instead of chips; Britt-Rankin said some children taste their first kiwis in these healthy cooking classes.
Additionally, nutrition educators teach parents how to make healthy meals for their families at food demonstrations.

"Many of the parents don't know how to cook," Britt-Rankin said.

Ouart said he worries that the discontinuation of healthy eating education will negatively impact the eating habits of Missouri residents for years to come, according to the release.

MU Extension brings awareness of University of Missouri System research to Missourians through educational outreach programs. Its programs include agriculture, natural resources, nutrition and health, business and careers, and emergency management.

"We're just hopeful for a speedy resolution to begin providing nutrition education again," Britt-Rankin said.

Supervising editor is Stephanie Ebbs.
Continued shutdown could cost military students

By Julia Bush
October 3, 2013 | 6:55 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The government shutdown freed up the weekend for Richard Saltzman, an MU undergraduate in forestry and a member of the Missouri National Guard.

It also cost him a paycheck.

The shutdown that began Tuesday has indefinitely postponed the National Guard's monthly drills.

"Drill has been canceled until further notice, so as of right now I won't be getting paid this month," Saltzman said.

Not all military students who rely on federal funding to pay for college are losing tuition money just yet. But if the shutdown continues, students might face financial hardship enrolling for the next term.

Saltzman said he relies entirely on income from monthly drills, his work study job at the MU Veterans Center, a monthly consultant fee from MU and GI bill benefits. He could keep afloat on savings for about two months, he said.

"The thing that worries me is that all my income is from the federal government," Saltzman said.

Who is affected

Carol Fleisher, director of the MU Veterans Center, said two groups of students are affected. About 125 students who are in the reserves or the National
Guard had their military tuition assistance, which comes from the Department of Defense, halted as of Tuesday.

"If you're a guardsman and you're attending MU ... and suddenly tuition assistance doesn't pay the university, then you may have to pay out of your pocket if you're going to stay in school," Fleisher said.

If the shutdown continues, the other group of about 250 who benefit from the GI Bill through the Veterans Administration will have their tuition assistance stopped as of Oct. 31, the next pay period, Fleisher said.

"The VA is existing on kind of found money they haven't used," Fleisher said. "That money will run out at the end of October."

At Columbia College, Mike Lederle, assistant dean of Military and Federal Programs, said about 25 percent of students nationwide, or between about 7,500 and 7,750, are active military. That includes students at the main campus in Columbia, the school's online campus and its 35 locations, a number of which are on military bases.

The extent to which military tuition assistance, or MTA, is affected right now depends on which branch of the service is involved, Lederle said. The Navy is delaying approving MTA. The Army is rejecting MTA on a daily basis, while the Air Force and Marines have rejected all MTA effective Oct. 1, he said.

"For GoArmyEd, even if I was approved for MTA on Sept. 15 for the 21st of October, I will not know for sure until the 21st of October if I still have it — if the shutdown goes that long," Lederle said.

He used that date because that is when the college's next eight-week session begins. Other affected students are enrolled in the traditional 16-week semester, and their military tuition assistance was approved before the shutdown started.

Lederle said another way in which the shutdown is evident is the ability of prospective students to get education counseling, which is often a requirement to seeking military tuition assistance.

**Helping military students**
Columbia College announced Tuesday that it will offer a six-month repayment plan to students who are eligible for military tuition assistance and who have applied for or have on file a current Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

"We understand the challenges that are out there right now," Lederle said. "We want to provide a service to them."

MU will also assist military students in the event of an extended shutdown, Fleisher said.

"MU will work with the students who are getting tuition assistance, and they are aware the students are not receiving assistance presently," she said.

Students should begin seeking other financial aid in the meantime, Lederle said. He said he recommends they apply for grants first, then loans as a last resort.

"Those who are dedicated to continuing their education will find a way," Lederle said.

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

By Karyn Spory

Jackie Jones, the University of Missouri vice chancellor of administrative services who was well-known for her work in the community, 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. Jones also served on boards outside MU, including the board of Regional Economic Development Inc.

Mike Brooks, REDI president, said Jones helped REDI build a relationship with the university to support economic development. "The university's relationship has been extremely important, so having individuals like Jackie who support that are critically important to our overall efforts of building a stronger local economy," he said.

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," she 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."

Paul Toler, associate vice chancellor and director of business services, said Jones had been his boss for 16 years before she was appointed to her current position. "Jackie is a wonderful, thoughtful boss and mentor," he said. Toler added that he thought Jones always did what was best for her people and the university.

Jones and her staff recently came under fire after the announcement that three historic buildings — Jesse, Pickard and Swallow halls — would be closed for renovations, displacing faculty and staff working in those buildings for close to a year. Members of MU Faculty Council felt they had not been part of the decision-making process.

Faculty Council Chairman Craig Roberts said that, by all accounts, Jones had a successful career at MU and that many of the deans were complimentary of her work. "Many of the faculty was
never in a position to see the complexities of her work, yet the campus benefited from this hard work," Roberts said in an email.

Roberts said in regard to the handling of three historic halls, there was a breakdown of communication between Jones’ office and faculty. "Her office apparently attempted to communicate, but the communication broke down somewhere between her office and the faculty affected by the decision," he said.

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

MU Provost Brian Foster last month announced he is retiring effective Jan. 1. Also, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton is set to retire Nov. 15. A search committee has been named to help find the next chancellor. MU spokesman Christian Basi said it will be up to the next chancellor to decide how to fill Jones’ position.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Arts and Science supplemental fee proposed at Faculty Council

By Molly Duffy
October 3, 2013 | 10:02 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — All colleges at MU charge a supplemental course fee except for one — the College of Arts and Science. Members of MU Faculty Council are looking to change that.

A motion was made at Thursday's meeting recommending the dean of the College of Arts and Science, the provost and the chancellor "pursue the creation" of a "modest" fee. The College of Arts and Science currently has laboratory fees, but the motion argues that students in the college — the largest at MU, with 36 undergraduate majors — would benefit from a supplemental fee.

Most supplemental fees are charged per credit hour and are the same for in- and out-of-state students. Examples include a $42 fee in the College of Human Environmental Sciences and the $82 fee for graduate students in the Trulaske College of Business.

Associate Professor of Political Science Cooper Drury, who helped draft the resolution, said the College of Arts and Science has met opposition from Provost Brian Foster in implementing a supplemental fee in the past.

If a fee is used across all colleges, Engineering Professor Harry Tyrer said, the UM System Board of Curators and the Missouri General Assembly could interpret the fee as a tuition increase.

But Drury said that comes at a cost to students majoring in Arts and Science, putting them at a disadvantage compared to students in other colleges.

"What you're saying is that everybody else should have these fees, and ... all of the students majoring in arts and science cannot benefit from additional fees," Drury said.
He said it's unfair to assume that Arts and Science students don't need the same funding as students in Business or Engineering.

For example, the motion states the fee could be used to fund national and international fellowship programs.

In the spirit of transparency, the motion also calls for the dean to create a committee of faculty and students to provide "advice on (the) most effective use of the fee."

Council representatives from the College of Arts and Science were supportive of the motion and said the dean asked them to bring the issue to council. Other council members said they were worried Faculty Council would be overstepping by recommending actions to the dean.

"We're being asked by individual members of Arts and Science — I'm also on there — and the dean, saying he needs help because every effort to pass supplemental fees through the provost's office has been blocked," Drury said in response to the concerns.

Fiscal Affairs Committee Chairman Sudarshan Loyalka said he will revise the background information in the motion to clarify that the fee request originated with faculty from the College of Arts and Science.

"That college is a pretty special college in that all of our students take classes in that college," Plant Sciences Professor Bill Wiebold said. "And so that could be good or bad in terms of this argument, but I think strengthening the education activities in that college cuts across all of the other colleges."

**OTHER BUSINESS: Provost search**

Members of Faculty Council also discussed their desire for faculty to be involved in the search for **Provost Brian Foster's replacement**.

Psychology Associate Professor Dennis Miller, who represents MU on the Intercampus Faculty Council, said he and Faculty Council Chairman Craig Roberts met with UM System President Tim Wolfe to talk about the search. Wolfe said the new chancellor will determine how the new provost is hired.
Faculty Council considered a resolution recommending to the chancellor that the council "have shared authority, in which the faculty participates with the chancellor, in all aspects of the process to hire a new provost."

Health Management Professor Doug Wakefield said he questioned whether Faculty Council can ask for authority in personnel matters. Members decided to reword the resolution to reflect their desire to be involved, instead of dictate the hire.

When Foster was hired the provost search was open. Council members said that regardless of whether the provost search is open or closed, they want faculty to have a voice.

"I want to ensure that there is not another search where there is only one faculty member who is one of a much larger number of people who is involved in the search," said Nicole Monnier, associate teaching professor of Russian. "...Maybe a closed search is the best thing, but what we want are people inside that room who are representative (of faculty)."

The resolution was ultimately referred back to Miller for revision.

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
I almost always attend the twice-a-year sessions that are called “General Faculty meetings.” They’re called that, but the general faculty never shows up. Wednesday’s meeting was no exception. The one attempt to take a vote failed for lack of a quorum, and that only requires 50 members.

Usually, the lack of attendance speaks well of my colleagues’ judgment. The meetings are typically highly scripted and pretty dull. I often leave the room thinking this was 90 minutes I’ll never get back.

Not this time. Sure, there was the script. Faculty Council Chairman Craig Roberts ticked off the standard list of issues the council intends to discuss. There were the ritual references to “shared governance” and the accompanying complaints that the administration doesn’t share enough.

(As to deciding on the Renew Mizzou moves of faculty, staff and museum pieces from Pickard and Swallow halls, for example, the faculty asks “Who?” and “How?” To which the administration replies “What” and “Why,” he summarized.)

The perennially disgruntled nuclear engineering faculty again voiced their disgruntlement.

All that was covered nicely in Thursday’s report by Molly Duffy in your Missourian.

The highlight of this meeting, though, was what amounted to Chancellor Brady Deaton’s valedictory address. After nine years of presiding over these sessions, and over the campus, the chancellor will retire Nov. 15.
He’s a modest man, more given to crediting others than taking credit. True to form, he invited us to applaud newly hired faculty and the also-retiring provost, Brian Foster. He praised the “rich discussions” in the Faculty Council. He said, “I very much honor shared governance.” (But he added that sometimes, as with Renew Mizzou, time pressures and short deadlines preclude wide involvement in decision-making.)

Then he treated us to a review that from a less self-effacing leader would have sounded a bit like bragging. Delivered in his familiar Kentucky hill country twang, the recitation of achievements struck me as more a straightforward accounting of his stewardship. During his chancellorship, he reminded us:

- Enrollment has increased 28.7 percent;
- Minority enrollment has increased 113 percent;
- Research expenditures have increased 47.5 percent;
- Faculty researchers have registered 77 patents yielding $43.6 million in licensing fees.

That was just the beginning. The campus has 21 new buildings, one of which – the Life Science Business Incubator – houses 25 startups. Enhanced engagement in the arts and humanities has included acquisition of the Missouri Theatre and creation of a new music program and of the Confucius Institute. International connections have been established with the European Union, China, Japan and Thailand. We have more than 2,000 international students and about 800 international scholars visiting at any one time.

He mentioned, almost in passing, the successful completion of an unprecedented $1 billion fundraising drive and the planning of an even more ambitious campaign. The first drive has funded 1,500 new scholarships, more than 90 endowed faculty chairs and nearly $500 million in program improvements. The next drive has already landed $313.4 million in pledges. All this has been accomplished, he didn’t need to say, in the face of a national recession and a shamefully stingy state legislature.

Still ahead, awaiting his successor, he noted, lurk the continuing needs to recruit top-quality faculty, build on the interdisciplinary Mizzou Advantage programs, grow high-impact research and develop a revenue model that will support it all.
After his conclusion, the meeting descended into a muddle that led to a vote that, in turn, eventually led to a determination that the vote couldn’t count because so few faculty remained in the room. It was the sort of thing that might make an outsider wonder about the faculty’s capacity for “shared governance.”

All in all, though, I suspect the handful of us there came away feeling at least a little better about our institution. I know we felt good enough about our departing leader to give him a standing ovation.

It’s too bad the general faculty missed it.

George Kennedy is a former managing editor at the Missourian and professor emeritus at the Missouri School of Journalism. He writes a weekly column for the Missourian.
Government shutdown won’t affect local WIC program this month

By Rudi Keller

The WIC, or Women, Infants and Children, nutrition program is solvent in Missouri for the month of October, but a lengthy federal shutdown could cut off the food support program.

The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services said yesterday that the local program remains open and is issuing the food vouchers due to participants this month.

WIC is one of numerous social welfare programs that are unfunded as the federal government shutdown entered its third day. It operates solely on federal funding, but there is enough money already in state hands to continue the program, said Mary Martin, community health manager for the department.

On the University of Missouri campus, no research programs or other offices have been affected by the shutdown so far, said Nathan Hurst of the MU News Bureau.

The federal government is shut down because of a stalemate on spending between the Republican-led House and President Barack Obama and the Democratic-controlled Senate. It began when Republicans tried to use the measure to keep the government running to delay or defund the Affordable Care Act.

Republicans in the House have embarked on a strategy of passing spending measures for selected parts of the government, but those measures, so far, do not include social programs. Obama has vowed to veto any bill that does not fully fund the government.

Members of Congress and their staffs are paid on the last day of each month and received a paycheck Monday. Yesterday, Fourth District Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler, R-Harrisonville, asked that her pay, which is not due until Oct. 31, be withheld while the shutdown continues. Under the Constitution, Obama, members of Congress and federal judges must be paid.

In a news release yesterday, Hartzler blamed Obama for the shutdown.

Once the shutdown is resolved, Hartzler expects she would be paid for the time she is working while no spending authority exists, spokesman Steve Walsh said today.
Hartzler has kept her full staff of 15 on the job, but any bill reopening the government would have to include special language for them to be paid for their time, he said.

"She is putting herself in the same position as her staff," Walsh said. "We are assuming that because we are working that we would get back pay for the time we missed, and she would get the same as well."

U.S. Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, who at first sharply cut back on his staff, has about half of his 16 employees working on a rotating basis, spokesman Paul Sloca said.

District offices are open with limited staff, he said.
Job Trends

October 4, 2013

BY Peter Stokes

MU MENTION P. 2

The back-to-school season is easy to recognize. Temperatures get a bit cooler. Walgreens and CVS start doing a brisk business in pencil and notebook sales. And in college towns like Boston, as I can personally attest, commute times suddenly double.

Another familiar feature of the season, of course, is news columns on education trends -- those lists of the 10 or 12 or 15 things to watch, whether they be emerging technologies, or new regulations, or looming anxieties about increased competition, financial challenges, the future of tenure, and so on.

What’s striking about so many of the observable trends in higher education today is the way in which they seem to be fueled by the same motivating force: the desire for jobs. The pursuit of jobs or job readiness or real-world work experience seems to be the trend of trends.

For some within the higher education community, this focus on jobs will undoubtedly be viewed as reductivist, relegating higher education institutions to the same status as factories churning out “product” -- skilled labor, in this case.

“Just wait,” this constituency may well caution, “this vocational turn will be accompanied by a hail of unintended consequences: a weakened citizenry, the abandonment of the arts, and the valorization of rote learning in place of critical thinking.”

For others, the increased attention to graduate employability and work readiness will signal what they might regard as a long-overdue pivot to a more realistic perspective on the function of higher education within a knowledge economy.

“Look,” this group of stakeholders might well argue, “preparing future professionals to communicate effectively, arrive at work on time, take problems to managers only when warranted, and possess some familiarity with the tools of the contemporary work place -- whether spreadsheets, algorithms, databases, or other -- just makes good, practical sense.”
For the moment, the latter voices appear to be in the ascendency -- spurred on by an extended economic crisis, unparalleled in our lifetimes, where as many as 4 in 10 recent graduates are unemployed or underemployed. Indeed, we can see evidence of this perspective taking hold in decisions related to everything from campus operations to curriculum design to assessment to the development of new education-related consumer services.

Look at big data. Business analytics have an important role to play in demonstrating institutional effectiveness. Increasingly, that effectiveness is measured by student success -- not just in the classroom or on the exit exam, but in the workforce. Mid-career salaries represent the kind of long-term outcomes growing numbers of institutions are orienting themselves around, and colleges are adapting their systems to gather this kind of information.

Furthermore, few schools today would willingly position themselves as being at a remove from the wider world of economics, industry and work. To the contrary, in one way or another, colleges are going to where the jobs are -- whether through the delivery of online learning and short-residency executive education programs, or through the development of satellite campuses, both domestically and internationally, in key economic hubs.

This represents an important kind of bridge-building between the world of academic study and the world of work, and it can be seen in the way colleges and universities are approaching curriculum design.

**Look at big data – again. This past summer, IBM announced deals with five U.S. universities -- including Georgetown University, George Washington University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Northwestern University, and the University of Missouri, as well as several foreign institutions -- to collaborate in the development of new curriculums around data science.**

Last spring, the Georgia Institute of Technology announced a deal with Udacity to deliver a master’s degree in computer science online for less than $7,000 in tuition, supported by a $2 million grant from AT&T. Naturally enough, the telecom firm hopes to hire some of the program’s graduates. Deals like these underscore the extent to which universities represent critical talent pipelines, and undoubtedly many students will benefit from the closer collaboration between these institutions and employers.

Even the debate about the value of the liberal arts is concerned with the relevance of the curriculum to the work place -- and this is by no means a bad thing, at least if you are among those who believe that the liberal arts curriculum, and the skills and capacities it develops, does have relevance to the needs of the work place.

But the debate is useful also to the extent that it highlights the limitations of the liberal arts in promoting work readiness -- because there are a number of ways in which such a curriculum might be augmented to achieve that end.

This can be seen in the growing focus on experiential learning opportunities -- whether it takes the form of internships and co-ops, or field research experiences, or participation in business incubators, or any number of other kinds of outside-the-classroom learning experiences.

Of course, experiential learning programs take time for institutions to develop -- especially those that intend to provide students with the opportunity to benefit from paid, professional experience earned in the
course of their degree programs – and not every institution has the capacity to quickly develop the relationships with employers necessary to sustain these efforts.

For that reason, a number of commercial enterprises are stepping in to help current students and recent graduates, as well as colleges and universities, by providing these sorts of experiences. Witness coaching organizations like the Fullbridge Program, which delivers an intensive preparatory curriculum to help students increase their work readiness, and online providers like Coursolve, which matches courses with organizations’ current business needs so that students can engage in practical problem solving and produce a real-world work product.

Inasmuch as educators are now placing greater emphasis on the application of curriculum to the workplace, it isn’t a surprise to see assessment moving in the same direction. This summer the Council for Aid to Education announced that its Collegiate Learning Assessment exam – a tool for measuring, at the institutional level, the value-add that colleges are able to deliver over the course of an undergraduate degree – would now be augmented by something called the CLA+, a new kind of exit exam that attempts to measure the employability of the individual graduate.

Concurrent with the emergence of this new kind of outcomes assessment is a growing recognition that employability should not just be the concern of recent graduates or incoming seniors.

Indeed, a few weeks back, LinkedIn announced that it would begin allowing individuals as young as 14 to create profiles on its site while also permitting them to draw upon the firm’s new University Pages to aid these future professionals in their college search efforts. The intention, it seems, is not only to help prospective college students compare and contrast institutional profiles, but to empower them to connect with current students, as well as alums – folks who are already on campus or already in the workforce, and who can share their views on the extent to which their alma mater was able to effectively prepare them for the careers they ultimately hope to pursue or are already pursuing.

It will take time to see which of these forms of workforce preparation prove effective and which do not – both academically and professionally. Those institutions that are most successful in testing these more professionally focused strategies and tactics are likely to be those that view the journey from college to work as a continuum where they have an important role to play, rather than those who view the encroachment of pre-professional preparation on academic disciplines as an anathema.

Whatever one’s philosophical disposition, the desire to link the worlds of academic study and work more closely together is clearly driving diverse forms of innovation, and those innovations certainly represent interesting trends in and of themselves. But the real trend, ultimately, is the pursuit of jobs itself.

As a consequence, for a growing number of colleges and universities, the emphasis this back-to-school season will have to be on getting their students ready for work, and getting ready to make that work for themselves, as well.

**BIO**

*Peter Stokes is vice president of global strategy and business development at Northeastern University, and author of the Peripheral Vision column.*
MU library adds $10K treasure to its collection

COLUMBIA (AP) -- An elaborate $10,000 Bible that includes gold accents and exotic German paper has been donated to the main library at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The Columbia Missourian reports that the Pennyroyal Caxton Bible is one of only 400 created by illustrator and designer Barry Moser of Hatfield, Mass. Ellis Library special collections head Alla Barabtarlo says the 1996 Bible is "astonishing" and "beautiful."

It was donated by New York City businessman Bruce Kovner and arrived at the library in August.

Right now, the Bible is being kept in a climate-controlled room. But it's expected to be moved downstairs by Christmas for a new exhibit, "Verba Sacra," or sacred words in Latin. The exhibit will detail the history of the scriptures through the ages.